



Brussels, 1.9.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.9.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries to be
financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU)232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument¹,

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 for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) and 3(3) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the ENI Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multinannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)⁴ which set the following priorities: (i) building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security; (ii) building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development; (iii) building a partnership with the people; (iv) support to regional and subregional institutional cooperation.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme, including a Support Measure, to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument are to: reinforce Human rights, rule of law and democracy in southern Mediterranean countries; develop a Euro-Mediterranean area of effective coordination and cooperation on justice, security and migration-related matters; foster policy dialogue and the exchanges of best practices on topics relevant for Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue; establish an adequate regulatory framework for all transport modes; address common environmental challenges; promote understanding, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue between the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean; continue developing a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space between EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries; support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and finally, ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects.

¹ 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, 15.03.2014, p. 27.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁴ C(2014) 5242 of 30.07.2014.

- (3) The first action entitled “Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa” will specifically contribute to enhance self-resilience of communities hosting refugees in the targeted areas; to facilitate voluntary return and reintegration of refugees, IDPs and migrants in their communities of origin; to foresee alternative solutions for those refugees who do not want to or cannot return.
- (4) The second action entitled “Enhancing Investment, Innovation and Growth in South Neighbourhood” will support countries in the region in implementing inclusive policies and initiatives that will improve economic governance, innovation and the business climate. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement).
- (5) The third action entitled “Support to the Regional Transport Action Plan (Maritime and Rail)” will provide technical assistance and capacity building to the competent relevant authorities of the partner countries in key transport sectors (including maritime, rail and multimodal), in order to align their national standards and practices with those of the European Union with the aim of promoting a harmonised approach as regards transport safety, security and environmental protection.
- (6) The fourth action entitled “Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015” aims at strengthening the action of civil society to promote and strive for reforms, rule of law and democracy, and considers civil society organisations not as a mere service provider but as real actors of political and democratisation processes. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grants awarded through a call for proposals).
- (7) The fifth action entitled “EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2015” aims at supporting and promoting the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict through the positive engagement of civil society and citizens. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grant directly awarded).
- (8) The sixth action entitled “MedFilm Regional Programme” aims at contributing to cultural diversity and development, especially human development by promoting equality, namely gender equality, in the southern Mediterranean region through a support to the film industry. More specifically, it will open the space for the less heard voices of society, such as women and youth; fight stereotypes through fostering the exchange of films across the Mediterranean; and promote freedom of expression by allowing film makers to tackle sensitive issues on a regional level – thus combatting traditional or new forms of censorship. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grants awarded through a call for proposals).
- (9) The seventh action entitled “EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016” aims to support the UfM Secretariat in executing its mandate through an operating grant (direct management) with co-funding from the members of the UfM.
- (10) The eighth action entitled “Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2016-2017” is a Support Measure. It aims at ensuring a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument which is capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grants through calls for proposals).

- (11) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (12) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the annexes 2 (section 5.3.1) and 3 (section 5.3.1).
- (13) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (14) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (15) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (16) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the ENI Regulation,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa;
- Annex 2: Enhancing Investment, Innovation and Growth in South Neighbourhood;
- Annex 3: Support to the Regional Transport Action Plan (Maritime and Rail);
- Annex 4: Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015;
- Annex 5: EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2015;
- Annex 6: MedFilm Regional Programme;
- Annex 7: EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016;
- Annex 8: Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2017.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2015 is set at EUR 73,71 million (including EUR 35 million for a Support

Measure) to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union:

- budget line 21.03.01.01 for an amount of:
 - EUR 4 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 3.5 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2016;
- budget line 21.03.01.02 for an amount of:
 - EUR 17 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 5 million from the budget of the European Union for 2016;
- budget line 21.03.01.03 for an amount of:
 - EUR 5 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
- budget line 21.03.03.03 for an amount of:
 - EUR 14.21 million from the budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 12 million from the budget of the European Union for 2016;
 - EUR 13 million from the budget of the European Union for 2017.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations following the adoption of the general budget of the European Union of 2016 and 2017 or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 (except the contribution for a Support Measure), or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions (except the allocation for a Support Measure) not exceeding 20 % of that contribution as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the contribution for a Support Measure set by first paragraph of Article 2, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 1.9.2015

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 1

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for “Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa” (CRI-RDPP)”

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following section concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.1.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	"Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa" (CRI-RDPP) CRIS contract number: 2015/359-758 Financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Region: countries of the southern Neighbourhood region. The action shall be carried out in the following countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya ¹ and Egypt.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Migration and International Protection
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 3,150,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 3,000,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2015 Budget line: 21.03.01.01
6. Aid modalities and	Project Modality

¹ The political instability and security situation in Libya will be prior to deciding on the feasibility of implementing this action in Libya.

implementation modalities	Direct management: grant – direct award			
7. DAC code(s)	13010 - Population Policy			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

This Community Resilience Initiative supports and complements the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in the North of Africa. This action is aligned with the new developmental, inclusive and sustainable approach of RDPPs.

The general objective of the action is to contribute to strengthen the resilience of displaced populations together with their host communities, by addressing socio-economic concerns and promoting a culture of rights, dialogue and social cohesion.

Final beneficiaries are displaced populations together with their host communities. Beside beneficiaries, the main stakeholders are civil society organisations (CSOs) active in the in the field of local development and protection in the targeted countries.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Human displacement has never been so critical since World War II. The Mediterranean region has been affected by a high increase of displacement due to political instability in North Africa, the Middle East and beyond.

The conflicts in the region, notably in Syria, Iraq and Libya, have caused humanitarian consequences of enormous proportions, affecting the whole Mediterranean region and also seriously endangering the stability of the neighbouring countries. The various armed conflicts, as well as social and political upheavals in the region (and beyond), are causing ever increasing displacement of people. The lion's share of these displaced people seeks protection in their immediate region.

The North Africa region serves as a transit and, to some extent, final destination for mixed migration movements. The political and security instability, coupled with limited prospects for local integration and voluntary return, means that the region

continues to witness an increase in the number of persons seeking international protection. By mid-2013, more than 31,000 asylum seekers and 47,000 refugees were registered with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in North Africa².

The conflict between rival armed groups in Libya has displaced more than 400,000 persons inside the country, including Internally Displaced People (IDPs) from 2011 Libya's conflict. As well as the impact on the local population, the fighting is also affecting stranded asylum-seekers, and migrants in Libya – many of them from Middle Eastern countries and sub-Saharan Africa.

In the course of Libya's 2011 and current conflicts, Tunisia hosted up to 1 million persons that sought refuge in Tunisia, including 200,000 non-Libyan nationals. This number would have been higher if it were not for the closure of Shusha camp in Tunisia in mid-2013.

According to UN country statistics³, in 2014 the number of refugees and other people of concern to UNHCR were 96640 in Algeria. Refugees and asylum seekers in Algeria can arguably be divided into three categories: Sahrawi, Sub-Saharan African, Palestinian and Iraqi and Syrian refugees. With regard to the first group, Sahrawi refugees live since long in a protracted situation, in 5 refugee camps in the Tindouf province. The Algerian Government estimates their number at 165000. Pending a registration exercise, UNHCR's assistance programme is based on a planning figure of some 90000 vulnerable refugees in the camps (UNHCR 2013).

Also Morocco is affected to a smaller extent by forced displacement of people, the majority of whom originate from Syria. According to the statistical report on UNHCR population of concern, a total of 4667 refugees and asylum seekers were registered in Morocco in October 2014.

Accurate numbers about the number of migrants and refugees in Egypt are difficult to obtain. According to the latest numbers, a vast proportion of the migrant population in Egypt is composed by refugees, as migratory structures in Egypt are largely characterized by the arrival of refugees fleeing conflict in countries such as Eritrea, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, and more recently Libya and Syria. According to UNHCR data, there were 109,419 refugees and asylum seekers in the country in 2010. Their number increased from 92588 in 2002 to 179762 in 2013⁴.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

At the EU level, the definition of persons who are believed to be in need of international protection follows, first of all, the Refugee Definition of the 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol, to which all EU Member States were already party.

Among the European Neighbourhood Instrument South Partner Countries (ENI SPCs), Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia have signed and ratified the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. In addition, Algeria, Egypt and

² UNHCR Global Appeal 2014-2015 - North Africa, p 2.

³ <https://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Algeria>.

⁴ IOM study on 'Migration in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia: overview of the complex migratory flows in the region'. <https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/Country/docs/Research-on-complex-migratory-flows-in-Egypt-Morocco-and-Tunisia.pdf>.

Tunisia ratified the 1967 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Convention). The latter has also been ratified by Libya.

While most countries in the region do not have a specific legislation on protection, as a minimum their legal systems contain a referral to non-return persons fleeing persecution. The need to protect refugees is also included in the constitutions of some countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia.

Morocco and Tunisia are making significant advances in the development of asylum legislation and are in the process of finalizing a law which establishes the legal framework for asylum in the country. Mobility Partnerships contain commitments to cooperate on promoting international protection and asylum.

With regards to co-operation with non-EU countries in the area of migration and international protection, the EU's overarching policy framework is the General Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), which among its four thematic pillars comprises the promotion of international protection and enhancing the external dimension of asylum.

As a reaction to the 2013 Lampedusa tragedy, the EU set up the Task Force Mediterranean (TFM), to develop a comprehensive strategy to prevent further losses of lives in the Mediterranean and to identify priority actions based on the principles of prevention, protection and solidarity. Among these priority actions, the TFM affirms that Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs) should be reinforced and expanded.

RPPs were set up by the 2005 Communication on RPPs⁵. According to this Communication, RPPs should be brought forward with the intention of enhancing the protection capacity of the regions involved and better protecting the refugee population there, by providing durable solutions (the three durable solutions being voluntary return, local integration or resettlement in a third country, if the first two durable solutions are not possible).

Further reflections and lesson learnt pointed out the need to go beyond the humanitarian assistance dimension in the refugees issue and to consider protracted displacement not only a humanitarian challenge but a developmental, political and economic one. In this context, the RPP concept incorporated an enhanced developmental, inclusive and sustainable approach to displacement. This is why these programs should now be renamed to Regional Development and Protection Programmes (RDPPs).

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The final beneficiaries of the project are displaced populations⁶ and their host communities in ENI Southern Partners Countries in the North of Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt).

Beside beneficiaries, main stakeholders are Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active in the in the field of local development, protection and communication (local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), local media, local business communities,

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, COM(2005) 388 final.

⁶ This action being based on a community and inclusive approach, this term shall be understood in its broader meaning, including, whenever relevant, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and migrants.

migrants' associations and all relevant actors emerging from civil society) in the targeted countries.

Local authorities being on the front line in confronting challenges and opportunities that displaced populations bring about, they will be involved, at local level, in the action's design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Central authorities of the targeted ENI SPCs, such as Ministries competent for the different aspects of international protection policy, will be informed of and, whenever relevant, associated to the action through the foreseen coordination mechanisms at country level.

1.1.3 *Priority areas for support/problem analysis*

As a general principle, the primary responsibility for protecting and assisting asylum seekers and refugees lies at national level with the host state, as derivable from relevant international law. ENI SPCs have shown generosity in hosting refugees, notwithstanding the dramatic consequences for their economies and societies. Host communities are heavily affected across the region, and refugees are becoming increasingly vulnerable.

Reception conditions depend on national asylum systems in place (i.e. lack of legal status and work permits for refugees). In some countries in the North of Africa, refugee camps were established, while in others refugees are scattered in urban centres, producing a considerable pressure on the local infrastructures and welfare services. In some cases, both solutions were put in place.

Beyond resettlement, the search for viable and feasible approaches for displaced people remains a key priority and resilience of host communities is an essential component of any solution. Durable solutions need to be re-addressed with a larger emphasis on the positive contributions and potential of displaced people for the development of host communities. The inclusive approach of putting the local communities, beside the displaced people, in the centre of consideration seems the way ahead.

In this context, the particular strategic importance of civil society, of volunteer organisations and migrants' communities (including diasporas) should be underlined and further analysed, while cooperation with these partners should be reinforced and better coordinated.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Risk of political instability in the region and possible changes of governments.	Medium to High	The political situation is constantly monitored and mitigation measures have been designed, to apply if the security situation deteriorates. Democratic structures and principles are firmly supported in the framework of the EU's political dialogue with partner countries.

<p>Migration and international protection-related matters might be highly sensitive issues.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>In the framework of the RDPP, and under the coordination of the EU Delegations to ensure coherence of political messages, constant dialogue and coordination with relevant central authorities are facilitated.</p>
<p>Engaging CSOs, including local media and private sector, in international protection-related activities is not seen as an added value by central authorities.</p>	<p>Medium to High</p>	<p>The EU's political dialogue with partner countries includes the requirement to engage with CSOs at national level and to promote a more enabling environment for the work of civil society. Engagement of civil society will be constantly secured by the action team. Involvement of these stakeholders at national level will be promoted and progress in this respect will be encouraged and supported.</p>
<p>Regional activities not backed up by activities at bilateral level. Risks of duplication and dispersion of funds, especially in some of the targeted countries.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Strong collaboration with EU Delegations and constant coordination with other relevant programmes and projects. The foreseen needs' assessments will identify whether the proposed activities are more relevant for some of the targeted countries or whether, in some of them, they are already implemented by other programmes and projects. It will be ensured that this action is consistent with the bilateral ENI programming and that duplication of activities and dispersion of funding are avoided.</p>
<p>Assumptions</p>		
<p>The security context is permissive enough to allow access to displaced populations and their host communities.</p>		
<p>The governments are willing to improve the legal frame to ensure the protection of displaced people.</p>		
<p>Service providers allow displaced populations access to essential services.</p>		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

In the Neighbourhood South region two RPPs/RDPPs were recently implemented: the 'Regional Protection Programme in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia: providing support

to UNHCR activities⁷ and the 'Regional Development and Protection Programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East'⁸ (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq). While the RDPP in the Middle East has started in mid-2014, the RPP in the North of Africa ended early this year.

An evaluation of all RPPs implemented in different parts of the world is about to be launched (ten RPPs in total). This evaluation will only partially be relevant for the proposed Action, given the fact that only the above-mentioned RDPP in the Middle East, whose activities started in mid-2014, includes a socio-economic development focus. Nevertheless, any useful recommendation of the upcoming evaluation will be taken into account, either during the inception phase or in the course of implementation of the programme during an ad hoc review exercise. This action takes however account of relevant recommendations formulated by the last available evaluation of RPPs that were developed in the context of the Programme for Freedom, Security and Justice for the years 2005 to 2010 (the Hague Programme) and completed in 2009⁹.

This action is in line with the recommendation of the Task Force Mediterranean (TFM) to set in place and strengthen RPPs/RDPPs. This was further called for in the European Council Conclusions of June 2014 and the Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions of October 2014¹⁰.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

This action supports and complements the RDPP in the North of Africa to be funded by the European Commission under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)¹¹. This action is aligned with the new developmental, inclusive and sustainable approach of RDPPs.

The implementing organisation of CRI-RDPP will participate in the consulting committee of the RDPP in the North of Africa. The exact composition of the consulting committee will be determined through consultations during the inception phase of the RDPP. Its composition should be guided by a spirit of partnership and include a certain number of committed states, the European Commission, the implementing bodies and ad-hoc observers, depending on the focus.

National coordination mechanisms in each of the targeted ENI SPCs will also be envisaged to ensure the participation of CSOs implementing the projects and other relevant stakeholders. These mechanisms shall not duplicate existing working groups, forums or platforms, but rather build on and complement existing national coordination tools.

Strict complementarity and coordination will be sought with relevant initiatives funded at bilateral and regional level by the EU and other donors. The foreseen mapping of migration and international protection-related actions in the

⁷ Decision DCI 2010/022-219 - Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum AAP 2010 part 2 - Action Fiche 5 RPP.

⁸ Decision DCI 2013/025-074 - Regional Development and Protection Programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq).

⁹ The 2009 evaluation is available at the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/search/download.do?jsessionid=1Q2GTTWJ1m0pM7kSWQ90h1v1CBzxjvJpV2CLp0BgQxQv8zyGqQ3j!1601440011?documentId=3725>.

¹⁰ Council of the European Union 14044/14 PRESSE 505 PR CO 48.

¹¹ The financing decision for the 2015 Annual Work Programme for AMIF is still pending.

Mediterranean region, to be finalised by the Euromed Migration IV project¹², as well as other on-going relevant inventory and gaps assessment exercises, will help ensure synergies and coordination.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Considering the situation in each targeted country, the CRI-RDPP shall incorporate a Right Based Approach (RBA) during all phases of the action, based on the toolbox prepared by the European Commission. The implementation of a RBA is founded on the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the principles of inclusion and participation in the decision-making process, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability. These principles are central to the EU development cooperation, ensuring the empowerment of the poorest and most vulnerable, in particular of women and minors.

The implementation of a RBA requires a context-specific assessment of the human rights situation, which will be part of the foreseen needs assessments and will include a gender analysis.

In addition, this action aims indirectly at reinforcing CSOs in providing and upgrading their services to local communities and in fostering interaction and networking among CSOs and between authorities and civil society. Strengthening this participatory approach lies at the heart of the good governance principles and is a core component of democracy.

This action will take in account that environment-related issues are significant when dealing with resilience of refugees and host communities, as shown in the experience with Lebanon and Jordan. Due to population increase, water availability and sanitation (including wastewater treatment capacity) as well as waste management are pressing challenges in situations of displacement/refugees both for hosting communities and any refugee camp. In addition, the human right to water includes a specific dimension when dealing with refugees/vulnerable populations and this aspect will not be neglected in the project.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives

General objective

The general objective of the action is to contribute to strengthen the resilience of displaced populations together with their host communities, by addressing socio-economic concerns and promoting a culture of rights, dialogue and social cohesion.

Specific objective

The specific objective of the action is to empower displaced populations and their host communities through sustainable interventions at local level, with a particular focus on socio-economic development needs and on the promotion of rights, dialogue and social cohesion.

Expected results (by components)

Component 1: needs assessment, coordination and communication.

¹² Decision ENI/2014 / 037-383.

R1.1: The needs of displaced populations and their host communities in the targeted countries are properly assessed.

R1.2: Coordination and response mechanisms are enhanced in the targeted countries, with a particular focus on the empowerment of local CSOs dealing with displaced populations and their host communities.

R1.3: A more balanced communication on displaced people, based on real facts and figures, is encouraged and developed through local media and other relevant stakeholders, with a particular focus on the respect of fundamental rights and the facilitation of dialogue and social cohesion at local level.

Component 2: community-based interventions to enhance resilience.

R2.1: The resilience of displaced populations and their host communities is enhanced, by improving their economic and social well-being, and supporting, whenever relevant, inclusive local economic development plans.

R2.2: The promotion of a culture of rights, dialogue and social cohesion and the protection of vulnerable groups are encouraged and strengthened at community level.

4.2 Main activities

For the component 1, the main activities are (this is an indicative and non-exhaustive list):

A.1.1.1: Building on already existing relevant context analysis exercises, assessments at country level of the needs of displaced populations and their host communities are conducted and delivered, with a particular focus on socio-economic development needs and on the gaps in terms of promotion and communication of rights and facilitation of dialogue and social cohesion.

A.1.2.2: Where not already existing, inventories of civil society organisations (local NGOs, local media, universities, migrants' associations and all relevant actors emerging from civil society) active in the support to displaced populations and their host communities in the targeted countries are elaborated.

A.1.2.3: Setting up or complementing appropriate coordination and response mechanisms, including referral systems, and networks of CSOs active in the field of local development and protection, including capacity building activities, whenever relevant.

A.1.3.1. On the basis of the needs assessments, and in close cooperation and coordination with the EU-funded regional communication programme OPEN¹³ and with other relevant initiatives, tailor-made communication and advocacy actions will be designed and carried out, with the aim to provide the broader public with balanced information on forced displacement, with a particular focus on the respect of fundamental rights and the promotion of dialogue and social cohesion.

For the component 2, the main activities are (this is an indicative and non-exhaustive list):

A.2.1.1. On the basis of the above-mentioned needs assessments, and in line with the priorities established for each country, small-scale concrete actions are designed, selected and implemented by CSOs and, whenever relevant, local authorities, local

¹³ Decision ENI/2014/037-324.

business communities and other relevant actors, active in the field of socio-economic local development. Grants are awarded through tailor-made calls for proposals or other suitable sub-granting modalities.

A.2.2.1. On the basis of the above-mentioned needs assessments, and in line with the priorities established for each country, community-based concrete actions are designed, selected and implemented by local CSOs or other relevant actors, active in the field of protection, human rights or community mediation (the list of fields of expertise is not exhaustive). Grants are awarded through tailor-made calls for proposals or other suitable sub-granting modalities.

4.3 Intervention logic

The intervention logic is further detailed in the indicative log-frame enclosed to this Action Document. This action is designed to be implemented in the North of Africa region and to complement the RDPP in the North of Africa to be funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The foreseen needs' assessments, to be carried out in close coordination with the EU Delegations, will identify whether the proposed activities are more relevant for some of the targeted countries or whether they are already implemented by other programmes and projects. It will be ensured that this action is consistent with the bilateral ENI programming and that duplication of activities and dispersion of funding are avoided.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts implemented, is **48 months** from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grant: direct award to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to IOM.

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 IOM, as the leading international migration organisation, has extensive experience and

competences in supporting migration dialogue at all levels (global, regional and local) and local development, specifically targeting migrants' communities. IOM's membership of 157 countries counts all EU Member States as well as all North African target countries of the CRI-RDPP. Given the sensitive nature of engaging on displacement and protection issues with civil society in the region, IOM's membership, presence, on-going project portfolio, and in-depth knowledge of the local situation as well as governmental and civil society stakeholders in North Africa, makes it uniquely placed to lead the CRI-RDPP through a direct grant. In this context, it may not be possible to engage in sub-granting calls for proposals to civil society in all target countries, requiring also the capacity of IOM to take on an increased role in leading or directly sub-granting activities to identified CSOs on the basis of the needs assessment and inventory.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has signed a Framework Agreement with the European Commission in 2011 and entered into a Strategic Cooperation Framework with the European External Action Service and participating Directorates General of the European Commission in 2012. IOM was positively evaluated by the EC through the Seven-Pillar Assessment in 2014. As a regular implementing partner in migration-related actions funded by the EU, the proven positive experience with IOM justifies the choice to implement this complex Action through a direct award to IOM.

IOM has worked extensively with CSOs and local authorities throughout the North Africa region in recent years, and particularly since the 'Arab Spring', both as project partners and in terms of capacity building. Under the coordination of its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa based in Cairo, IOM has over 200 staff and 8 offices in the CRI-RDPP target countries as well as an important project portfolio relevant to the CRI-RDPP objectives.

In Egypt, the EU-funded START project includes activities to support training and employment opportunities for Egyptian communities with large numbers of returnees from Libya. The Swiss and Italian-funded LIFE project focuses on capacitating and linking local actors (municipal authorities, CSOs, etc) in two Egyptian governorates with Egyptian communities abroad to collaborate on local economic development projects.

In Libya, since 2012 IOM has been working closely with the numerous CSOs that began to develop in the wake of the revolution including projects to support IDPs and delivering psycho-social support to vulnerable populations. Despite the difficult circumstances, IOM continues to work closely with NGOs and CSOs in Libya, delivering trainings and capacity building programmes on areas such as humanitarian assistance and assistance to victims of trafficking.

IOM's programming in Tunisia also continues to include projects aimed at supporting CSOs and local development. The EU-funded START project includes activities providing capacity building as well as small grant opportunities for CSOs and local authorities to implement small-scale local development initiatives in communities hosting large numbers of forcibly displaced and Tunisian returnees from Libya.

In Morocco, IOM implements the FORSATY project in Tangiers and Tetouan; the project works with local authorities and CSOs to deliver educational programmes,

after-school activities, vocational training and career services to vulnerable communities. IOM Morocco also implements the EU and Swiss funded Joint Migration and Development Initiative which builds capacity and develops small-scale projects with Moroccan diaspora groups and local actors in Morocco to implement local development projects.

In Algeria, IOM is currently establishing its office in Algiers, with an initial priority of engaging in cooperation with national authorities to promote community stabilisation and rural development.

(c) Maximum rate of co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 95% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(d) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement:

4th Quarter 2015.

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 in accordance with Budget Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1. – Community Development Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa (CRI-RDPP)	3,000,000	150,000
Component 1 (needs assessment, coordination and communication)	1,000,000	
Component 2 (community-based projects)	2,000,000	
Totals	3,000,000	3,150,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Overall project management will be conducted from IOM Tunisia and a full-time Project Manager will be assigned to the project, based in IOM's Tunis office which will also provide requisite financial and administrative support. The Project Manager, in collaboration with respective country offices and in consultation with relevant specialists within IOM's regional offices in Cairo and Brussels, will be responsible for coordinating project activities across the target countries as well as coordination and delivery of narrative and financial reports.

IOM Tunisia has been suggested as the project management site due to: (i) capacity and experience of IOM Tunisia staff who have been involved with similar small-grant distribution projects with CSOs previously, including the EU-funded project, START, as well as assessment projects identifying impacts and needs of displaced Libyans and host communities; (ii) in addition to IOM's operations in Tunisia, Tunis also currently hosts an office for IOM Libya thus coordination will be facilitated for Libya activities through management from Tunisia; (iii) limited IOM presence in Algeria will require greater managerial oversight which will be facilitated by having Tunisia as the management site.

Project Officers will be assigned in each of the target countries and will be allocated to the project either on a full or part time basis depending on the scope of activities in the relevant country. In cases where the Project Officer is allocated only on a part-time basis, IOM will ensure that the designated staff member is also engaged on a related project to ensure synergies and use of appropriate staff skills and local knowledge. Project officers will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the project including liaison with government officials, Civil Society Organisations and other relevant stakeholders, identification and oversight of project partners and service providers, and monitoring of budget. Project Officers will also oversee the development and implementation of the needs assessments and communications strategies under Component One of the project. Project Officers will report regularly to the Project Manager and consult with the Project Manager to address any challenges that may be faced in the project's implementation.

Project activities to be implemented in Libya will be coordinated and implemented either through IOM Libya's office in Tunis or the office in Tripoli depending on the nature of the activity and security conditions in Libya. Project activities in Algeria will be coordinated by the Project Officer in IOM Tunisia.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner 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 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 outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the log-frame matrix. 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, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components contracted by the Commission.

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

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

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country 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 country, 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 2

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for

"Enhancing Investment, Innovation and Growth in the Southern Neighbourhood"

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following section concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.2; and in the following section concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.1.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	"Enhancing Investment, Innovation and Growth in the Southern Neighbourhood" CRIS number: 2015/038-299 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	ENI South region. The action shall be carried out at the following locations: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine ¹ and Lebanon.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Private sector development
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 10 760 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 10 000 000 Budget line: 21.03.01.02

¹ This designation shall not be considered as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

	This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 760,000			
6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities	Project Modality Direct management: - grants – direct award - grants – call for proposals			
7. DAC code(s)	25015			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

Stimulating economic reforms, investment and innovation for jobs and inclusive growth is a key objective of the South Neighbourhood Policy. The deteriorated economic and business environment, a consequence of the political and socio-economic upheavals that the region faces since 2011, and the unstable economic global environment, have caused significant decreases in economic activity and local and foreign investment. This led to a rise in unemployment in particular among young people. The region faces common challenges, in particular a lack of economic competitiveness and integration, as well as inefficient innovation systems.

A regional programme on investment and innovation will allow promoting common approaches, peer-review and enhancement of the regional and international cooperation to support partner countries in the region in the adoption of modern public policies in line with best international practices. The activities under this programme will assist partner countries' ownership and capacity to implement policies and initiatives aiming to attract investment, innovate, diversify and integrate economies in the region to achieve positive and sustainable growth rates and generate much-needed jobs.

The activities of this action programme are fully in line with the objectives placed in the context of the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of December 2014 to increase international collaboration and accelerate investment opportunities in the Mediterranean Countries (AMICI).

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Regional context/Thematic area

It is widely recognised that foreign direct investment (FDI) triggers technology and innovation transfers and productivity spill-overs, assists human capital formation, fosters exports and improves competitiveness, with positive effects on growth. However, the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region only captured around 6% of total FDI inflows to developing countries in 2013 (compared to 13% in 2008); FDI inflows in the South Neighbourhood region decreased by more than 50% between 2008 (a peak year) and 2013; and intra-regional investment flows remain very low. Economic growth and employment prospects for the region, especially among the youth, are also very challenging for the region in the coming years.

As a driver of economic and social development, innovation offers significant opportunities for Mediterranean countries to develop and exploit their assets for the benefit of their economies and of their peoples. Increased knowledge, research and innovation are keys to the successful deployment of specific products, processes, technologies and concepts which, in turn, may deliver economic, environmental and social benefits on a wider scale. As is emphasised by the Communication "Research and innovation as sources of renewed growth"² new growth opportunities come from providing new products and services derived from technological breakthroughs, new processes and business models, non-technological innovation and innovation in the services sector, in other words, from innovation in its broadest sense.

Against this background in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood, and the necessity to advance in political and economic support in the different partner countries, a Mediterranean investment coordination initiative (AMICI) was adopted in December 2014 by the EU Foreign Affairs Council. In its conclusions the Council expressed the need to increase coordination by the international community in investment related programmes and to provide renewed support for policy dialogue and regional cooperation aiming at smart, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, private sector development and job creation. The activities of this action programme are fully in line with the AMICI objectives.

1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

Boosting private investment and job creation opportunities will require improving the business climate, in particular through the establishment of a transparent, inclusive and open investment regime for both domestic and foreign investors, support to innovation and facilitating access to finance to micro and Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) as well as strengthening market institutions. The recently adopted EU Green Paper towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy³ includes as one of the focal areas the promotion of trade, economic development and enhancing employment to help in the economic dynamism and integration of the region.

Working towards the development of a "Common Knowledge and Innovation Space" is underlined as a cooperation priority. This approach was further reaffirmed during the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Research and Innovation held in Barcelona in

² COM(2014) 339 final, 10.6.2014.

³ JOIN (2015)6 of 4 March 2015.

2012, calling for a renewed partnership in Research and Innovation that should be based on the principles of co-ownership, mutual interest and shared benefit.

The Communication "Strengthening the Role of Private Sector in Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Growth in Developing Countries"⁴ recognises that the private sector is the key driver of employment, growth, investment, trade and innovation and that it has a central role to play in achieving poverty reduction, sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Foreign Affairs Council noted in its conclusions of 23 June 2014 that the efforts to address key challenges for private sector development in partner countries should be reinforced by appropriate policy and political dialogue aimed at fostering an enabling environment and institutions for sustainable business and investment activities and to create a level playing field for improved competitiveness, building on comparative advantages.

The activities included in this Action programme will contribute to develop these objectives, in particular in the fields of investment and innovation.

1.1.2 Stakeholders / Problem analysis

The main stakeholders in the projects will be investment and innovation support organisations (innovation clusters, business incubators, innovation poles i.e. science parks, technology parks, technology transfer offices etc.), as well as institutional authorities and administrations in charge of investment and innovation policies – in particular the various Ministries of Industry / SME Development / Research / Trade and Investment, and relevant national agencies involved in the promotion of innovation and foreign investment.

In addition, the programme aims at linking up public sector and innovation support structures to private initiatives, such as business angels, industry leaders and private accelerators.

In relation to investment, most of the partner countries in the region have Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) in place, e.g. Tunisia's Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, Algeria's National Investment Development Agency, Morocco's Investment Department, Egypt's Ministry of Investment, Jordan's Investment Board, Lebanon's Investment Development Authority, Palestine's Investment Promotion Agency. However some of these IPAs are small and insufficiently effective to attract foreign investment, others function as a unit within a ministry. In the past, countries have made advances in improving their policies and administrative structures, but there needs to be a paradigm shift in the overall approach if substantial progress is to be made.

Against the background of the substantial drop of FDI in the region, countries are currently redoubling efforts to improve their regulatory and administrative environment to attract much needed investments. In October 2014, a new investment law was enacted in Jordan and a new institution, the Jordan Investment Commission, merging three previous bodies, was established. In Tunisia, an Investment Code is under preparation which foresees the establishment of a new investment promotion institution playing a coordination role. Egypt is actively working towards a unified investment law and a revised institutional mechanism for investment promotion, fostering and streamlining the role of the General Authority for Investment (GAFI).

⁴ COM(2014)263 of 13 May 2014.

The Investment Charter of Morocco is currently under revision and the Agence marocaine de développement des investissements (AMDI) has a dynamic role in attracting significant foreign investors. Other investment reforms are on-going in several countries in the region (such as Algeria and the Palestinian Authority), as well as at the regional level with the recent efforts of the League of Arab States to foster regional investment integration.

In this context, the support to reforms of the investment framework and the capacity building of investment promotion agencies should be further encouraged with a view to implementing sound and attractive private sector development and investment policies and establishing effective institutions able to attract more and better investments. Attention will also be paid to promote investment frameworks with a high development and employment impact.

In relation to innovation ecosystems, the lack of proximity and trust between public and private sector stakeholders, rigid administrative frameworks, poorly trained Research & Development (R&D) managers and governance problems all represent major hurdles preventing Mediterranean countries from pushing forward dynamic innovation policies. Countries in the Mediterranean region have fallen behind other regions on different levels. Mediterranean partner countries are not only quite low ranking in terms of innovation performance, they are also losing their positions despite the introduction of proactive policies and infrastructures in some partner countries. Yet, new initiatives are already under way with for example, the fostering of a new culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity across the Mediterranean as well as the creation of South-South partnerships involving key partners in innovation.

It is worth noting that there are large differences at country level. Morocco launched an Innovation strategy in 2009 to strengthen the innovation value chain. In Tunisia, the new "national industrial strategy up to 2016" lays the foundations for innovation policy based on a strategy implemented by the Agency for the Promotion of Industry and Innovation. There was a broad reflection in Egypt on the creation of a national innovation system, as a result of work carried out by the Research, Development and Innovation programmes. In Jordan, the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Strategy for Jordan (2013-2017) was launched in 2013 including the establishment of a National Centre for Innovation with the aim to coordinate all innovation-related activities in the country. The private sector is quite active in the field of innovation in Jordan with the support of the Jordan Enterprise Development Cooperation (JEDCO). In Algeria, no official innovation support policy has been developed, although public authorities in these countries are aware of its importance. Lack of coordination between ministries play a role and concrete initiatives are struggling to emerge. In Lebanon, the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) for Lebanon focuses on the innovation activities in industrial, forms and information, communication and technology sectors. The Lebanese Berytech Technological Pole launched in 2008 has become a national reference for innovation and start-up support.

In Palestine, the decision for the establishment of a Higher Council for Creativity and Innovation and several centres of excellence marks an increasing interest and emerging innovation and start-up culture despite severe restrictions of the Palestinian economic and social life.

Generally speaking, the private sector still shows relatively low commitment to innovation, but is also undergoing change. A new generation of entrepreneurs and innovative SMEs is coming up, the venture capital industry is developing and there is a broader involvement of the major groups, along with the introduction of increasing numbers of innovation support programmes at national and international levels. Innovation, technology and quality issues are becoming a core concern for leaders of competitive enterprises and pose a major challenge to Mediterranean SMEs which have to operate in the context of a globalised economy. An improvement in the performance of the innovation ecosystems is thus essential for industrial development and job creation.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support

This Action programme will address the following priorities for support:

- Support to the implementation of sound and inclusive investment frameworks and policies, capacity building to investment promotion agencies in the region and networking, in particular with EU counterparts, to attract further investment and job creation.
- Support to the formulation and implementation of innovation policies and increased capacity improvement and networking, in particular with EU counterparts, to assist innovation organisations and clusters in the region in generating value-added activities, new sources of economic growth and employment.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The main risks of the programme can be synthesised as follows:

1. Political and socio-economic instability in the region;
2. Weak socio-economic dialogue in some countries to allow public authorities and entities to give priority to the areas of action envisaged in this programme and to implement inter-sector co-operation and modern reforms;
3. Lack of innovation and specialisation in local economies and weak regional integration which renders foreign investments and integration into global value chains unattractive, thus preventing employment generation in high-paying jobs.

The risks linked to political and socio-economic instability in the region should be mitigated through continuous monitoring. The proposed results are formulated in a way that ensures that the project is flexible, taking into account each country's specific capacities and circumstances as well as the regional dimension; implementation does not depend on a participation of all the countries in all foreseen activities.

Assumptions encompass the willingness and commitment of the stakeholders in the Mediterranean partner countries throughout the different project implementation activities; the synergies and complementarities with other regional activities; good project management; an enabling environment in partner countries for stakeholder participation. Public-private dialogues and awareness on activities and networking will be promoted by the programme.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

This programme will capitalise on the results and recommendations of previous related programmes and projects.

In the field of investment, the EU provided support to partner countries in partnership with the OECD under the Investment Security in Mediterranean initiative (ISMED) during the years 2012-2014, which included activities to improve the legal conditions for infrastructure investment in the Mediterranean. Support to broader economic governance reforms is also being provided by the EU in partnership with OECD through the Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) programme.

This regional programme takes account of the activities and results of previous and existing cooperation initiatives targeting the general investment framework and the enabling environment, and will focus its activities on delivering investment advisory services to each partner country in a customised and practical manner, e.g. by enhancing the institutional and administrative capacity to promote and attract investments in the most promising sectors

In the field of innovation, a number of initiatives were implemented at regional level, notably the ERA-WIDE (European Research Area Wide) programme, to reinforce capacities of research centres; MEDSPRING, to support policy dialogue on research and innovation; ERA-NETMED, to enhance coordination between National Research Programmes; European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP), an EU initiative aiming at developing a set of good practices for training and to foster relations between European and international clusters; EUMEDCONNECT, to support a dedicated network to connect research and education institutions and keep them linked to a globalised world; and Invest in Med, strengthening SME partnerships in the region. At bilateral level, several EU-funded programmes promoted innovation policies and private sector development in specific countries (the Projet d'Appui au Système de Recherche et de l'Innovation (PASRI) in Tunisia, the Support to Research, Technological Development and Innovation (SRTD) in Jordan and the Research, development and innovation programme (RDI) in Egypt.

Overall, these regional and bilateral innovation initiatives were successful, yet they were scattered, often overlapping, lacking harmonisation and exchange of best practices. Moreover, they did not sufficiently integrate the value chain from research to innovation and encompassing public and private sector entities.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

- Close complementarity and coordination will be ensured with the on-going regional programmes, in particular the Enhancement of Business Environment project (EBESM), the EUROMED Invest project that promotes private investments and business partnerships, the projects in support to the development of Clusters in Cultural and Creative Industries in the Southern Mediterranean and other initiatives in support to mobility of young entrepreneurs in SMEs.
- Coordination and complementarity will be ensured with the EU-funded initiative SWITCH-Med which aims at promoting the shift to more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- Coordination and complementarity will be ensured with other relevant EU private sector and investment programme activities at *country level*, by involving closely the Delegations in activities of each of the two components of the programme, including consultation on proposals submitted to the Steering Committees, as well as organisation of specific events and coordination meetings in each country with relevant stakeholders.
- Moreover, the activities of this programme – e.g. the modernisation of investment frameworks and the financing of SME's emerging for innovative clusters – may create new opportunities for financing under the Neighbourhood Investment Facility.
- Close co-ordination with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean will also be ensured through invitation to participate in the Steering Committees of the two components of the programme.
- The activities of this programme are fully in line with the donor coordination objectives of the AMICI initiative to enhance inclusive growth and investments in the region and donor coordination regarding these activities. This will be the case regarding common action with the OECD and other Deauville Partnership partners related initiatives to support good governance reforms to attract investment and enhance private sector development.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The programme promotes broad reforms to improve administrative capacity, innovation and investment, disseminates standards and principles of good governance, works to strengthen regional and international partnerships, and supports sustainable, smart and inclusive economic growth across the region. Particular attention will be provided through the activities of the programme to enable new economic development opportunities for the youth and women. In addition, investment and innovation partnerships with the international community and EU counterparts will also have a positive side long-term effect on competitiveness and value-added job creation. Given the challenges in the ENP South region, the programme will facilitate and promote resource efficiency, sustainable production and eco-innovation in view to enhancing green growth.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objective

The overall objective of the programme is to assist partner countries' ownership and capacity to implement policies and initiatives regarding innovation and investment aiming to enhance inclusive and sustainable growth and employment.

4.2 Main activities and expected results

The programme will consist of two components:

4.2.1 Support to investment policies and investment promotion in the Southern Neighbourhood

The expected results are as follows:

1. Enhanced design and implementation of sound investment policies and strategies targeting investments with high growth potential and development effects, designed to impact on job creation (with a focus on youth and

women), territorial development and enhancement of the local economy while taking into account sustainability goals and climate change.

2. Improved capacity of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and related institutions in building professional and efficient services to investors and streamlining procedures; stronger network of IPAs, exchange of investment practices and opportunities with a view to attract more and better investments to the region and foster intra-regional investments;
3. Enhanced institutional co-ordination and monitoring on investment policies and promotion, and conducive public-private dialogue on investment reforms; increased international networking in particular with EU counterparts; raising awareness and visibility in the MENA region to attract further investments.

The type of activities envisaged are:

- Regional and national policy dialogue and networking (including with the business community): with exchange of experiences and peer-review and peer-learning mechanisms;
- Capacity-building and technical assistance: diagnostic studies, policy analysis and recommendations, advisory services, practitioners' handbooks, technical workshops, and training courses for policy-makers and experts;
- Monitoring and evaluation (through result-oriented indicators), data collection, visibility including development of communication tools to disseminate information (conferences, investors' guides, newsletters, brochures, etc.).

4.2.2 *Support to innovation policies and innovative clusters in the Southern Neighbourhood*

The expected results are as follows:

1. Improved regulatory environments in the field of innovation by supporting coherent and strategic innovation policies promoting innovative SME cluster growth including cross-sectoral cooperation and by providing technical assistance in order to strengthen innovation ecosystems and in particular innovation support structures.
2. Increased capacity of innovation stakeholders; provision of a regional platform to facilitate dissemination, dialogues and exchanges of good practices; networking in particular with EU counterparts.
3. Promotion of innovative SME clusters in the region, through the dissemination of successful experiences, including networking in particular with EU counterparts.

The areas of intervention for the envisaged action will be:

i) *at macro level*: support to the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship; stimulating the development and networking of innovation stakeholders (public, private and academic sectors), in particular to reflect on the regulatory framework at country / regional level, in line with the "Small Business Act" for Europe and its implementation process in the Mediterranean countries; up-scaling of activities implemented in the context of the EBESM project relating to the principle 8 of the SBA (enterprise skills and innovation) and in line with the

Common Euro-Mediterranean Innovation Agenda launched by the Euro-Mediterranean Group of Senior Officials in Research and Innovation.

ii) *at meso level*: capacity building, networking and exchange of good practices between innovation support structures and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. clusters, technology parks, business incubators, technology transfer offices, seed accelerators, business angels and early stage investors), including international networking in particular with EU counterparts.

iii) *at micro level*: direct support and capacity building provided to selected innovation clusters, networks and members.

The type of activities are: advisory services, diagnostics studies, support to public-private policy dialogues, training, workshops, sector studies and recommendations, organisation of conferences, visibility tools including website, newsletters and information dissemination.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grant: direct award "Supporting investment policies and promotion in ENP South" (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

To improve investment policies and promote investment in the South neighbourhood region through advisory and capacity-building activities, improved coordination and national-regional/public-private dialogue in cooperation, and enhanced regional/international networking in particular with EU counterparts.

The areas of intervention and expected results are:

1. Sound investment policies and strategies targeting investments with high growth potential and development effects, in particular designed to impact on inclusiveness and sustainability, in terms of job creation (with a focus on youth and women), territorial development and enhancement of the local economy.

2. Increased capacity of partner countries in reforming and improving their investment policy frameworks in accordance with international best practices, including fostering legal protection, coherence, predictability and transparency, as well as supporting regional harmonisation and consistency.
3. Improved capacity of negotiating and implementing international investment (and trade-related) agreements (bilateral investment treaties, regional agreements (e.g. the Arab League Investment Agreement and the Agadir Agreement) and international negotiations (e.g. DCFTAs and other FTAs)), as well as preventing and managing investment disputes.
4. Enhanced institutional co-ordination on investment policies and promotion, conducive public-private dialogue on investment reforms on the national and regional levels, stronger policy advocacy role of the private sector.
5. Improved capacity of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and related institutions in:
 - building professional and efficient services to investors, streamlining procedures and enhancing staff skills;
 - building a network of IPAs in the region and with the EU counterparts, exchanging investment practices and opportunities with a view to attract more and better investments to the region and foster intra-regional investments;
 - enhancing business linkages between multinational enterprises and local companies.
6. Monitored investment reforms, better availability of data in particular on FDI statistics through implementation of international guidelines for compiling FDI (including the OECD Benchmark Definition of FDI – BDM4) and increased awareness in and visibility of the MENA region to attract further investments.

(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 OECD.

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 the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of diagnostics, benchmarking and advisory services in the area of investment by a recognised international organisation and the OECD is considered to be placed as best public institution in this regard. The OECD as a public organisation has a long-standing experience and specialisation in this area to partner with the EU and has indeed been working for a number of years with the partner countries through the OECD MENA investment programme with established contacts to the Investment Promotion Agencies in the region⁵. This action will provide beneficiary countries with access to a range of interesting services and capacity building tools to improve its regulatory investment framework and investment promotion agencies to expand domestic and

⁵ www.oecd.org/mena/investment.

international investment opportunities in line with best EU and OECD international experience.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance and experience of the proposed action in relation to the objectives and expected results of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

2nd Quarter 2016.

5.3.2 *Grant: call for proposals – Supporting innovation policies and innovation clusters in ENP South*

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective identified for this call is to support policies and initiatives stimulating the development of the innovation ecosystems in Southern Mediterranean countries and to contribute to driving new innovation dynamics across the Mediterranean – in line with the Common Knowledge and Innovation Space priorities –, involving in particular the private sector as well as other relevant stakeholders in the region.

The areas of intervention and expected results are:

1. Enhanced capacity for the formulation and/or the implementation of coherent and strategic innovation policies; reinforced public-private dialogue, improved regulatory framework for innovation, in line with the "Small Business Act" for Europe and its implementation process in the Mediterranean countries; activities relating to principle 8 of the Small Business Act (innovation) are up-scaled.
2. Improved capacity of innovation ecosystems and innovation support structures in charge of implementing strategies and actions for innovative SMEs (e.g. technology parks, business incubators, technology transfer offices, innovation clusters at regional level); through capacity building, coaching and training; exchange of good practices between innovation support structures, including stakeholders such as business angels networks, academic spin-offs, early stage investors, industry leaders.
3. Increased regional cooperation by stimulating the development and networking of innovation stakeholders (public, private and academic sectors) at country / regional level and encouraging links to their European

counterparts; organisation of international business and innovation weeks (brokerage events) involving the whole innovative ecosystem in each country.

4. Strengthened innovative SME clusters in the region through targeted support to selected clusters in most promising sectors (e.g. water and agrifood, new energies, transport and logistics, Information and Communication Technologies and creative industries). This includes support for innovation management capabilities and enhanced competitiveness; capacity building activities, matchmaking events for innovation projects to promote industrial partnerships with other South ENI countries or EU countries. Targeted support schemes are made available to promote young and women innovators/entrepreneurs (e.g. enhanced opportunities for younger entrepreneurs to work in business incubators and science parks in the region).
5. Increased availability of information on innovation ecosystems through analysis of innovation policy schemes and initiatives being developed in the Southern Mediterranean region as well as identification of relevant innovation stakeholders; update of previous mappings.
6. Visibility of the actions undertaken by the programme is ensured through the valorisation of selected innovative initiatives in the region; innovation awards; dissemination for awareness and engagement; promotion of best practices by setting up a regional platform to facilitate dissemination, dialogues and exchanges of good practices.

(b) Eligibility conditions

- be legal persons, and
- be non-profit-making, and
- be specific types of organisations such as: non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international (inter-governmental) organisations as defined by Article 43 of the Implementing Rules to the EC Financial Regulation, and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or a country that is a beneficiary of the ENI Regulation, a country that is a beneficiary of an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance set up by Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 (IPA) or a Member State of the EEA, and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicants and affiliated entities, not acting as an intermediary.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance and experience of the proposed action in relation to the objectives and expected results of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

1st Quarter 2016.

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 in accordance with Budget Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, EUR
5.3. – Support to Investment, Innovation and Growth in South Neighbourhood composed of	10,000,000	760,000
5.3.1 – Direct grant to OECD "Supporting investment policies and promotion"	3,000,000	60,000
5.3.2 – Call for proposals "Supporting innovation policies and SMEs innovative clusters"	7,000,000	700,000
Totals	10,000,000	760,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A Steering Committee will be established for each component of the programme with participation of the Commission, the implementing organisation, the partner countries, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and other stakeholders as appropriate.

The Steering committees will meet at least in an annual basis to provide the strategic direction of the programme activities, approve annual work-plans and monitoring the performance of activities. Sharing of information, joint activities and sharing of experience between the two components of the programme will be promoted when feasible.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

Where an evaluation is foreseen and is to be contracted by the Commission: The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least three 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 country 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 country, 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 and supported with a specific visibility budget within each grant contract.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

The expected outputs and outcomes and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To assist partner countries' ownership and capacity to implement policies and initiatives regarding innovation and investment aiming to enhance inclusive and sustainable growth and employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in foreign investment - Increase in domestic investment - New jobs created per sector / type of skills - Increase in the value-added of jobs created 	The inception phase with the OECD will define the baseline of each country	The inception phase with the OECD will define the outcomes and targets in a country basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics from partner countries World Bank, OECD, UN /ILO reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political and democratic stability. - Governments committed to reforms and private – sector led growth. - Improvement of the World / European economies for innovation and investment linkages
Specific objectives: Outcomes	<p>1. To improve investment policies and enhance investment in the South neighbourhood region through advisory and capacity-building activities, improved coordination and public-private dialogues and regional / international networking in particular with EU counterparts.</p> <p>2. To support policies and initiatives stimulating the development of innovation ecosystems in the South</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved investment policies and regulatory frameworks with an inclusive approach. - Improved administrative capacity to attract investments. - Increased regional cooperation to integrate into global value chains and foreign investment - Improved innovation policies and regulatory framework including 	<p>The inception phase with the OECD will define the baseline of each country</p> <p>The inception phase will define the</p>	<p>The inception phase with the OECD will define the outcomes and targets in a country basis</p> <p>The inception phase will define the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting from EU – OECD programme implemented activities Reports from national authorities Reporting from the innovation grant partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong Public-private dialogues and consensus to improve innovation and investment frameworks. - Willingness to cooperate at regional level to jointly promote and take advantage of regional opportunities. Regional strategy

	neighbourhood region and to contribute to driving new innovation dynamics across the Mediterranean – in line with the EU Common Knowledge and Innovation Space priorities – and involving in particular the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the region	incentives for ecosystems development - Strengthened innovative SMEs clusters in the region - Increased regional cooperation to build specialisation and complementarity	baseline of each country	country basis	implementing activities	Cooperation should complement related bilateral PSD, trade and investment actions.
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Outputs – Investment component	<p>(i) Improved capacity of partner countries in reforming and improving their investment frameworks in line with international best practice</p> <p>(ii) Improved capacity of investment promotion agencies (IPAs)</p> <p>(iii) Enhanced regional and international networking</p>	<p>Number of Studies & Recs to improve investment opportunities</p> <p>Number of legislative & administrative reforms introduced through a 3 years period</p> <p>Training seminars provided to IPAs. Increase in investment obtained through a 3-years period.</p> <p>Number of joint promotional activities undertaken in a regional basis</p> <p>MOU investment partnerships signed at regional and EU/ international level</p>	The inception phase with the OECD will define the country basis	The inception phase with the OECD will define the country basis	EU-OECD Programme reporting	
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Outputs – Innovation component	<p>(i) Improved regulatory environments in the field of innovation by supporting coherent and strategic innovation policies promoting innovative SME cluster growth and by providing technical assistance in order to strengthen innovation ecosystems</p> <p>(ii) Improved capacity of innovation ecosystems and innovation support structures; increased networking of innovation stakeholders, in particular with EU counterparts. Provision of a regional platform to facilitate dissemination, dialogues and exchanges of good practices.</p> <p>(iii) Strengthened innovative SME clusters in the region through capacity building and networking, including with successful EU cluster initiatives.</p>	<p>Number of legislative & administrative reforms introduced the during implementation period</p> <p>Assessment of progress in implementing the SBA - 8b: Innovation policy framework for SMEs</p> <p>Number of joint promotional activities undertaken in a regional basis</p> <p>Number of innovation SME-clusters supported</p> <p>Number of young / women entrepreneurs supported</p> <p>Number of partnerships between Southern countries' clusters and clusters in the EU</p> <p>Number of awareness workshops</p>	<p>Proposals submitted through the calls for proposals will define the baseline.</p>	<p>Proposals submitted through the calls for proposals will define the targets.</p>	<p>Statistics from partner countries</p> <p>World Bank, OECD, UN /ILO reporting</p>	



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 3

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for

“Support to the Regional Transport Action Plan (Maritime and Rail)”

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.1 and 5.3.2

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	“Support to the Regional Transport Action Plan (Maritime and Rail)” CRIS number: 2015 / 038-247 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Southern region. The action shall be carried out at the following location: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Palestine ¹ and Lebanon.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Transport
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 10.75 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 9 million for an amount of which: - EUR 4 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015 - EUR 5 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2016, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget

¹ 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.

	Budget line: 21.03.01.02 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1.75 million			
6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities	Project Modality Direct management: - grants – direct award - procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	21040 (water transport); 21030 (Rail transport)			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

By facilitating trade and connecting people across countries, transport is typically an area of regional cooperation. However, the lack of transport interconnectivity remains one of the bottlenecks in the Southern Neighbourhood region. There is a need for a safe, secure, sustainable and efficient transport system based on harmonised transport standards as a condition for economic growth and integration of the region.

The proposed actions pursue EU efforts in supporting the establishment of an adequate regulatory framework for all transport modes for the benefit of the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries, with a particular focus on rail and maritime transport. The actions complement existing projects in the field of aviation and transport infrastructure. They fully take account the results of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Transport Ministerial Conference of 14 November 2013. In addition, they seek to implement the Regional Transport Action Plan 2014-2020.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Regional context/Thematic area

In the Mediterranean region, a regular and intensive sector policy dialogue was established through the EuroMed Transport Forum and its working groups, initially

under the umbrella of the Barcelona process and from 2009 onwards under the auspices of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) from 2009 onwards. The strategy for the development of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean transport system is detailed in the 2005 Blue Paper “Towards an Integrated Euro-Mediterranean Transport System”² and in the report of the High Level Group on the Extension of the Trans-European Transport Axes to the Neighbouring Countries and Regions, both of which were endorsed by the first EuroMed Transport Ministerial Conference in Marrakech in December 2005. The Ministerial Conference invited the EuroMed Transport Forum to convert these recommendations into a Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) for the period 2007-2013 specifying the short and medium term priorities for each mode of transport. Since then, an intensive transport programme, covering all modes and composed of several technical assistance projects, has been put into motion in order to implement the RTAP 2007-2013.

The UfM Transport Ministerial Conference of 14 November 2013 endorsed the Evaluation Report of the RTAP 2007-2013 for the Mediterranean Region, and reaffirmed the need for a safe, secure, sustainable and efficient transport system based on harmonised transport standards as a condition for economic growth and integration in the Mediterranean region by facilitating trade and connecting people. It recommended the full involvement of relevant European Agencies in the implementation of the RTAP 2014-2020, in accordance with their founding regulations and endorsed the priority guidelines for the establishment of the new RTAP 2014-2020 by the EuroMed Transport Forum.

On 23 March 2015 in Brussels, the Euromed Transport Forum, composed of the partner countries, EU member States and stakeholders, approved the new RTAP 2014-2020. At the same occasion, partner countries confirmed the need to continue the support in these domains, in close cooperation with EU specialised agencies.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The Communication “The EU and its neighbouring regions: A renewed approach to transport co-operation”³ of 7 July 2011 foresees closer integration between the markets of the EU and those of the enlargement and Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries, making connections faster, cheaper and more efficient to the advantages of citizens and businesses. It also outlined the importance of regulatory convergence in areas like safety, security, environmental protection, worker health and safety.

On this basis, the UfM Transport Ministerial Conference of 14 November 2013 notably endorsed the priority policy guidelines relevant to each mode of transport for the preparation of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) for the period 2014-2020.

Under point 20 of the Declaration of the Ministerial is recommended the full involvement of relevant European Agencies for the implementation of the RTAP 2014-2020, in accordance with their founding regulations.

In this context, chapter I of the RTAP 2014-2020 clearly focuses on Maritime Transport and actions two to four can be fully supported by the European Maritime

² http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/international/regional/euromed/transport/doc/2005-12-15/2005_11_bluepaper_fr.pdf.

³ COM(2011)415 of 7 July 2011.

Safety Agency. Moreover, action 12 on safety and interoperability in the railway sector is the basis for our action in that area.

The challenge for the transport co-operation is mainly related to maintaining the commitment of the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries to regularly update their legislation and to ensure a convergent regional framework for the strengthening of exchanges between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries and among themselves.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders in the project will be the various Ministries of Transport, Transport Agencies (e.g Railway Agencies), Regulatory Bodies, Operators and where applicable network managers. Freight companies and passengers are final beneficiaries. The interest of all of these stakeholders is to enhance their capacity to implement and operate under international and EU standards with a view on further structural adaptation of transport systems at the national level which needs to be complemented at the regional level so as to encourage and facilitate the unimpeded flow of goods and people in the Mediterranean region. In that way, a level playing field can be created by reducing competitive (dis)advantages between countries. Especially for the rail sector a separation between the network managers and the service operators is a difficult process which requires the set-up of new and independent administrations. Training of the staff of such administrations seems essential. The same counts for the possible establishment of independent rail safety and accident investigation agencies.

The UfM Secretariat will be associated to the implementation of the action.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Priority areas for support are focused on the regulatory framework for different transport modes enhancing transport safety, security and environmental protection. Particular attention will be given to maritime and rail transport, so as to ensure continuity with support from the past and to complement ongoing support in the aviation sector.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Continued strong political commitment to regional co-operation and support from the partner institutions is a necessary condition for the effective implementation of the project. Partner governments and authorities should be ready to take the measures required in terms of legal, technical and institutional reforms and adequate resource allocation. Long-term regional stability in the region is a prerequisite for the project's sustainability. In particular, inter-state tensions in the Middle Eastern region, but also in the Maghreb, may create difficulties in terms of regional co-ordination of transport flows, cross-border co-operation and trade facilitation.

Participating countries must, to a certain extent, recognise international conventions and/or European law and/or relevant European/international standards and specifications in the field of maritime, road and rail and should be ready to actively work towards the implementation of first of all international standards, and, if relevant, European standards. These risks are minimised by the use of already functioning mechanisms for co-operation between the transport key stakeholders of

the neighbouring states and with the EU. Furthermore, the action proposed is a continuation of successful projects.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The actions foreseen in the present Action Document build on lessons learnt from the previous Euromed transport projects described below, in particular:

- the transport dimension is well suited to a regional approach. EU support to transport issues is usually provided through comprehensive regional programmes (apart from a transport programme in Algeria) with little overlaps with bilateral cooperation where more specific contributions are provided mainly through the instrument of twinning;
- a demand-driven approach, tailored to the specific needs of each partner country, has demonstrated more effective results;
- good experience with the European specialised transport agencies.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The on-going projects in the transport field include:

- aviation component under the Euromed Aviation Safety project implemented by the European Aviation Safety Agency;
- logistics component under the LOGISMED TA project aiming to provide training for logistics implemented by the European Investment Bank (EIB);
- infrastructure component with the Southern Neighbourhood Advisory programme for the Transport Sector (“SNAP-T”, i.e. the project preparation programme agreed between the European Commission and the EIB) financed under the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF).

Close co-ordination with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean will be promoted. Specific co-ordination will also be set in place to maximize synergies with on-going and future relevant national twinning actions in the transport sector.

On maritime transport, close coordination and synergies will be established with the Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean and the various EU-funded projects supporting it as well as the Initiatives supported by UNEP-MAP in the context of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

In terms of good governance, the project will promote institutional restructuring, in particular the separation of the governmental regulatory functions from the operational and commercial activities, strengthening the independence of the authorities and of their administrative capacity. The promotion of the adoption of EU rules and standards, and international standards where relevant, will also have a positive side effect on the environment, in particular detection and recovery of oil spills at sea.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results/main activities

These actions will pursue the efforts in supporting partner countries to establish an adequate regulatory framework for transport, in particular for maritime and railway, notably on safety, security and environmental protection.

For the maritime component, the objectives are:

- To support partner countries to align their national standards and practices with those of the European Union with the aim of promoting a harmonised approach in the field of maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention and response;
- To reinforce the institutional capacity of partner countries to perform fully their duties under the adequate regulatory framework;
- At regional level, to enhance communication, information sharing and cooperation between partner countries, EMSA and EU Member States in the field of maritime safety, maritime security and marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response.

For the railway component, the objectives are:

- To support partner countries to enhance railway safety, with particular attention to the establishment of risk approaches and the prevention of accidents, as well as their investigation;
- To reinforce the institutional capacity of partner countries to fully perform their duties under the adequate regulatory framework;
- At regional level, to promote interoperability among different countries in areas such as infrastructure (including track gauge), control-command and signalling, energy, rolling stock, operation and traffic management, maintenance and telematic applications for passengers and freight services.

For the horizontal component, the objectives are to support partner countries in additional cross-cutting areas, such as liberalisation of transport services, economic aspects, security, efficient transport operations and GNSS use. This component is open to all modes of transport, with a particular attention to multimodal transport.

For the maritime component, the main activities are:

1. Maritime Safety

Capacity strengthening and training of partner countries on core aspects of Maritime Safety, namely Flag State Implementation, Port State Control, Human element and Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information Systems (VTMIS)

2. Protection of marine environment

- Provision of CleanSeaNet (CSN) images through EMSA

Within the framework of the SAFEMED III project, pilot actions on the provision of CSN images were started. CSN images are provided to partner countries to enhance their capability to detect and timely respond to oil spills at sea. Under this programme CSN images will continue to be delivered to partner

countries by EMSA in conjunction with AIS information to enhance their capability to identify possible polluters.

- International exercises with the participation of an EMSA Stand-by Oil Spill Recovery Vessel (SOSRV)

With the aim of further developing and maintaining operational readiness, exercises with the participation of an EMSA stand-by oil spill recovery vessel will be organised in selected partner countries. Operational exercises usually involve the release of simulated oil, the deployment of pollution response vessels from the hosting country, and the establishment of a unified command structure and lines of communication. In addition, full-scale oil recovery operations at the site of the accident, including actual deployment of oil containment booms and skimming equipment, may be undertaken. At-sea operational exercises assist the integration of EMSA's resources within the response mechanism of the coastal States, improving the necessary coordination and cooperation of the EMSA vessels with the coastal State response units.

3. Security of ships and port facilities

- ISPS Code – Specialised training on ship and port facility security

The programme will provide specialised training on ship and port facility security. In order for maritime administrations to adequately implement the responsibilities under the ISPS Code, the knowledge needed by the Contracting Government's officials to certify the compliance of vessels and/or port reception facilities with the ISPS Code is of paramount importance. Besides an efficient national administration, an adequate number of well qualified staffs is required to discharge the responsibilities as Flag State.

- Best practices on monitoring Recognised Security Organisations (RSOs)

Some of the Flag State functions and duties related to ship and port facility security can be delegated to Recognised Security Organisations. However, related responsibilities will still lie with the Flag State that has the obligation to constantly monitor the activities undertaken by Recognised Security Organisations on their behalf. Relevant training and exchange of best practices will be provided.

For the railway component, the main activities are

1. Railway Safety

Supporting partner countries in the introduction of a Safety Management System and risk based approach;

Supporting legislative reform in line with EU railway legislation, including National Safety Authorities and implementing rules for the establishment of National Investigation Bodies);

Providing guidelines and support in drafting accident investigation procedures.

2. Interoperability

The EU has developed Technical Specifications for Interoperability which allow optimum management and use of rolling stock (locomotives, wagons and coaches) and railway infrastructure (including track, tunnels, electrification and signalling), by regulating matters concerning also railway noise, operations, telematics and issues related to persons with reduced mobility. These specifications are reference

milestones for the Partner countries (according to their specific needs). They will facilitate the establishment of the future Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network and its connection with the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

3. Promotion of the involvement of the partner countries in the work of European Rail Agency (ERA)

Representatives of the railway administrations of the Partner countries will be invited to participate in meetings of the National Safety Authorities and National Investigation Bodies, thus becoming progressively involved in the fora of the EU countries' representatives of safety and accident investigation.

For the horizontal component, the main activities will be concentrated on the exchange of best practises and training.

For the maritime component, the expected results are:

- To increase awareness on Flag State issues to a high level and address the needs in this area
- To enhance technical knowledge and skills of the beneficiaries' Flag State surveyors in carrying out the statutory surveys foreseen by the SOLAS and MARPOL conventions as well as the international conventions on liability and compensation
- To enable partner countries to conduct basic maritime safety investigations in accordance with the international principles adopted by the IMO
- To enhance capacity of the MEDMOU's PSCOs to perform inspections on the basis of the procedures and international legislation applicable to each ship's type and age
- To enhance standards of PSC inspection in the Mediterranean region as result of correct application of PSC procedures and the relevant instruments
- To extend AIS information sharing implemented under SAFEMED III to some selected Mediterranean coastal EU Member States
- To enhance capacity of partner countries to monitor maritime traffic and identify possible polluters of the marine environment, and comply with the Barcelona Convention and its protocols.
- To improve the capacity of the partner countries to comply with international conventions on standards of training, certification, and watch-keeping of sea fearers
- To enhance capability of the partner countries to monitor oil spills at sea
- To upgrade/update the awareness, knowledge and proficiency of the maritime security management and Designated Authority and to enhance partner countries' capabilities to effectively control their own flagged ships, ports/port facilities and on foreign ships.

For the railway component, the expected results are:

- Further develop and implement national railway reform plans with a specific focus on separation of infrastructure maintenance and operational parts / passenger and freight and defining responsibilities of the different railway authorities;

- Support for the preparation of investments plans for financing of infrastructure and rolling stock, electrification and signalling systems.

For the horizontal component, the expected results are a better alignment of the partner countries' legislation with the EU acquis in particular in the field of maritime and rail transport.

4.2 Intervention logic

See attached appendix: indicative logframe.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grant: direct award "Euromed Maritime Safety project" (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

See point 4.1

(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 European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

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 the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence and specialisation based on its founding Regulation EU 1406/2002. The implementation of the project by EMSA will allow to further integrate the ENP countries in the work of the EU agencies in line with the joint communication "Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy" whereby the EU should further enhance its support for the participation of ENP partner countries in EU programmes and agencies. This action will provide partner countries with access to a range of interesting services and tools now provided only to EU Member States. In addition, EMSA will allow for an increasingly strong collaboration with EU Member States relevant authorities.

(c) Eligibility conditions

Non applicable

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

3rd Quarter 2016.

5.3.2 *Grant: direct award "Euromed Rail Safety project" (direct management)*

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

See point 4.1

(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 European Railway Agency (ERA).

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 the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of beneficiary for its technical competence and specialisation based on Regulation (EC) No 1335/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 881/2004 establishing a European Railway Agency (Agency Regulation). Similarly to EMSA, working with ERA follows the same approach.

(c) Eligibility conditions

Non applicable

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

3rd Quarter 2016.

5.3.3 Procurement (direct management)

Subject in generic terms	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Horizontal - all sectors	Services	1	Q1 2016

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 in accordance with Budget Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3. – Support to Regional Transport Action Plan 2014-2020 composed of	9,000,000	1,750,000
5.3.1 – Direct grant “Euromed Maritime Safety project” (direct management)	4,000,000	1,000,000
5.3.2 – Direct grant “Euromed Rail Safety project” (direct management)	3,000,000	750,000
5.3.3 - Procurement (direct management)	2,000,000	

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The relevant Working Groups of the Transport Forum (e.g; Maritime, Aviation, Land and Rail Network) will give guidance with a view of ensuring an effective monitoring and co-ordination of national activities within the regional dimension of both components.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

Where an evaluation is foreseen and is to be contracted by the Commission: [The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least three months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country 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 country, 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - Indicative Logframe matrix

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Support the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries to establish an adequate regulatory framework for transport, in particular for maritime and railway, notably on safety, security and environmental protection.	<p>EU legislation incorporated in partners' national legislation</p> <p>Administrative capacity for the implementation of the harmonised legislation established</p> <p>Improved cooperation among partner competent authorities and with the EU Member States and EU institutions</p>	To be defined during the inception phase	To be defined during the inception phase	To be drawn from the partner's strategy.	Governments maintain their commitment to implement changes at legislative, institutional and operational levels.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Specific objectives: Outcomes</p>	<p><u>MARITIME</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of partner countries legislation and standards to the European Union with the aim of promoting a harmonised approach in the field of maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention and response; • Reinforcement of the institutional capacity of Mediterranean partners to fully implement their duties under the adequate regulatory framework • Enhanced communication, information sharing and cooperation between partner countries EMSA and EU Member States <p><u>RAILWAY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of railway safety, in particular on accident investigation, Safety management Systems and train drivers' certification • Reinforcement of the institutional capacity of Partner countries to fully perform their duties under the adequate regulatory framework • Promotion of interoperability among different countries in areas such as infrastructure , management, maintenance and telematic applications for passengers and freight services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU standards, and international standards where relevant ,related to maritime safety, security and environmental protection gradually applied at national level • Improved security of ships and port facilities • Number of sub-standard ships operating in the region • Improved control and response to marine environmental pollution • Improved capacity of Partner countries competent authorities to monitor and control maritime traffic in the region • Improved sharing of traffic information • Number of Common Safety Methods and Targets adopted • Number of procedures adopted on certification and authorisation • Number of established Infrastructure Managers and Operators of Wagons with separated roles and safety responsibilities • Number of established bodies responsible for safety and investigation at state level • Number of TSIs compliant with EU law • Number of exchanges between SPMCs on interoperability 	<p>To be defined during the inception phase</p>	<p>To be defined during the inception phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of ratification of IMO instruments • Results of audits under the IMO Member States Audit Scheme • Statistics on maritime accidents and incidents • MEDMOU PSC database • Performance of Flag States under Memoranda of understanding on Port State Control • Cooperation agreements on AIS sharing • Introduction of VTMISS systems • Official journal of the SPMCs • Audits • Reports produced by other European and international organisations UIC, OTIF, OECD, World Bank etc 	

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to SPMs in setting up the institutions and bodies required by international instruments and harmonised legislation • Analyses/studies of current practices and institutional arrangements and identification of measures for eliminating gaps • Provision CleanSeaNet service to SPMs to improve their capability to detect and respond to oil spills • Pilot projects on AIS sharing • Exchange of best practices on monitoring Recognised Security Organisations (RSOs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of draft laws setting /modifying regulatory bodies (including investigation bodies) • Number of draft laws improving railway safety • Number of analyse/studies • Number of countries using CleanSeaNet and number of images exchanged • Number of exchanges on AIS • Number of concluded written agreements with Recognised organisations and monitoring reports 	To be defined during the inception phase	To be defined during the inception phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • project reports and newsletters • adopted national legislation • signature of CleanSeaNet Conditions of Use • AIS data sharing reports • IMO audit reports • drafted and adopted strategies and/or plans devised for the development and deployment of VTMIS 	Governments maintain their commitment to implement changes at legislative, institutional and operational levels.
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in section 5.3.1 concerning calls for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015 (ENI/2015/038-294) financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	ENI Southern region – The action shall be carried out at the following location: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Tunisia and Syria.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Regional South: Objective 3: Building a Partnership with the People
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 3 222 222 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 3 000 000 Budget line: 21.03.01.02 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 222,222

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.

6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management: - grants – call for proposals - procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N/A		

SUMMARY

The **overall objective** of the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015 is to **strengthen and promote Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)' role in democratic changes and reforms** taking place in the southern Neighbourhood countries. The Civil Society Facility will pursue the following **specific objectives**:

1. to strengthen **CSOs' involvement** in the policy-making process and in policy dialogue; to strengthen CSOs' role as watchdog players;
2. to increase **CSOs' capacity** to promote reforms and promote public accountability;
3. to support **CSOs' role in local development**.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector context

The **situation of civil society** in the southern Neighbourhood region differs from one country to another but some common features can be pointed out.

In a large number of countries, the **political context** does not favor the blossoming of civil society, with old and new legislation restricting its role, affecting freedom of assembly and association. Much remains to be done across the region to the

necessary space for civil society to operate and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development and democratization processes.

The **capacity** of CSOs *per se* and with a view to engaging in policy dialogue remains weak despite training and information campaigns at local level. Many CSOs remain **isolated**, which hampers their development and opportunities. Networking should be supported as it strengthens CSOs' capabilities and access to information. Furthermore networking offers them an easier access to authorities. Furthermore, organisations which are eager to take part in the debate triggered by Euro-**Mediterranean** policies often have insufficient knowledge of the Euro-**Mediterranean** partnership mechanisms. In addition, access to funds remains difficult for many CSOs due to **complex procedures**; this is especially the case for grassroots organisations.

Against this context, the EU is firmly committed to supporting efforts for civil society to flourish and become active and influential in the southern Neighbourhood region. To this end, promoting **an enabling environment** with partner countries is fundamental, and can be pursued via various dialogue mechanisms at regional and national level.

Promoting **active participation by CSOs** in policy making is key and hence the relevance to support **capacities at management and advocacy levels, abilities to monitor reforms and play an efficient watchdog role** They also need support for enhancing their **internal governance, accountability and transparency, as well as networking and coordination**.

1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

As one of these steps to provide greater support to civil society, the European Commission launched in 2011 *the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility*, with the objective to strengthen civil society's capacity to promote and monitor reform, to carry out advocacy work and to increase public accountability. For the period 2011 – 2013, a budget of over EUR 34 million was dedicated to support of civil society in the southern Neighbourhood countries. This measure fits into a much wider framework based on acknowledgement by the EU of the crucial role played by CSOs in promoting democratic governance, equitable development and inclusive sustainable growth.

In September 2012, the European Commission issued the *Communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations"* proposing an enhanced and more strategic approach for EU's engagement with civil society. The objective of the Communication is to facilitate constructive relations between states and civil society organisations. The Communication identifies priority areas for engagement with local CSOs in partner countries relating to i) promotion of an enabling environment, ii) participation of civil society in domestic policies, in the EU programming cycle and in international processes and iii) capacity development for CSOs to perform their roles more effectively.

According to the Communication, the EU and the Member States should develop *Civil Society Country Roadmaps* to activate and ensure structured dialogue and strategic cooperation, improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions, and ensuring consistency and synergy throughout the various sectors covered by EU external relations. These roadmaps are also meant to trigger coordination and sharing of best practices with the Member States and other international actors, including for

simplification and harmonisation of funding requirements. EU Delegations should coordinate the process locally.

These policy orientations represented the ground for the *Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” 2014 – 2020*. Within the framework of the Development Cooperation Instrument overall goals, the objectives of this Programme is to strengthen civil society organisations and local authorities; this will be articulated around the two core pillars of the Agenda for Change, acknowledging that governance and sustainable and inclusive growth are deeply intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Accordingly, the Programme will pursue the objective of improving governance and accountability through inclusive policy-making by empowering citizens and populations, through the voicing and structuring of their collective demands, to contribute to tackle injustice and inequality.

As far as dialogue with civil society concerns, enhancing regular dialogue and consultations with Civil Society is one of the principles stated in the Lisbon Treaty, with a view to ensuring consistency and transparency of EU policies. In the development field, the European Union has, over the last decade, promoted the comprehensive and progressive participation of Civil Society Organisations in countries' development processes and in broader political, social and economic dialogues at all levels, including on climate change and environment.

To follow-up on the Structured Dialogue's results, the above-mentioned Communication set up the *Policy Forum on Development (PFD)*, a consultative multi-stakeholder group allowing CSOs to dialogue with EU institutions on EU development policies and to promote communication and better understanding among all stakeholders. The PFD primarily focuses on European development policies, as well as global development agendas, building on the momentum gained by current debates and discussions on the global architecture for international aid.

Focusing on the Mediterranean region, *the Initiative for a regional structured dialogue* aims at the creation of sustainable structures and mechanisms for sustained and open dialogue between Civil Society, the EU and the Authorities on a regional level. The Initiative has been launched during the Anna Lindh Forum in 2013 and lays under the responsibility of the Inter-Institutional Steering Group, composed by representatives of the European Commission, the European External, Action Service and the European Economic and Social Committee.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The direct beneficiaries of this action are **civil society organisations (CSOs)**.

According to the abovementioned 2012 Communication, *“the concept of “CSOs” embraces a wide range of actors with different roles and mandates. The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non –violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights”*.

Special attention will be paid to the new organisations and networks that have emerged in the wake of the Arab spring and which are **representative** of civil society.

Local authorities in partner countries (defined as ‘decentralised bodies in the partner countries, such as regions, departments, provinces and municipalities’), will be considered partners, especially where partnerships between CSOs and local authorities can demonstrate added value.

Partner governments’ authorities should be associated in the capacity-building activities, case by case. The Civil Society Facility should ultimately also aim to foster public institutions’ ability and willingness to associate CSOs in policy dialogues, co-operation activities and sector reforms.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Though not exempted of difficulties, the new context in the Mediterranean has created new opportunities for **the emergence of a comprehensive, thriving and active civil society**. To certain degree, civil society became more organised and structured, and acquired new roles, moving from being mainly service deliverers to be politically vocal, able to exert public influence and recognised as drivers of change.

But civil society in the region remains dominated by **weak capacities**. In many cases, the **limited experience** of the new players in managing an organisation, implementing projects and participating in public life and dialogue curtails their potential.

Civil society in the Southern Neighbourhood Region is also characterized by **fragmentation and isolation**. The new context raises the issue of the **representativeness and legitimacy** of these new players, their **internal governance**, their ability to *co-ordinate and network* with their peers instead of competing for resources, etc.

Therefore, **supporting capacity building, skills reinforcement and networking between CSOs are the main priorities** of the Civil Society Facility. Concretely, actions to strengthen civil society **participation in policy dialogue and governance**, in **evidence-based advocacy and monitoring** and in reinforcing civil society capacities with regards to **networking, knowledge sharing and communication** will implemented at local level. Current needs for additional funding have been identified mainly in **Algeria, Egypt, Israel³, Morocco**.

Besides support at national level, **regional initiatives with the same objectives** could also be financed under this action, especially in those areas of work considered priority such as support to **gender and to youth**.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks of political instability in the region and possible changes of government or 	H	Monitoring of the situation and supporting democratic structures and principles. This goes directly to the core of the Civil Society

³ 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://eu-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG/.

<p>regimes. Support given to political actors, leaders of political movements and emerging leaders is a highly sensitive issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a risk that the authorities might not see the added value of involving CSOs in the policy dialogue or that they might not provide an enabling environment that puts in place modern and transparent institutions to encourage accountability and good governance and ensure fair and transparent rules. • Unwillingness of CSOs to engage in policy dialogue with the State or simply the lack of incentives to do so. 	<p>H</p> <p>M</p>	<p>Facility, which sets out to promote a more participatory approach to decision-making processes by broader inclusion of CSOs.</p> <p>The EU's political dialogue with partner countries includes the requirement to engage with CSOs at national level and to promote a more enabling environment for the work of civil society, in an attempt to counteract any unwillingness on the part of partner countries' authorities to engage with CSOs.</p> <p>Tripartite dialogue (between the authorities, the EU and CSOs) will then help to highlight the usefulness for CSOs and also for the authorities of conducting a dialogue and working together.</p>
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3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (CSF) was launched in 2011 as a special measure to help strengthening the civil society both in the eastern and southern Neighbourhood. Its objective is to strengthen and promote the role of civil society in reform and democratic change taking place in their respective countries, through increased participation in the fulfilment of Neighbourhood Policy objectives. In 2011 the CSF focused on strengthening CSOs capacities to promote reform and increase public accountability, and supporting CSO-led regional and country projects implemented through calls for proposals launched by HQ and in country by EUDs. The CSF 2012-2013 complemented the first phase with a broader scope in terms of objectives, aiming to enhance CSOs' involvement in the policy-making process and in the policy dialogue, to strengthen their role as watchdog players and to support CSOs' role in the local development.

The overall budget dedicated to the Civil Society Facility South for the period 2011-2013 amounted to over EUR 34 million.

The use of CSF funds has been very diverse across countries in the Southern Neighbourhood, depending on the situation of civil society in each country. In general, countries where CSF funds have only been used to top-up Thematic Programme Development Cooperation Instrument *Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities CSO/LA* call for proposals (CfPs), see the tool mainly as an increase of the financial allocation.

However, countries that have used CSF funds to reinforce capacities of CSOs, see a **real added value** compared to the two other thematic instruments in support of Civil Society (such as Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine and Egypt). EU Delegations in these countries made the following remarks:

- The CSF offers **complementarity** regarding:
 - the type of aid modality: *Service contracts* launched under CSF have allowed to support certain types of initiatives which would not have been possible to support under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) or the CSO/LA instruments⁴.
 - the *type of actions*: In countries where the thematic programme CSO/LA is not present (Israel), the CSF has allowed to complement with actions which could not be covered by the EIDHR, notably regarding actions to promote an enabling environment, which go beyond the work of Human Rights organisations. In countries under crisis situation (Tunisia), the CSF allowed to target actions to improve the enabling environment for CSOs.

Both the recommendations of the mapping study of civil society in **Israel**⁵ (2014), and the recommendations of the external EIDHR/CSF Evaluation (2015) has indicated the need to separate the CSF from the EIDHR CfPs in order to put more focus on supporting capacity building and skills reinforcement of CSO both in their internal operation and their interactions with the government, safeguarding an enabling environment, and networking and cooperation's between CSOs. Since 2011, CSF funds were added to the EIDHR CfPs but the specificity of the CSF programme was not always made clear and distinguished from the EIDHR. The two reports mentioned above recommended to delineate between the 2 programmes through separate CfPs which address the specific objectives of each programme.

- The CSF offered **predictability** of funding, with a flexible approach providing allocations depending on actual country needs and proposals.

In **Morocco**, the capacity building provided for advocacy and monitoring of public policies has proved to be highly appropriate and useful. Moroccan CSOs, selected according to the importance of the two latter axes in their strategies, have been able to benefit from structured training, have exchanged about their practices and have developed more professional skills in these matters. On this basis, CSOs have benefitted from individual coaching on the basis of the needs detected during the training sessions that needed to be addressed in a very targeted manner.

It is also noteworthy that the training sessions on monitoring of public policies have been extended to the Ministries and public institutions representatives, as well as to the parliament, on a pilot basis. This has allowed, on the one hand, the creation of a space for dialogue between CSOs and public institutions on a measure that has been constitutionalized, but which faces difficulties in its concrete implementation; on the

⁴ This support ranged from a resource centre for CSOs in Algeria, to specific support to build capacities of the four main NGOs platforms in Palestine, to the establishment of a baseline of CSOs in Egypt in order to later prepare for a future targeted capacity building program or the reinforcement capacities of CSOs in Morocco so as to advocate and monitor national reforms.

⁵ 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://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

other hand, it has enabled a better understanding by the public institutions of CSOs' intervention logic and their priority claims.

- At national level, the CSF is often seen as a tool that allows for a more independent way of working, in comparison with allocations from the Single Support Framework where partner government is an active player.

In **Algeria**, civil society has come out depleted after the “black decade” of the 1990s, characterized by a violent repression of political rights as well as a tragic civil war. The society is still recovering from this era, women and the youth being the most vulnerable groups of the population, that are not effectively exercising their political rights and that are largely in a position of economic failures. CSF has helped targeting horizontal and added value projects which accompany and bring a leverage effect to the national and thematic programmes and actions. While there is little progress on the recognition of civil society's role at national level, there has been a general trend in Algeria towards a more open and supported network of civil society organisations at decentralized, community level. There are indeed decentralized opportunities, tackling youth and women issues, and enhancing the capacity of local authorities, that would benefit from being nurtured. CSF would help here bringing strategic value and targeting those grassroots communities through targeted interventions aiming at capitalizing on existing actions in the field of sub-national governance, mainstreaming of human rights (including women and migrants rights) and identifying drivers of change, in particular amongst the youth, that could bring increased leverage to the EU policy towards civil society.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

Various support mechanisms and initiatives for CSOs are already being implemented by the European Commission, the EU Member States and other donors in Neighbourhood countries. Co-ordination is of utmost importance to **avoid fragmentation** and provide **effective support** to CSOs without overloading them with multiple initiatives and demands. EU Delegations will keep other donors informed of the progress made under the Civil Society Facility in the country-level donor co-ordination groups.

The Civil Society Facility takes a coherent and supporting approach towards the other programmes and instruments targeting CSOs, such as the **geographic and thematic programmes**. It complements them in areas and/or countries where engagement with CSOs needs to be enhanced. The **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)** and **thematic programmes under the Development Co-operation Instrument: CSO/LA, Investing in People, Migration and Asylum, Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP)**, have global coverage and are implemented largely through calls for proposals in which applicants, mainly CSOs, have a right of initiative.

Strong coordination should be ensured between the **Civil Society Facility and other EU programmes or institutions supported by the EU**. This is especially the case for

- support through **bilateral programmes** (SSFs);
- regional programmes: such as Euro-Med Youth, Med-Culture, Community Development Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection

Program in the North of Africa" (CDI-RDPP), Small Grant Programme for NGOs working on environment, etc.;

- actions led by the following institutions: the Anna Lindh Foundation, the European Endowment for Democracy, the Council of Europe, UN Women, etc.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The focus on an enabling environment for CSOs' work, and by the same token on difficulties faced by CSOs in their activities (harassment and restriction of **fundamental rights** such as freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly), will contribute to respect of human rights.

The programme aims at reinforcing CSOs' contribution to the decision-making process and fostering interaction between authorities and civil society. This participatory approach to decision-making lies at the heart of the **good governance** principles and is a core component of democracy. The Civil Society Facility will enhance the accountability of the governments and for the reforms implemented vis-à-vis a structured and solid civil society. It will also enhance the representativeness, transparency and internal democracy of CSOs themselves.

The Civil Society Facility also aims at strengthening civil society's engagement in inter-cultural dialogue to harness its role in supporting mediation and reconciliation processes, conflict prevention and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

The Civil Society Facility will mainstream **gender equality and youth issues** and seek to integrate, and capitalise on the existing thematic, regional and bilateral programmes already implemented with CSOs active in the fields of gender equality and support for youth.

Environmental sustainability and **climate change** will also be given due consideration as cross-cutting issues, for instance by encouraging applicants to adopt a mainstreamed approach.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The **overall objective** of the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015 is to **strengthen and promote CSOs' role in democratic changes and reforms** taking place in the southern Neighbourhood countries.

The Civil Society Facility will pursue the following **specific objectives**:

1. to strengthen **CSOs' involvement** in the policy-making process and in policy dialogue; to strengthen CSOs' role as watchdog players;
2. to increase **CSOs' capacity** to promote reforms and promote public accountability;
3. to support **CSOs' role in local development**.

4.2 Main activities

Specific objective 1 - To strengthen CSOs' involvement in the policy-making process and in the policy dialogue; to strengthen CSOs' role as watchdog players

Expected results:

- The role of CSOs in policy dialogue and their relationship with authorities are increased; Mutual understanding and trust between Government and civil society is increased.
- Existence of transparent and visible communication mechanisms between the Government and CSOs at national and local level, including strengthened structures for social dialogue.
- CSOs systematically involved in a structured way in the programming, designing and oversight of sector and budget support programmes as well as project support, by EU and other donors.
- Improved levels of media and citizens' knowledge and perception of the role and accomplishments of CSOs.

Indicative type of activities:

- Multi-stakeholder consultations at national level involving CSOs, national authorities and EU Delegations to identify ways to facilitate civil society actors' participation in (selected) sector policy dialogues between the EU and partner countries and in implementation of relevant bilateral projects and programmes will be organised. In this framework, national entry points (sectors) will be identified and prioritised by the authorities in dialogue with CSOs;
- Involving of CSOs in the monitoring of budget support targets and in reporting of annual budget support reviews;
- Consultation with CSOs can make part of the matrix of conditionalities for a sector support programme;
- Workshops, meetings and consultations are organised by the EU Delegations at an early stage during the programming process;
- Concerning the strengthening of the social dialogue: organisation of preparatory activities such as preparatory surveys, preparatory workshops and conferences; organisation of joint trainings for the social actors to strengthen their abilities to undertake dialogue and foster co-operation and collaboration among them; identification and dissemination of results of social dialogue processes; exchange of best practices, etc.

Specific objective 2 – To increase CSOs' capacity to promote reforms and promote public accountability

Expected results:

- Improved capacities of CSOs in monitoring progress in the implementation of democratic reforms and public policies,
- CSOs and CS-networks are enabled to dialogue, lobby and advocate with the Government and visibly engage with local or national authorities on development policies, service delivery, and citizens' rights enforcement
- Existence of functioning networking mechanisms among civil society organisations;
- Increased understanding and knowledge by CSOs of EU (and more specifically ENP) policy-instruments and programmes; new aid modalities and EU procedures;

Indicative type of activities:

- Identification and dissemination of good practices regarding CSOs-oriented ENP programmes and the participation of non-state actors in new aid modalities such as budget support programme;
- Organisation of trainings, seminars, meetings;
- Ad-hoc support (e.g. helpdesks for CSOs, support to CSOs umbrellas, etc.) is provided;
- North-South exchanges are supported as they offer a good opportunity of peer-learning and of networking among CSOs from the North and from the South. North-South exchanges between CSOs regarding the manner in which to most effectively engage in policy dialogue with the authorities could be promoted.
- Activities targeting the facilitation of information to CSOs, such as internet platforms or resource centres can also be funded.

Specific objective 3: to support CSOs' role in local development

Expected results:

- Available funding opportunities for CSOs' actions contributing to local development are increased;
- Empowerment of CSOs is enhanced through their action in favour of local development;
- Interaction between CSOs and local and national authorities is promoted;
- Participation of deprived populations in the definition and in the implementation of strategies and projects related to local development is promoted;
- The living conditions of vulnerable and marginalised populations (women, youth, handicapped persons, poor people) is improved;
- Jobs will be created and sustained through the mobilisation of human, cultural and natural local resources and by the involvement of women and youth people;

Indicative type of activities:

- Activities funded could encompass innovative approaches from CSOs aiming at supporting and setting up services in the field of economic development;
- Support to CSOs' involvement in local policy dialogue, capacity-building and networking;
- Trainings on procedures in order to overcome CSOs' lack of technical skills to respond to calls for proposals. Grassroots organisations will be specially targeted.

4.3 Intervention logic

With a view at reaching the objectives and implementing the activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2, and in the framework of direct centralised management, the proposed programme shall combine **service, framework contracts and grants**.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

In the framework of direct management, the proposed programme will be implemented through procurement of services and the award of grants.

Technical assistance shall be provided through service and/or framework contracts managed by Headquarters, and by service and/or framework contracts managed by the EU Delegations.

Financial allocations (grants) at local level shall be implemented through calls for proposals launched by EU Delegations. Financial allocations at regional level shall be implemented through calls for proposals launched by Headquarters.

5.3.1 Grant: call for proposals

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

To strengthen and promote CSOs' role in democratic changes and reforms taking place in the southern Neighbourhood countries, by strengthening CSOs' involvement in the policy-making process and in policy dialogue as well as CSOs' role as watchdog players; by increasing CSOs' capacity to promote reforms and promote public accountability; by supporting CSOs' role in local development.

(b) Eligibility conditions

Place of establishment of applicants: ENI south countries, EU countries, IPA countries, EFTA countries

Type: CSOs in the widest sense of the term, as defined in abovementioned European Commission Communication 2012 : non-governmental organisations; organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities; local citizens' groups and traders' associations; co-operatives, trade unions and organisations representing economic and social interests; local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional co-operation and integration; consumer organisations; women's and youth organisations; teaching, cultural research and scientific organisations; universities; churches and religious associations and communities; the media; cross-border associations; non-governmental associations and independent foundations.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant ranges from EUR 0.5 million to EUR 1 million and the grants may be awarded to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and at least two co-beneficiaries).

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 24 to 48 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 90% of the eligible costs of the action. The rate may be higher if the auto-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is weak.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the calls

1st trimester of the 2016.

5.3.2 *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical assistance	Services Framework contracts	5	1st trimester 2016

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 in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 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

Module	Amount in EUR (indicative)	Third party contribution (indicative)
5.3.1. Call for proposals (direct management)	2,000,000	222,222
5.3.2. Procurement of services (direct management)	1,000,000	0
Totals	3,000,000	222,222

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 collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (European Parliament, EEAS, EU Member States).

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this EU financial contribution will be a continuous process and part of the beneficiaries' responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system and elaborate, within the framework of each contract, regular reporting, including progress (if considered relevant) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the corresponding work programme, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by indicators. The reports 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 implementation of the successive work programmes. The final reports, narrative and financial, will cover the entire financial year of the corresponding work programme.

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

Evaluations, including intermediate and final or ex-post evaluations, may be carried out for the grants/services funded under this action. Such evaluation may be performed via independent consultants contracted by the Commission

When an evaluation is decided, the Commission shall inform the beneficiary at least 2 weeks in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The beneficiary 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 its premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with key stakeholders where relevant. The beneficiary and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation(s) and, where appropriate jointly decide on the follow-up actions to

be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the work programme(s).

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 funded under this action.

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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

EN



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 5

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2015 (EU PbI)

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following section concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1 Grants – call for proposals "EU Peacebuilding Initiative" (direct management)

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2015 (EU PbI) CRIS number: ENI/2015/038-321 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	The action shall be carried out at the following locations: Israel and Palestine ¹ and tentatively Jordan.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Building a partnership with people
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 6,225,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 5,000,000 Budget line: 21.03.01.03 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,225,000
6. Aid modality(ies)	Project Modality

¹ 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.

and implementation modality(ies)	Direct management – grants – call for proposals – procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	15220			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme		

SUMMARY

In alignment with the EU Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP), the overall objective of the programme is to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian/Arab conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.

The programme will be implemented through a Call for Proposals which will finance civil society initiatives in Israel, Palestine, and tentatively Europe and Jordan aiming at: 1) to promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement; 2) to build mutual understanding, confidence and trust; 3) to contribute to peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of most conflict-affected communities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

Since 1998, following the recommendations of the Luxembourg European Council in 1997 that the EU actively supports civil society initiatives in the Middle East as an

essential means of reinforcing dialogue and restoring mutual confidence, the EU has consistently supported a large number of such initiatives. Initially such support was provided through the European Union's People to People (P2P) Programme (1998 - 2001) and subsequently from 2002 to the present, through its successor, the EU Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP). Based on the findings of an external consultation conducted in 2014 on the PfP Programme 2007-14, and in order to clarify and enhance the programme's relevance to the current regional political context, it has been decided to rename the programme as "EU Peacebuilding Initiative" (EU Pbl).

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

A central objective of the EU in the Middle East is the achievement of peace by means of a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition. This includes a negotiated solution to all final status issues, including borders, Jerusalem, security, water and refugees. The EU has reiterated its readiness to contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements for ensuring the sustainability of a peace agreement.

At the regional level, the Arab Peace Initiative (API) remains the principal option for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab neighbours. However, though the Initiative has been welcomed by the international community including the EU and the United States, Israel has not formally responded to the API. The regional approach to the resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict will have to take into account the fundamental changes across the Arab world taking place since 2011.

The positions of the EU on the MEPP are communicated on a regular basis through statements made by the EU Foreign Affairs Council. The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) Conclusions provide a solid basis for implementing EU policy on MEPP through direct support for actions on the ground by civil society and other actors.

In December 2013, during the latest round of the US led peace efforts, the EU Foreign Affairs Council offered both parties an unprecedented package of political, economic and security support, in the event of a final peace agreement. The EU will offer Israel and the future state of Palestine a Special Privileged Partnership including enhanced political dialogue, security co-operation, increased access to European markets, closer cultural and scientific links, facilitation of trade and investments as well as promotion of business to business relations.

The conflict took another turn for the worse in the summer of 2014, with another armed conflict in Gaza lasting 50 days and resulting in widespread destruction. At the same time, in the course of 2014 there was a significant increase in violence and tensions in the West Bank, including notably in East Jerusalem where the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount has been the focus of particular friction. These resulted in an increase in deaths and injuries particularly in Jerusalem, including as a result of terror attacks. In November 2012, Palestine was accorded the status of non-member observer state at the United Nations, following a vote at the General Assembly. In 2014, President Abbas signed accession instruments for various international human rights, humanitarian and diplomatic treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Nevertheless, the EU has called on both sides to remain focussed on the negotiations and the mutual benefits which peace can bring, and to avoid any action that could undermine peace efforts and the viability of a two-state solution. As regards Palestinian reconciliation, the EU has reiterated its support for intra-Palestinian reconciliation behind President Abbas and also recalled that it expects any new Palestinian government to uphold the principle of non-violence, to remain committed to achieving a two-state solution and to a negotiated peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, accepting previous agreements and obligations, including Israel's legitimate right to exist. At the same time the EU has welcomed the opportunity provided by reconciliation for democratic renewal through genuine democratic elections.

The EU is remaining engaged politically in the MEPP via policies which aim to maintain the viability of the two-state solution² and encourages both Israeli and Palestinian parties to return to negotiations. It plays a key role within the Middle East Quartet, together with the US, Russia and the UN and constantly reaches out to Arab partners on the basis of the API. The EU has reinvigorated the position of Special Representative to the MEPP.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

An external evaluation and consultation of the EU Partnership for Peace (PfP) was conducted from December 2013 until January 2015. During the consultation phase, interviews, meetings and focus groups were held with a range of Israeli and Palestinian stakeholders, including journalists, politicians, youth, women and religious groups. European NGOs and EU officials were also consulted.

Palestinian attitudes to the MEPP, although by no means homogeneous, are overwhelmingly negative, with many believing that Israel has no intention of granting Palestinian statehood and that the MEPP only reinforces Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and resources. Israelis tend to have more diverse opinions, with a majority still (according to polls) favouring the two-state solution, with mainstream opinion attributing the main responsibility for the lack of peace to Palestinian intransigence and to a fundamental refusal to accept the legitimacy of the Israeli state.

Whilst Palestinians feel that the EU should be taking greater responsibility to end the conflict and establish a Palestinian state, in Israel, the EU is widely seen as being biased toward the Palestinians in the peace process, disconnected from the harsh realities of the Middle East and Israel's security concerns, as well as ineffectual in addressing anti-Semitism in Europe and the region.

In such a context, engagement in MEPP and peacebuilding in general, is often understood differently by Israelis and Palestinians. As the political situation has deteriorated further on the ground over recent years, despite attempts to revive peace talks, anti-normalisation movements in Palestine (and Jordan) have been increasingly vocal in advocating for a freeze of all joint activities between Palestinians and Israelis until the final settlement of the conflict.

² In 2013, the European Commission published Guidelines (Official Journal C 205/9 19.7.2013) 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, clarifying EU policy with regard to the territorial applicability of EU legislation and bilateral EU-Israel agreements. The Guidelines make a specific exception (section 15) for activities which are carried out by Israeli entities over the Green Line which aim at promoting the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy.

Despite the negative atmosphere surrounding it, the external evaluation of the PfP programme found that "*results at project level were generally positive, often very much so. The **relevance** of the projects to the broader objectives of the programme was found to be high, even though this was not reflected in public perceptions of the programme. This remained true for projects with constituents generally seen as being unsympathetic to peacebuilding.*"

Similarly, despite certain disillusionment with the MEPP, the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations remains high on the agenda for both populations, and is reflected in the overwhelming attention paid to it in the media and political commentary. It is also noted that annual PfP calls for proposals generally involve over 150 applications from Israeli, Palestinian and European Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), thus indicating a consistently high level of interest in peacebuilding work despite the difficult circumstances.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Taking into account the complex social and political environment in which it operates, the direction of the EU Peacebuilding Initiative (PbI) will be supportive of three mutually reinforcing and realistic specific objectives. The political environment has a direct impact on the work done by Israeli and Palestinian CSOs which are working towards an end to the conflict. During periods of direct peace talks, activities gain momentum and during the outbreak of conflict, such as the recent 2014 Gaza war, activities tend to come to a halt, albeit temporarily. Whilst the conflict itself remains long term and intractable, it is also unpredictable at times, requiring flexibility and rapid response to events which can either deteriorate quickly into violence, or alternatively, require encouragement of positive steps.

Support is needed in a variety of areas, which are all necessary factors in the attempts by EU and international actors to move Israelis and Palestinians towards an agreed settlement to the conflict. Engagement of a wide range of stakeholders is necessary in order to broaden support and to build mutual confidence. Ensuring broadest levels of engagement in solving the conflict is not only important as a democratic principle, but also to encourage realistic and accepted solutions, while ensuring that all actions are coherent with and support the framework of overall EU policy on the MEPP. This means civil and political engagement of people at large and of communities who are not generally active or visible in conflict resolution but fundamental for conflict transformation. This is particularly necessary regarding grass-roots level initiatives engaging with women and youth.

The values of equity, sustainable peace, non-violence and tolerance need to be supported on both sides as well between parties in conflict in order to altering the discourse between Israeli and Palestinians. Understanding of these values, also through learning from successful settlement of conflicts in other countries, is a fundamental factor in reaching a sustainable resolution. In this regard, activities range from combatting incitement and misinformation to encouraging understanding of 'the Other'. Such activities can occur within educational institutional frameworks, in public spaces especially by diffusing positive Israeli-Palestinian partnerships and coexistences experiences through media and social networks, and through joint learning from European experiences.

Whilst cross-border cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians is subject to anti-normalisation pressure and misinformation, experience shows that this kind of actions can strongly contribute to build confidence between the sides. With the aim

of maintaining the conditions for the viability of the two-state solution, joint socio-economic development actions will be promoted in view of demonstrating the practical potential dividends of peace, Acknowledging the asymmetry between Israeli and Palestinians, actions shall directly empower and benefit the communities most affected by the conflict. By working together, violence can be prevented and hope can be instilled, hence contributing to building peace.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Disruption of activities linked to instability of the political situation	M	Flexibility in implementation, for example using flexible procedures for crisis and emergency situations
Joint activities lack participation and/or threatened by anti-normalisation movement	M	Sensitivity to the confidentiality and visibility of beneficiaries, participants and/or activities has been shown to mitigate such a risk
Assumptions		
Local civil society organizations continue to seek the support of the programme, as evidenced by consistently high number of applications to calls for proposals.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The external evaluation and consultation undertaken in 2013-2015 made a number of specific recommendations. Firstly, given the low participation of Jordan in the programme, consideration should be given to the involvement of the EU Delegation in Amman in the management of the programme. Whilst Jordan should continue participating in the programme, the focus must remain on Israel and Palestine.

The evaluation further assessed that whilst projects funded under PfP were generally positive, most projects were not found to directly impact on peace negotiations. Given the disillusionment that Israelis and Palestinians have with the peace process, it was recommended that the programme reduce its direct linkage to MEPP. However, overall the EU policy on the MEPP remains a relevant factor in outlining a solution, acceptable to significant parts of both populations, and requires reinforcement to counteract influences which can pull in other directions. EU positions are also sometimes subject to misinformation when reported in the local media. To that end, the political and operational work of the EU in both Delegations is aligned.

The external evaluation and other consultations conducted by the EU, have pointed consistently to a high level of satisfaction of the complementarity of the three areas covered by the programme: promoting political resolution, peacebuilding education

and cross border cooperation. This was seen as important in outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, rather than being limited to only certain kinds of organizations or population groups.

On the basis of recommendations of previous consultations and evaluations, the PfP programme introduced specific service contracts aimed at enhancing skills of project beneficiaries (e.g. trainings on monitoring and evaluation, gender and environmental mainstreaming), as well as supporting communication and visibility activities which often require additional efforts in view of the sensitive context. In addition, with regular contacts between Israelis and Palestinians dwindling, joint support activities provide valuable and safe networking opportunities, adding to the coherence of the programme. All these actions have been well received by project partners and have added value to the programme, and its objectives, as a whole.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The Programme will take into account, seek complementarities with and avoid duplication with bilateral and regional actions, in particular under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Civil Society Facility and the Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), and the East Jerusalem Programme under the EU-PA bilateral cooperation.

In general, donor co-ordination as regards peace-building initiatives has been limited, reflecting diverse strategies, sensitivities and funding mechanisms for this type of activities. Notwithstanding, informal co-ordination efforts amongst donors stepped up in 2014 under the leadership of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the support of the EU with the aim to share information on ongoing actions and partners on a more regular basis. Up until now, four meetings have taken place with the participation of 8 donors.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The EU PbI will seek coherence with the EU Comprehensive Approach to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security by encouraging initiatives directly tackling women and the involvement of women in the actions.

Cross-cutting issues such as environmental sustainability and disability rights will be given due consideration in the context of the programme by respectively encouraging applicants to adopt a mainstreamed approach and raising their awareness on environmentally friendly approaches.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

In line with the EU Council Conclusion on the MEPP, the **overall objective** of the programme is to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian/Arab conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.

The programme will set out three **specific objectives**:

- 1. To promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement.*

Expected results:

- Citizens support and advocacy for political efforts to the resolution of the conflict is reinforced.
 - Constituencies have an improved sense of ownership over the political processes which can lead to an agreed settlement.
2. *To build mutual understanding, confidence and trust.*

Expected results:

- Commitment to the values of peace, tolerance and non-violence and understanding of how they have contributed to resolution of conflicts in Europe, is strengthened within diverse communities.
 - Better understanding of barriers to conflict resolution caused by misinformation, incitement and biased narratives amongst Israelis and Palestinians.
3. *To contribute to peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of most conflict-affected communities.*

Expected results:

- Confidence between both sides and better understanding on the benefits of two-state solution is increased.
- Reduction of fear and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians working together.
- Increased grass-roots relationships between communities of both sides.

4.2 Main activities

The activities under the programme include:

(1) measures to promote conditions for a negotiated resolution of the conflict via participatory civil engagement such as advocacy and awareness-raising of political processes and peace initiatives, including at grass-root level, involvement of universities and research centers, dissemination of peace-related information, capacity-building support to peace activists and mediators.

(2) initiatives to build mutual understanding, confidence and trust such as the promotion of non-violent approaches to conflict resolution; non-violent culture and peace programmes within national curricula; joint learning processes on European experiences; media and social campaigns on positive examples of Israeli-Palestinian partnerships and mutual benefits; dissemination of information and promotion of knowledge on barriers to conflict resolution and peace.

(3) Peacebuilding actions through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development and empowerment of the most conflict-affected communities such as joint activities promoting education and training, trade and business, technology, environmental protection, access to services, etc.

4.3 Intervention logic

The difficulties of expecting linear results in a programme which operates in a highly sensitive and volatile political situation are well known. In this scenario, the programme must consider its intervention logic in best case and worst case scenarios.

As a strategic programme, the EU PbI aims to generate and support actions which can lead to an improved atmosphere in which peace negotiations can operate and progress, or at the other end, to prevent escalation of violence. This means addressing short-term needs such as immediate engagement of the Israeli/Palestinian societies for peace negotiations, as well as long-term needs to prepare local populations for a sustainable peace agreement and the practicalities of 'the day after'.

The three specific objectives of the programme contribute towards the overall objective by promoting peacebuilding amongst both societies in three different dimensions: political, cultural and relation-building.

Diverse and mutual reinforcing objectives allow the programme to reach a wider range of stakeholders and beneficiaries, rather than being limited to only certain kinds of organizations or population groups.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grants: call for proposals EU Peacebuilding Initiative (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

Each action grant has its own objectives and expected results deriving from the specific situation the action intends to address, within the scope of the objectives and results describe in section 4.1: (1) promoting conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement; (2) building mutual understanding, confidence and trust; (3) peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of most conflict-affected communities.

As per the type of actions eligible for financing, they must be in line with the activities described in section 4.2. Actions will cover a range of civil society

initiatives, and where relevant may involve governmental, international organisations and private sector stakeholders. Priority will be given to: actions expanding the peace camp outreach by reaching widespread and diverse audiences in a substantial manner through the use of media and social networks; actions involving marginalised groups and/or targeting sceptical groups that are not committed to conflict resolution or to the values and policies which the EU PBI supports; actions fostering local leadership and grass-roots initiatives able of producing multilevel and long term relationship-building impact.

Proposals should build on a clear local dimension, take into account past experiences and consider sub-granting mechanism for actions when relevant. The role of international organisations and partners within the partnerships should focus on the transfer of knowledge, mediation and/or innovation, helping the local organisations to strengthen their relationship with their constituency.

All actions, regardless of the objective, must be implemented in Palestine and/or Israel, or in Jordan and/or Europe if directly involving Israeli and Palestinians. Specific activities, within the scope of the action and if duly justified, can be implemented in the region and/or abroad.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be a legal person **and**
- be non-profit-making **and**
- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, public sector operator, local authority, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 43 of the Rules of application of the EU Financial Regulation³ **and**
- be established⁴ in a Member State of the European Union or one of the ENI Countries⁵ or a country that is beneficiary of Pre-Accession Assistance⁶ or a

³ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also recognised as international organisations.

⁴ To be determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a "Memorandum of Understanding" has been concluded.

⁵ ENI South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia. The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013) shall apply to this call for proposals. This notice, entitled "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", can be consulted at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

⁶ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

Member State of the European Economic Area (EEA)⁷ (this obligation does not apply to international organisations) **and**

- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 250,000–500,000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 24-36 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call: design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

4rd trimester 2015.

5.3.2 *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Support measures: advocacy and aware raising, communication	Services	3	4 rd 2015

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 in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the

⁷ Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for proposals - EU Peacebuilding Initiative (direct management)	4,900,000	1,225,000
5.3.2 – Procurement – support measures (direct management)	100,000	
Totals	5,000,000	1,225,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The programme will be co-managed by EU Delegations to Palestine (EUREP) and Israel (DELTA). The Call for Proposals will be administered by EUREP as the Contracting Authority.

EUREP and DELTA services will work jointly for the preparation of the Call for Proposals and for the evaluation process as well for the organisation of joint events, if any. They will also attend events, meetings and monitoring visits together when relevant and keep each other regularly informed on the projects progress. Where, applications include actions implemented in Jordan or Jordanian applicants, the EU Delegation in Amman will be consulted.

As a general principle, the distribution between the different Delegations in terms of contract/project management is made on the grounds of the nationality of the applicant: Palestinian and European applicants are processed by EUREP whereas Israeli ones are processed by DELTA (this includes contracting, monitoring and follow-up of the projects). In case of a Jordanian applicant, the management of the action may be delegated to the EU Delegation to Jordan.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from a call for proposals 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 logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). 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, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country 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 country, 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

The programme will benefit from the communication and networking contracts funded under previous financing decisions of the PfP programme. It will as well use the support measures as means to communicate on the programme and the EU values.

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 without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.	Enhanced public support and enlarged positive attitudes both in Palestine and Israel to peace negotiation and conflict resolution	Highly negative environment and attitudes to peace negotiations	Enlarged public support and openness to peace camp initiatives both in Palestine and Israel	Media, social and political pro-peace campaigns	
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<p>1. To promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil engagement.</p> <p>2. To build mutual understanding, confidence and trust.</p> <p>3. To contribute to peacebuilding through cross-border work supporting socio-economic development in and empowerment of most</p>	<p>SO1: -Citizens support and advocacy for political efforts to the resolution of the conflict is reinforced. - Constituencies have an improved sense of ownership over the political processes which can lead to an agreed settlement.</p> <p>SO2: - Commitment to the values of peace, tolerance and non-violence and understanding of how they have contributed to resolution of conflicts in Europe is strengthened within diverse communities</p>	<p>No ongoing peace negotiations</p> <p>Evaluation of the Partnership for Peace Programme 2007-2013</p> <p>Baseline information, and data provided by beneficiaries</p>	<p>higher numbers of groups (women, youth, grass-roots organisations) informing and involved in the political sphere, and in support of the negotiations</p> <p>informed and involved in political processes; widespread number of people adhering to non – violent/peace</p>	<p>Beneficiary reports, project evaluation reports, media reports and public pools, programme multi-annual evaluation</p>	<p>Escalation of violence can disrupt activities and reverse positive effects of projects</p> <p>Anti-normalisation can affect willingness to participate in joint activities</p>

	<p>conflict-affected communities.</p>	<p>- Better understanding of barriers to conflict resolution caused by misinformation, incitement and biased narratives amongst Palestinians and Israelis.</p> <p>SO3</p> <p>- Confidence between both sides and better understanding on the benefits of two-state solution is increased.</p> <p>- Reduction of fear and mistrust between Israeli and Palestinians working together.</p>		<p>education</p> <p>increased number of strategic/long-term partnerships between Palestinian and Israeli, both at community and CSOs</p>		
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Expected outputs from projects: lobbying and political advocacy, social/media campaigns, research reports, training workshops, conferences, joint socio-economic activities.</p>	<p>number of events; number of participants in conferences; quantifiable media exposure and reach; number of joint socio-economic partnerships and activities</p>	<p>baseline information, and data provided by beneficiaries</p>	<p>Projects outputs reach wide range of potential stakeholders</p>	<p>Beneficiary reports , project evaluation reports and media reports and public pools, programme multi-annual evaluation</p>	<p>Escalation of violence can disrupt activities and reverse positive effects of projects</p> <p>Anti-normalisation can affect willingness to participate in activities</p>



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 6

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for MedFilm Programme

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following section concerning calls for proposal: 5.3.1

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	MedFilm Regional Programme CRIS number: 2015 / 038-281 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Mediterranean partners — Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia The action shall be carried out at the following location: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and in the EU Members States in a limited number of activities.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Culture and development
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 5,375,000. Total amount of the EU budget contribution: EUR 4,500,000 of which EUR 1,000,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2015

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://eur-lex.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

	<p>and EUR 3,500,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2016, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget.</p> <p>Budget line (2015): 21.03.01.01</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 875,000.</p>			
6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities	Project modality: Direct management: Grants – call for proposals Procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	Culture and Entertainment			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flags	GPGC Culture			

SUMMARY

In a context where extremisms and attacks against freedom of expression are growing both in Europe and in the South Mediterranean, films are a powerful tool to promote understanding across populations, the gender and the social groups within the Mediterranean. Images, in particular documentaries and films, are a direct way of conveying messages to citizens, literate or not, which strongly contribute to tackling important societal challenges and to influencing views of their society and the world in general. In this context, young Mediterranean people are enthusiastic about new ideas and means to disseminate them and this action is a direct response to build on this momentum.

MedFilm aims to reach out with alternative messages to counter discourses coming from fundamentalist/radical groups, open the space for the less heard voices of society, such as women and youth, as well as promote the involvement of women in the film sector; fight stereotypes through fostering the exchange of films across the Mediterranean; and promote freedom of expression by allowing film makers to tackle sensitive issues on a regional level – thus combatting traditional or new forms of censorship.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Regional context/Thematic area

Culture is an instrument of human development building social cohesion and contributing to economic growth and stability. A creative and culturally active society strives for economic and social innovation, planting the seeds for original ideas to flourish. The creative economy³ is not only one of the most rapidly growing sectors of the world economy, it is also a highly transformative one in terms of income generation, job creation and export earnings. Between 2002 and 2011, developing-countries averaged 12.1 %t annual growth in exports of creative goods⁴.

At the same time, creativity and culture have a significant non-monetary value that contributes to inclusive social development, to dialogue and understanding between peoples.

Images and films play a significant role in forming and influencing widespread cultural attitudes and public opinion. They are very powerful tools to reach both the intellect and the feelings of people, and can contribute to the democratic debates with wider perspectives and open mind. Images, in particular documentaries and feature films are a direct way of conveying messages to citizens, literate or not. In a context where extremisms and attacks against freedom of expression are growing, they strongly contribute to tackling important societal challenges and to influencing people's views of their own society and the world in general and contribute to fight against traditional or new forms of censorship.

Films can also play a transforming role and be an agent in changing cultural stereotypes about women and men. They can legitimize alternative values and practices which promote equal rights for men and women, access of women to essential social and economic services and opportunities as well as allow creative expression which can contribute to their growth, dignity and the improvement of the quality of their lives. The analysis of the representation of women in the Arab movies⁵, especially in TV or in the commercial cinema, reveals that the portrayal of women lies in a socio-economic reality and a collective imagination and not in an egalitarian perspective. This contributes to standardize the reality of women in the Arab world. On the other hand, new emerging cinemas, often naming themselves as “independent” are disseminating more progressive messages. Unfortunately this production is less accessible to the general public as it is often screened in cinema

³ Which includes audiovisual products, design, new media, performing arts, publishing and visual arts.

⁴ See report of the UN published on the 14th October 2013: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/creativity/creative-economy-report-2013-special-edition/>.

⁵ UNDP 2006.

festivals abroad and in capital cities of the region but rarely aired in TV or screened in remote and rural areas. The lack of professionalization of women working in cinema contributes also negatively to their image. The cinema sector in the Arab world, as well as in Europe, is male dominated and Arab women have a lot of difficulties to develop their own projects despite their skills and creativity.

Women's access to self-expression, creativity and decision-making in the cultural field are essential components of democratic development promoting equity and growth and dignity for all citizens - men and women.

This programme will focus on the audiovisual sector in the sense of fiction, documentary and animation, be them for theatrical release or TV programmes. This sector is also called "film sector" in the text.

1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

Since the Communication on the "European agenda for culture in a globalising world"⁶ was adopted in 2007, culture has been increasingly seen as a strategic vector of political, social and economic development.

During the Euromed Ministers of Culture meeting in Athens in 2008⁷, Ministers underlined that the objective was *"to mark the starting point of a fully-fledged Euro-Mediterranean Strategy on Culture, encompassing cooperation in both the dialogue between cultures and cultural policy. This strategy should enhance the cultural dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in an innovative and concrete way"*.

The consensus on the contribution of culture to a sustainable human, social and economic development was reinforced by the last United Nations resolution of June 2013 on culture and development. Progress has been made since the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the EU vision on culture and development has been further reinforced with an explicit recognition of the contribution of culture to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the 2010 MDG review.

In 2012, the European Union set out a renewed development cooperation policy ("Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change"), aiming at a more strategic EU approach to reducing poverty, including a more targeted allocation of funding. Within this new framework, the current challenges the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI) south countries are facing confirm that the cultural sector and actors are to be taken into account in the process and have an important role to play as a lever for human and social development as well as for democratic change.

Strengthening the cultural fabric of a community provides the basis for its social and economic development, while promoting values such as diversity and freedom of expression.

⁶ COM(2007)242 of 15 May 2007.

⁷ http://www.eeas.europa.eu/euromed/docs/culture_concl_0508_en.pdf.

Over 2013-14 a Preparatory Action on “Culture in the EU’s External Relations”⁸ was carried out in 54 countries, including the 16 Neighbourhood Countries. The final report highlighted the need for and added-value of more and better European cultural relations with the rest of the world provided Europeans change their approach from projecting their individual national cultures to listening, sharing, imagining and creating together with their partners. One particular recommendation was to tailor interventions to respond in particular to the cultural habits and interests of the young generations who increasingly communicate with each other and engage transnationally through digital tools.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The direct beneficiaries of this action are civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the film sector as well as the audiovisual production and distribution SMEs, audiovisual training centres as well as private and public organisations supporting the development of audiences for films, including in remote and rural areas.

The following are results from an opinion poll undertaken in 2014 that gives an overview of the final beneficiaries of this programme and shows a clear interest for the Arabic film sector from the population of the southern Mediterranean countries:

According to this survey, culture is seen as having a key role in social wellbeing and economic development by citizens across Europe’s Neighbourhood, as well as contributing to greater tolerance⁹. The film sector was a key sector within the cultural sector. Watching films on TV or on DVD are also considered as the most interesting cultural activities: watching a film on TV (86% for the Maghreb respondents and 75% for the Mashrek respondents) and watching a film on DVD (59% for the Maghreb respondents and 49% for the Mashrek respondents).. As an auxiliary question, respondents were asked what type of films they prefer to watch. More than half of the respondents in Maghreb prefer watching Arabic film (54%) or national films (64%) rather than American (39%) and European films (24%). In the Mashrek countries, national films and Arabic films are the favourite for the Arab countries, whereas Israelis prefer to watch American movies. The respondents with the lowest education background are also more likely to prefer Arab movies.

The final beneficiaries of this programme shall be therefore in priority audiences who may not have university education and have not finished high school. This programme shall provide them with an opportunity to open their horizons to other values than the one offered by fundamentalist elements from their communities.

Young Mediterranean people are enthusiastic about new ideas and means to disseminate them. Nevertheless, the traditional way of watching films (featured in a theatre) has almost disappeared in the South Mediterranean region. Young people have limited opportunities to watch movies done by fellow filmmakers whereas they are eager to do so. The proposed programme will focus on innovative ways of distributing South Mediterranean films, be it through internet or through specific events, organised also in remote and rural areas.

⁸ Voted by the European Parliament the Preparatory Action was implemented by the European Commission (DG EAC) with the support of a consortium of cultural organisations. It covered the 28 Member States, the 16 Neighbourhood Countries and the 10 Strategic Partners of the EU. See final and country reports at <http://cultureinexternalrelations.eu/main-outcomes/>.

⁹ See Autumn 2014 EU Neighbourhood Barometer : <http://euneighbourhood.eu/eu-neighbourhood-barometer-data/wave-5/>.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The major political turmoil affecting the southern Mediterranean in a moment of rising fundamentalisms, is emerging from elements outside the centers - communities and people long marginalized and abandoned due to what is perceived as their more backward or regressive lifestyle or thinking, communities left-behind. Fundamentalist movements question current values and social relationships in order to revamp and re-shape young people's identities leading them to 'find themselves' ideologically in these movements, making them pliable instruments for their policies.

On one hand, tackling extremism through 'direct' campaigns has proven highly sensitive as the general public might perceive the 'EU interfering directly' in the society. On the other hand, the support to South Mediterranean filmmakers who engage in exposing traits and consequences of 'extremism' in people's daily life is a more appropriate way to contribute to debate and reflection in the society and among families. They are the one able to include an interactive and engaged dimension which promotes and encourages discussion and dialogue for the exploration of constructions of identity and the airing of differences in the community.

The image of women shown in the film is usually based on gender-based stereotypes. This has a preponderant influence on the perception of the wider public concerning the roles of women and men in private and public spheres in society. This programme is an opportunity for allowing professional filmmakers to pass on different messages that will help improving the portrayal of women and contribute to reduce to stereotypes.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Reluctance towards the project	Moderate to high	Awareness raising campaigns in co-ordination with EU Delegations
Consideration of program as a way of foreign interference	High	Awareness raising campaigns in co-ordination with EU Delegations
Volatile political circumstances	High	Recognition of risk
Political instability	Moderate to High	Co-ordination with Ministries of Culture, Foreign affairs, Employment, etc
Regional activities not backed up by activities at bilateral level	Moderate to high	Strong collaboration with EU Delegations
Low absorption capacity of film operators to use grant funds	High	targeted training for staff in project management
Critically low level of knowledge of strengths and opportunities of the film sector of other Southern Mediterranean neighbors	High	Careful project research and preparation with opportunities for intra-regional networking and information sharing
Greater interest from stakeholders in developing film	Moderate to high	Communication strategy showing that the EU funding focuses on a

co-operation projects with the support of the Gulf countries rather than with the EU		long term development of the sector and proposes a more open approach
Auto-censorship from stakeholders to tackle sensitive issues	Moderate	Clear communication on the importance of the values

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The actions foreseen in the present Action Document build on the lessons learned from previous Euromed audiovisual programmes. The Euromed Audiovisual programme IV (2010-2014) has had a definite impact on professionalising and structuring the region's audiovisual sector, creating sustainable networks between its professionals, and promoting its talents. It has also developed juridical tools to improve the related legislative and regulatory frameworks of countries in the region, measures that deserve to be continued. Nevertheless, the recent changes in the audiovisual industry (market share erosion, digitisation, audience migration towards Internet, increased piracy, decreased visibility for most titles except for a few at the box office) can have negative consequences on the "audiovisual sovereignty" of countries in the South Mediterranean region (a drop in production capacities, insufficient exhibition and circulation of national products). In the final conference of the programme, professionals have underlined the necessity to consolidate the film industry within a broader context of developing the culture industries and continue to support the audiovisual industry in the South Mediterranean region as a vector for not only economic but also social and human development.

In the spirit of the past Euromed Audiovisual programmes, screenings shall be supported in locations accessible to different types of population (in popular venues such as youth centres rather than a formal cinema theatre). In addition, the previous programmes have started to raise the awareness of the southern TV managers on the importance of screening movies directed by local film makers. More work is required though, especially as auto censorship is still very powerful in the region.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

In the South Mediterranean region, the film industry is much less supported than the media sector where the EU and many international organisations are now investing large amounts of resources in the media sector, through programmes dedicated to journalist trainings, media reforms, media authorities, etc... The film sector is though vulnerable to censorship as films, documentaries and TV series (including via online) can reach a broad range of the population, especially young people.

So far, the EU has been one of the main donors in promoting cultural diversity in the region by supporting, among others, the efforts of Southern Mediterranean filmmakers and the dissemination of their films both in their own countries and in Europe. There are examples of good cooperation with the EU member states on such projects.

EU cultural centres are very active in the promotion of their own culture, in particular cinematography. Part of the public attending events is often the elite in the capitals or major cities. The proposed project emphasises the wider access to film local productions by the general population.

The international part of Creative Europe – MEDIA, the European Union programme for the audiovisual sector in the years 2014-2020 offers a range of opportunities for audiovisual professionals from countries that are not participating in Creative Europe MEDIA¹⁰. The main objective of this programme is to improve the competitiveness of European professionals to work on a more international dimension and get access to new markets.

Film professionals from the Southern Mediterranean countries are eligible to apply to Access to Markets film market activities (Business to Business exchanges) and to production funds supported by Creative Europe. In addition, the actions aimed at building expertise, knowledge and capacities for European professionals to peer, network and collaborate with non-European professionals to enable access to international professional network are also opened to south Mediterranean professionals. As such, the Creative Europe – MEDIA which is supporting the European professionals to work at a more international level and to enlarge their network, will be complementary to the Medfilm strand dedicated to south-south circulation and access to market.

In addition, the MedFilm programme will also tackle other issues such as extremism/fundamentalism, gender, youth and will need to strongly cooperate with initiatives in this sector at regional and bilateral levels, in order to understand the specificity of these areas of development but also to influence these programmes by involving the film industry in their programmes.

3.3 **Cross-cutting issues**

Gender: The proposed project will promote societal change by directly addressing the general public, giving professional opportunities, space and voice to female film professionals to debate and express their own concerns.

Environment: While the programme is unlikely to have a direct impact on the environment, activities that promote sensitive films tackling pollution may have an indirect and positive impact.

Vulnerable groups: by targeting populations leaving in rural and remote areas the project will focus on vulnerable groups, including populations living in refugee camps or in conflict zones.

4 **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

4.1 **Objectives/results**

General objective: Contribute to cultural diversity and development, especially human development by promoting equality, namely gender equality, in the southern Mediterranean region through a support to the film industry

Specific objectives:

- give space and voice to female film professionals from the region to create, debate and express their own concerns;
- promote freedom of expression by allowing film makers from the region to tackle sensitive issues, such as gender equality, on a regional level;

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/news/2015/1601-creative-participants_en.htm.

- fight stereotypes through fostering the exchange of films throughout the Mediterranean;
- facilitate the access to south Mediterranean film professionals to opportunities offered by the EU funded projects and other donors.

The programme will focus on the capacities of cultural operators in the film sector including film short/feature fiction films, short/feature documentaries, animation and TV series and soap operas.

Results to be achieved:

1.1.- Female film professionals are better recognised in the region as an important voice of society,

1.2.- Female film professionals from the region have an enhanced access to international markets and networks.

1.3.- Messages promoting a more positive image of women in society are widely spread.

2.1.- Censorship and auto-censorship decreases in the region especially on social issues (gender, etc.)

2.2.- The 2005 UNESCO Convention is increasingly implemented in the region, thus creating a more conducive environment for audiovisual creation and exchanges;

3.1.- Inter-cultural dialogue and cultural co-operation is reinforced throughout the Mediterranean.

3.2.- The access of the wider public (especially the youth and people in rural and remote areas) in the region to films tackling sensitive issues is enhanced;

3.3.- Alternative messages to counter discourses coming from fundamentalist/radical groups reach the youth, especially in remote and rural areas;

3.4.- South-south circulation of audiovisual works

4- Film professionals are more aware of funding and training opportunities offered to them

4.2 Main activities

- Promote participation and involvement of women in the film industry.
- Support the access to market, both south-south and across the Mediterranean (commercial and non-commercial) of films.
- Support the audience development for films tackling social issues, including gender issues, on a regional level.
- Communicate about the programme and facilitate the access to south Mediterranean film professionals to opportunities offered by the EU funded projects and other donors.

4.3 Intervention logic

The programme will be implemented by a direct support to activities undertaken in this area by CSO and SMEs working in the film industry through:

- A call for proposals, including an important component of sub-granting

- A call for tenders to recruit a technical assistance in charge of the effective implementation of the regional programme. It will provide not only capacity development of the grant and subgrant projects but it will also ensure communication, dissemination and visibility of the results of the programme as well as develop tools to support the professionals of the sector. The target groups of this project shall be the population participating in the activities, the EU delegations in the region, the decision makers (from the Southern Mediterranean countries and in Europe), the other EU funded programmes as well as the EU tax payers.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom).

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 *Grants: call for proposals MedFilm: support to the southern Mediterranean film industry as a vector for social and human development (direct management).*

a) Objectives of the grants:

Contribute to enhance the south Mediterranean film industry as a vector for economic, social and human development

Fields of intervention:

- Promote participation and involvement of women in the film industry;
- Support the access to market, both south-south and across the Mediterranean (commercial and non-commercial) of films;
- Support the audience development for films tackling social issues, including gender issues, on a regional level;
- All professionals of the 10 countries of the southern Mediterranean¹¹ will be targeted. For Israel¹², projects focusing on Arab Israeli film professionals will

¹¹ Algeria, Egypt, Israel (see footnote n°12), Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia.

¹² 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://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

be the priority in order to support the circulation of Arab Israeli films in the south Mediterranean region.

Priorities:

- Fight against inequalities in the film industry, especially inequalities towards female film professionals;
- Fight against stereotypes of men and women in the content of the films produced in the south Mediterranean region;
- Development of the film industry as a job creating sector through the development of audiences;
- Audience development in remote and rural areas for films, especially for movies tackling social issues, including gender issues. Priority shall be given not only to national films but also to films from other southern Mediterranean countries.

Expected results:

- Female film professionals are better recognised as an important voice of society;
- Messages promoting a more positive image of women in society are more widely spread;
- Censorship and auto-censorship for filmmakers and film professionals decreases;
- The 2005 UNESCO Convention is increasingly implemented in the region, thus creating a more conducive environment for audiovisual creation and exchanges;
- The access of the wider public (especially the youth in rural and remote areas) in the region to films tackling sensitive issues is enhanced;
- Intercultural dialogue and cultural co-operation is reinforced throughout the Mediterranean;
- Alternative Arab messages to counter discourses coming from fundamentalist/radical groups reach the youth, especially in remote and rural areas of the region.

Type of actions eligible for financing:

A maximum of three grants will be attributed to “re-granters”/ “grant givers” in charge of allocating sub grants to south Mediterranean organisations following competitive calls to be launched at least on an annual basis.

Lot 1: enhance the image of women in the film sector

- *activities supporting the improvement of the image of women in the film sector: awareness raising campaigns/ lobby activities on gender issues targeting production companies, TV programmers and distributors (from ENPI countries but also from GCC whenever they have an impact in the south Mediterranean countries), support to script doctoring analysing the portrayal of women and men, training in script development with a gender dimension, including for soap operas and TV series, etc...)*

- *activities supporting the female involvement in the film industry such as: training activities, awareness raising campaigns on gender equality among film professionals, especially producers, in film schools and audiovisual curricula, mentoring and career development activities for (young) female film professionals, peer-to-peer learning (by women for women to also create an identification and emulation process)*

Lot 2: Support the audience development for films *tackling social issues, including gender issues*

- *activities supporting the screening of films tackling sensitive issues, including gender and youth issues on a regional level in rural and remote areas, through internet, on national and local TV, in cultural centres, youth centres, premises managed by local authorities, schools, refugee camps, including but not limited to screenings in remote and rural areas, cultural debates etc...). The focus shall be on innovative and strategic initiatives that take the local popular culture of the target audiences into account so that their lives and experiences can relate to the proposed films/programmes (unlike works featuring the "elites").*

Lot 3: Support the access to market and the south-south distribution of films across the Mediterranean

- *capacity development activities in terms of marketing, sales and distribution skills as well as to enhance the internationalisation of regional south Mediterranean films festivals and markets, support mechanisms to support the distribution of south Mediterranean films in the region (building on existing Euromed Audiovisual-supported networks), support to the development of innovative VOD platforms and online film festivals for "independent" movies, awareness (and fund) raising campaigns to attract private investors.*

(b) Eligibility conditions

Applicants shall work in regional consortia, including at least two co-applicants based in two different countries of the southern Mediterranean countries. These co-applicants shall have a strategic role in the implementation of the project. CSOs tackling gender or social issues can be involved in a consortium but the main applicant shall be a professional organisation from the film sector.

Place of establishment: EU countries, IPA countries, ENI south countries, EFTA countries

Type: local authorities, public bodies, NGOs/CSOs, economic operators such as SMEs working in the film or audiovisual sector¹³, CSO tackling gender, social or minorities issues

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 0.8 to 1.2 M and the grants may be awarded to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and at least 2 co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 24 to 36 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

¹³ Projects shall not generate profit.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

1st quarter 2016.

5.3.2 *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical assistance	services	1	1 st quarter 2016

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 provisions.

In accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 and with regard to the aim of fostering regional and trans-regional cooperation, the Commission decides that natural and legal persons from the following countries, territories or regions shall be eligible for participating in procurement and grant award procedures: Mauritania, as member of the Union for the Mediterranean. The supplies originating there shall also be eligible.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 **Indicative budget**

	EU contribution (amount in EUR million)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified (amount in EUR million)

5.3.1 Call for proposals (direct management) <i>MedFilm: support to the south Mediterranean film industry as a vector for social and human development</i>	3,500,000	875,000
5.3.2 Procurement (direct management) <i>Med Film Technical assistance in charge of the capacity development of the grant and subgrant projects but also ensure communication, dissemination and visibility of the results of the programme as well as develop tools to support the professionals of the sector</i>	1,000,000	
Totals	4,500,000	875,000

5.6 **Organisational set-up and responsibilities**

The European Commission, DG NEAR, will be responsible for the launching of the two procedures (call for proposal and call for tender) and the management of the awarded contracts.

5.7 **Performance monitoring and reporting**

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

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 20 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 country(ies) 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 country(ies), 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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

In addition, where the communication and visibility measures are implemented by way of procurement (beyond the procurement foreseen in section 5.3.2) include the overall budget allocation, indicative number and type of contacts (including use of framework contracts, if any) and the indicative trimester of the launch of the procedure. The same type of information has to be provided as is required for section 5.3.2.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ¹⁴

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 without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Contribute to cultural diversity and development, especially human development by promotion of equality, namely gender equality, in the south Mediterranean region through a support to the film industry				UNESCO reports on cultural diversity UNDP reports on development of the Arab world UN women reports Reports and studies from ministry of communication, cinema center and ministry of culture from the region	
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	-give space and voice to female film professionals from the region to create, debate and express their own concerns; -promote freedom of expression by allowing film makers from the region to tackle sensitive issues, such as gender equality, on a regional level;	increase in the number of new films produced by female professionals in the south med region increase in the number of new finished films from the south med region tackling gender issues increase in the percentage of script tackling sensitive and gender issues from the south			MedBarometer European Observatory of the audiovisual press clipping	

¹⁴

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

	<p>-fight stereotypes through fostering the exchange of films throughout the Mediterranean;</p> <p>- facilitate the access to south Mediterranean film professionals to opportunities offered by the EU funded projects and other donors</p>	<p>Mediterranean reaching the production level</p> <p>increase in the south-south distribution</p> <p>increase in the interest for south Mediterranean movies from the population of the region</p> <p>increase in the number of south med TV stations opening a slot for south med films in their grid</p> <p>increase in the number of viewers of south me</p> <p>increase in the number of the pieces in the media about south med films</p> <p>increase in the quality of the pieces produced in the south med media</p> <p>increase in the number of female actresses playing a role of decision makers, politicians,</p>				
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Promote participation and involvement of women in the film industry</p> <p>-Support the access to market, both south-south and across the Mediterranean (commercial and non-commercial) of films.</p> <p>-Support the audience development for films tackling social issues, including gender issues, on a regional level,</p> <p>-Communicate about the</p>	<p>increase in the number of films produced by women or tackling gender issues screened in remote and/or rural areas</p> <p>increase in the number of participants to screenings in remote and rural areas</p> <p>number of youth centre implementing a film programming in in remote and rural areas</p> <p>increase in the % of the GDP created by the film industry in the south mediterranean region</p> <p>increase in the number of</p>			<p>on site evaluation by the sub grantees</p> <p>stats provided by the youth centers</p> <p>GDP</p> <p>Unesco indicators</p>	

	<p>programme and facilitate the access to south Mediterranean film professionals to opportunities offered by the EU funded projects and other donors</p>	<p>female south med filmmakers involved in new increase in the number of viewers from the south med region of the med film website increase in the number of recipients from the south med region of the MedFilm increase in the number of female projects selected in international festivals increase in the number of female projects selected by international production funds</p>				
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 7

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for

EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in section 5.3 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016 CRIS number: 2015/359-702 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Neighbourhood South Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ¹ , Syria and Tunisia. Countries neighbouring the Neighbourhood region: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey. The action shall be carried out at the following location: countries as listed above.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Support regional and sub-regional institutional cooperation

¹ 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.

5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 8.42 million</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 4.21 million</p> <p>Budget line: 21.03.03.03</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU budget contribution: EUR 4.21 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2015; - UfM members for an amount of EUR 4.21 million. 			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management – grants – direct award</p>			
7. DAC code(s)	15110 - Public sector policy and administrative management			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N/A			

SUMMARY

The purpose of this action is to support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean ('the Secretariat') in 2016 through an operating grant covering 50% of the cost of the organisation. The remainder of the resources necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat will be covered by the members of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) through financial contributions and the secondment of staff. This operating grant by the EU together with the contributions from the members of the UfM will permit the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate in 2016.

At the time of writing this action document, EU co-operation with Syrian governmental authorities is still suspended. In case this decision is reversed, the Commission will assess the opportunity to involve Syrian authorities in the implementation. The political instability and/or security situation in Syria will be assessed prior to that in order to confirm the feasibility/opportunity to: a) engage the stakeholders and b) implement the activities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) was launched in July 2008 at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean. It builds on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), which was established at the Barcelona Conference in 1995 as the reference framework for political, economic and social relations between the European Union and the Southern Mediterranean Countries, also known as the Barcelona Process.

The UfM shares and builds upon the goals of the Barcelona Declaration, namely to establish an area of peace, stability, security and shared economic prosperity, to uphold democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote sustainable development as well as understanding between cultures and civilisations in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The UfM is a unique forum for dialogue among 43 Euromed partners that complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours.

The UfM Northern Co-Presidency has been transferred to the EU in March 2012, allowing for more dynamic and coordinated political exchanges and better articulation of UfM activities with EU sector policies and programmes.

The Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) was established by a decision of Heads of State and Government of the UfM and its Statutes were adopted on the 3 March 2010 by virtue of a decision by the Senior Officials of the members of the UfM.

The mandate of the Secretariat focuses on identifying, promoting and coordinating projects which enhance and strengthen regional co-operation and impact directly on the livelihoods of the citizens in order to improve socio-economic development, regional integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the members of the UfM. As per the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean of 13 July 2008, the Secretariat is mandated to detail a number of key initiatives in the following areas: De-pollution of the Mediterranean, Maritime and Land Highways, Civil Protection, Alternative Energies: Mediterranean Solar Plan, Higher Education and Research, Euro-Mediterranean University; the Mediterranean Business Development Initiative.

The UfM Secretariat must operate as a catalyst to bring Countries, the EIB, National, Regional and International Financial Institutions and the private sector and civil society together around concrete projects of strategic importance and generating jobs, innovation and growth throughout the region. Partners' participation in these projects could follow the principle of variable geometry depending on their needs and interests.

In light of the above, the EU is providing support to the UfM Secretariat in the form of an operating grant since 2010 in co-funding with the members of the UfM.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

Four years after the Arab upheavals, the situation in the region remains very complex with increased fragmentation. Despite the unquestioned democratic gains (elections, more vocal civil society), the heated debates about the form of new social contracts and the role of religion are strongly polarising Arab societies. The economic situation remains worrisome and social demands still focus on political dignity (freedom, human rights) and improvement in social and economic conditions. The ongoing conflict in Syria with its international repercussions overshadows the whole situation.

The EU's strategic response to the Arab Spring came on 8 March 2011, with the Joint Communication proposing “A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean”². This was followed by the Joint Communication on 25 May 2011 which initiated the launch of “A new response to a changing Neighbourhood”³.

In implementing the above, the EU has intensified dialogue and co-operation with regional actors. The EU as co-president of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) together with Jordan, gave a new impetus to the UfM, a unique forum for dialogue among 43⁴ Euromed partners that shares and builds upon the goals of the Barcelona Declaration and complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours.

There has been also renewed impetus for co-operation with the League of Arab States (LAS) which is a key forum for finding political and security solutions to conflicts affecting the region. The EU is also developing contacts with the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) and supports the sub-regional co-operation, i.e. in Maghreb with the 5+5 Dialogue.

After a long break, the UfM resumed holding of several Ministerial meetings in 2013 and 2014, first on the role of Women (September), and then on Transport (November), Energy (December), Industry (February 2014), Environment/Climate Change (May 2014) and Digital Economy (September 2014). This is a positive signal expressing a shared objective in establishing deeper regional co-operation both between EU and Southern countries and South –South co-operation.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders are the 43 UfM⁵ members and the co-Presidencies. Therefore and if relevant, partner countries other than ENI Southern Partner Countries (ENI SPCs) (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Mauritania, Montenegro, Turkey, Bahrain,

² COM(2011)200 of 8 March 2011.

³ COM(2011)303 of 25 May 2011.

⁴ Austria, Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, The Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, The United Kingdom and Libya as an observer. The participation of Syria is currently suspended.

⁵ With gathers: EU Member States, ENI South Countries, IPA II beneficiaries (except for Iceland) and Mauritania.

Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
The main risks and possible constraints derive from the fact that the global budget of the UfM Secretariat relies upon contributions from the European Union (around 50%) and the 43 UfM members. Any delay in the delivery of UfM governments' contributions or in the fulfilment of the corresponding commitments might lead to a disruption of the implementation of the approved work plan of the Secretariat.	H	UfM Secretariat , as well as the two co-Presidencies, leads constant actions towards UfM members and other potential donors in order to secure regular funding.
Assumptions		
The UfM Secretariat will revise and adapt its work plan for 2016 if UfM governments' contributions do not reach the 50% of the budget foreseen.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The overall co-ordination and interaction between EU staff and the UfMS has dramatically increased since 2011 with regular exchanges and meetings on transport, energy, environment, private sector development, urban development, gender and, most recently, climate change. The Secretariat's efforts to streamline and rationalise its internal procedures are also bearing fruit.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The regular exchange of information between the UfM Secretariat, Commission services and EEAS staff and other donors and international financing institutions permits the Secretariat to fully account for all on-going actions in the design of projects to be given the UfM endorsement (so called labelling).

The Heads of State and Government of the UfM members have established a co-presidency to ensure shared ownership of their co-operation. Senior officials convene regularly in order to prepare the ministerial meetings, endorse projects , take stock of and evaluate the progress of all components of the Union for the Mediterranean and review the annual work plan and budget. The UfM members co-finance it by making financial contributions and seconding officials to the Secretariat.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The 2008 Paris Summit declared that the UfM could play an important role in addressing common challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean region, such as regional security, sustainable economic and social development; food security crisis; degradation of the environment, including desertification, as well as addressing climate change in relation to promoting sustainable development; energy; migration; the fight against terrorism and extremism; and promoting dialogue between cultures. Emphasis will be placed on streamlining gender issues into relevant activities.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The objective of the action is to support the UfM Secretariat in executing its mandate through an operating grant with co-funding from the members of the UfM.

It will help the Secretariat to perform the following tasks:

- a. To work with all structures of the process, particularly with the co-presidencies, e.g. drafting working documents for the senior officials and through them for the other decision making bodies, to ensure the operational follow up of the decision of the Ministerial, and to act as a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders on thematic priorities for the region;
- b. To give an impulse to this process in terms of follow-up, promotion of new projects and wider sector initiatives and search for funding and for implementation partners;
- c. To be the focal point for multi-source funding of UfM projects.

The action will make an essential contribution to the attainment of the following results.

Result 1: High quality regional projects and initiatives in the six priority areas (Transport and Urban Development, Energy, Environment including Climate Change and Water, Higher Education and Research, Social and Civil Affairs, Business Development) are given the UfM label and constitute an operationalisation of the political mandate provided by the Ministerial declarations.

Result 2: The role of the Secretariat as a regional dialogue platform is reinforced.

Result 3: Relations with international and bilateral financial institutions and the private sector are strengthened.

Result 4: The internal functioning of the Secretariat is improved.

4.2 Main activities

The activities focus on the steps to be taken by the Secretariat to develop and appraise project proposals with the objective of submitting new high quality proposals to UfM partners and then to get the projects started.

While consolidating the current strategic partnerships achieved with institutions such as European Commission, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Norwegian Aid, the UfM aims to scale up ongoing collaboration with key institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank. It will also reach out to potential new partners and network with other bilateral institutions such as the Kreditanstalt für

Wiederaufbau, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency, the Swiss Development Co-operation Agency and others in the Gulf region. A co-ordination meeting with IFIs will be held on an annual basis. Building strong private - public partnerships will catalyse conditions for solid development of the Mediterranean area.

Activities will focus on the continuous upgrade of the procedures for project monitoring of labelled projects, for processing proposals and projects submitted for 'labelling'. The manual of internal procedures will include all the policies and regulations needed for the smooth running of the organisation, and the workflows and internal control mechanisms to be introduced to increase efficiency and transparency in line with Commission rules. The new on-line Project Monitoring System will become the unique tool of projects information internally and externally and will allow for a closer scrutiny of processes and follow up of implementation of projects. The projects submitted should take account of EU policies and priorities, particularly the European Neighbourhood Policy and the external dimension of EU policies on topics such as the environment, energy, transport, civil protection, small and medium-sized enterprises, higher education, research and food safety.

Apart from the projects activities, the UFMS, as an operational platform for cooperation, will continue encouraging consensus building, developing regional and sub-regional networks, and foster dialogue and exchange among all stakeholders from the Mediterranean region. This will be materialised through the organisation of specific high level conferences and experts forum/working groups or round tables in the areas of activity of the Secretariat's mandate.

4.3 Intervention logic

With a view at reaching the objectives and implementing the activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2, the present contribution will be delivered through an operating grant awarded to the UfM Secretariat and covering the period running from January 2016 until December 2016.

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, referred to Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 18 months from adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Within this implementation period, one operating grant will be awarded, covering the following implementation durations: 12 months, from January to December 2016.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute Budget technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grant: direct award (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grant is to support the Secretariat of the UfM in executing its mandate, in particular the work programme for 2016, through a financial contribution to the functioning of the organisation.

The field of intervention, priorities and expected results are those mentioned under sections 4.1 and 4.2.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

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 UfM constitutes a unique forum of dialogue among the 43 Euromed partners, complementing the relations between the EU and each of its Southern neighbours. The Secretariat plays a key role within the institutional architecture of the UfM to contribute to achieving the political goals of the UfM initiative as agreed during the Paris Summit of 2008.

(c) Eligibility conditions

N/A

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the UfM Secretariat.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed work programme to the Secretariat's mandate and the design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the work programme.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 50%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Fourth quarter of 2015.

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 in accordance with Budget Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the

markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 Direct grant to UfM Secretariat (direct management)	4,210,000	4,210,000

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 collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (EEAS, European Parliament, EU Member States).

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ⁶

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 without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	With the long-term objective of reinforcing regional cooperation in the Mediterranean region and building up a common agenda, the UFM Secretariat satisfactorily fulfils the mandate it has been given by the Heads of State and Government of the UfM in 2008, and according to its Statutes adopted in 2010.	Cooperation frameworks, agreements, partnerships, programmes built and implemented in the Mediterranean region for better socio economic development .	NA	NA		- Sufficient political commitment by UFM Members
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	The strengthening of the activities of the Secretariat is accompanied by a strengthening of its internal capacity.	Outcome indicators (such as number of beneficiaries of UFMS labelled projects in the region in various sectors) will depend on the specific projects to be labelled and launched in 2016 (see output indicators below)				

⁶ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

Outputs	<p>Activities in terms of projects labelling, regional dialogues, operationalisation of ministerial mandates, preparation of senior officials meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regularity of Senior Officials meetings - Occurrence of Ministerial Meetings in priority areas of the UFM - Follow up in operational terms by the Secretariat of decisions made in the Ministerial declarations - Number of regional platform dialogue events organised and number of regional participants - Number of projects Labelled - Number of projects launched/implemented - Number of partnership agreements signed by the UFMS and external partners, and fund raised. 	<p>See the approved annual activity report of previous year (2014)</p>	<p>See the approved annual work program and budget for indication of the number of foreseen activities for 2015- On average, those figures should be maintained in 2016.</p>	<p>Sources of verification are the official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat</p>	<p>Financial contributions are effective in complement to this operating grant</p>
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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 8

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2017

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in section 5.3.1 concerning calls for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2017 CRIS number: ENI/2015/038-309 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Neighbourhood south countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ¹ , Syria and Tunisia. Countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and the League of Arab States partner countries other than Neighbourhood south partner countries: Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Montenegro, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The action shall be carried out at the following location: countries as listed above.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Complementary support/Multi-sector aid
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 36,250,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 35,000,000.

¹ 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

	<p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 10,000,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2015, for an amount of EUR 12,000,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2016, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget, and for an amount of EUR 13,000,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget.</p> <p>Budget line: 21.03.03.03</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,250,000.</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – grants – calls for proposals; – procurement of services and supplies. 			
7. DAC code(s)	43010 – Multi-sector			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Not applicable			

SUMMARY

The Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2017 is a support measure giving the European Commission the possibility to finance small-scale measures that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Thematic area

Multisector aid: support to the project cycle management, information and communication activities and organisation of meetings and training activities.

1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

Based on the “Common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action” (CIR)², in particular Article 3 on “Support measures”, the Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2017 provides funding to cover expenditure for the implementation of the ENI and for the achievement of its objectives³, including inter alia administrative support associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for such implementation, as well as expenditure at EU delegations on the administrative support needed to manage operations financed under the Instrument.

The EU financing may also cover:

- a) studies, meetings, information, awareness-raising, training, exchanges of lessons learned and best practices, publication activities and any other administrative or technical assistance expenditure necessary for the management of the actions;
- b) research activities and studies on relevant cooperation-related issues and the dissemination thereof;
- c) expenditures related to the provision of information and communication actions, including the development of communication strategies and corporate communication of the political priorities of the EU.

The Strategy Paper 2014-2020 and Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2017 for Regional South⁴ recognises the global allocation as one of its key tools to cover expenditures associated with the activities necessary for the implementation of the indicative programme, the organisation of regional ministerial meetings, working groups and related conferences as well as pilot activities in new areas of cooperation.

1.1.2 *Stakeholder analysis*

The main stakeholders are the ENI Southern Partner countries, namely: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia. Therefore and if relevant, countries from the Union for the Mediterranean and the League of Arab States partner countries other than Neighbourhood south partner countries⁵ (shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

The action is designed to support preparation, monitoring and follow-up of the EU cooperation programmes by the EU Delegations in the Southern Neighbourhood countries and by the Commission Headquarters. The end beneficiaries are citizens in the partner countries, as projects will be better prepared, monitored and followed-up.

² Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

³ See Article 2 of the ENI Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

⁴ C(2014) 5242 of 30 July 2014.

⁵ Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Albania, Mauritania, Montenegro, Turkey, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

1.1.3 *Priority areas for support/problem analysis*

The EU Delegations and the Commission services can use the global allocation for support activities for the project cycle management such as preparation, monitoring and follow-up of programmes, for information and communication purposes and organisation of meetings and training activities related to ENI and other EU funded/supported programmes and activities.

2 **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
N/A	N/A	N/A
Assumptions		
Given the experience from the global allocation funding under the former European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (2007-2013) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (since 2014), it is assumed that there is a genuine need for this instrument that allows Commission Headquarters and Delegations to plan cooperation related activities in a flexible way.		

3 **LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

3.1 **Lessons learnt**

Given the support nature of previous and current global allocations, past actions are assessed against the consumption level of committed funds in the previous years. This is one of the criteria, along with priorities and needs, taken into account in the initial programming, as well as in the planning exercise once the Commission Implementing Decision is adopted. The yearly high level of demand for the global allocation has proven that there is genuine need for this instrument as a flexible supporting tool.

3.2 **Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination**

The global allocation is considered as a complementary action to the Technical Assistance allocations existing in the frame of the Single Support Frameworks.

Donor coordination is not relevant to an internal supporting tool for the Commission Services in Delegations and at Headquarters.

3.3 **Cross-cutting issues**

Cross-cutting issues as such are not directly built into the global allocation. They are nevertheless built into the EU funded projects and other activities that the global allocation supports.

4 **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

4.1 **Objectives/results**

The objective of this global allocation is to ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of

an instrument which is capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations.

4.2 Main activities

The global allocation will be used as a framework for financing activities in the following fields:

(1) Support for project cycle management

This component includes activities linked to:

- a) identification and formulation of bilateral and regional projects which may result in funding from ENI (e.g. sectoral/thematic studies, country or region studies, studies on cross-cutting issues or specific cooperation areas, preparatory activities, etc.);
- b) small projects and other small-scale activities to back up major bilateral, regional, ENI-wide and cross-border cooperation projects during their implementation;
- c) audit, evaluation and impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule or is no longer available.

(2) Studies and information activities

This component supports activities in the following areas:

- a) information: publications, communication and awareness-raising activities to promote the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and enhance in particular the visibility of EU's activities in the Southern Neighbourhood countries;
- b) studies: inter alia studies on relevant issues, data collection and processing and the dissemination thereof.

(3) Organisation of meetings and training activities

This component covers the following activities:

- a) organisation of different kinds of meetings in the framework of the ENP South region, including ministerial conferences conducted in cooperation with the EU presidency, thematic workshops and working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.;
- b) training activities organised in the framework of the ENP South region, inter alia:
 - i. Training seminars for League of Arab States (LAS) representatives and other joint activities in the priority sectors of cooperation between the EU and the LAS following the Declaration of the EU-LAS Ministerial meeting held in Athens, in June 2014.
 - ii. Information and training seminars for diplomats coming from Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) countries.

If relevant, countries from the UfM and LAS⁶ shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

4.3 Intervention logic

The utilisation of the global allocation funds by the EU Delegations in the Southern Neighbourhood countries as well as Commission services depends on needs arising in the project cycle management, follow-up and monitoring needs, information and communication activities and organisation of meetings and training activities arising throughout the year. Each beneficiary Delegation and Commission service makes its initial annual plan for using the global allocation funds in the beginning of each year, and the plan is updated throughout the year when need occurs.

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, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is as follows:

For actions financed under budget 2015	48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document
For actions financed under budget 2016	60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document
For actions financed under budget 2017	72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

The programme will be implemented through direct management using both grants and procurement contracts.

The Southern Neighbourhood global allocation is meant to react with flexibility to evolving circumstances and unforeseen situations. Therefore, the separation of

⁶ Albania, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Comoros, Djibouti, Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Montenegro, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

amounts and number of contracts is provisional and indicative. Numbers are based on previous years' experience.

5.3.1 *Grants: calls for proposals (direct management)*

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of the grants is to ensure preparation of actions and projects by giving support to project cycle management, studies and information activities and organisation of meetings and training activities.

(b) Eligibility conditions

As foreseen in the ENI basic act.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100%. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the calls

For actions financed under budget 2015	Last trimester 2015, trimesters 1 and 2 in 2016.
For actions financed under budget 2016	Trimesters 3 and 4 in 2016, trimesters 1 and 2 in 2017.
For actions financed under budget 2017	Trimesters 3 and 4 in 2017, trimesters 1 and 2 in 2018.

5.3.2 *Procurement (direct management)*

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Indicative number of contracts</i>	<i>Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure</i>
Ensure preparation of actions and projects	Services Supplies	Up to 270	Between last trimester 2015 and 2 nd trimester 2018

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 in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

Component/Module	EU contribution (in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution (in EUR)
<i>Component “Support for project cycle management” composed of:</i>	25,000,000	
5.3.1 – Calls for proposals (direct management)	1,000,000	250,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	24,000,000	N.A.
<i>Component “Studies and information activities” composed of:</i>	5,000,000	
5.3.1 – Calls for proposals (direct management)	3,000,000	750,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	2,000,000	N.A.
<i>Component “Organisation of meetings and training activities” composed of:</i>	5,000,000	
5.3.1 – Calls for proposals (direct management)	1,000,000	250,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management)	4,000,000	N.A.
TOTALS	35,000,000	1,250,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The EU Delegations and Commission services benefiting from the global allocation will prepare after the approval of this Commission Decision an initial plan for the utilisation of the funds and they are responsible for their contracting.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The monitoring of the implementation will be carried out, including periodic assessment of progress and delivery of the project results.

5.8 Evaluation

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake an evaluation of this action or its components for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

Where relevant, 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 country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the action.

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 and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action⁷ shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

⁷

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication_and_visibility_manual_en.pdf.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

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 without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	<i>Intervention logic</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Sources and means of verification</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
Overall objective	<i>To ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations.</i>			
Programme purpose	<p><i>To provide:</i></p> <p><i>1) Support for project cycle management (including identification, formulation, audit, evaluation, impact assessment of projects and small-scale projects/activities to back up major ENI programmes, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>2) Studies and information activities (including publications, awareness-raising, visibility, data collection and processing, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>3) Organisation of meetings and training activities in the framework of the ENP South Region (also including activities for LAS and UfM countries representatives)</i></p>	<p><i>Commitments rate of available budget to finance programmes through the ENI in the ENP South.</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge of the EU and of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in particular in partner countries (institutions, organisations, citizens, etc.).</i></p>	<p><i>CRIS</i></p> <p><i>Budget execution and amount of RAC (Reste à contracter).</i></p> <p><i>External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) as well as other yearly reports at HQ level.</i></p> <p><i>Mid-term evaluations of the programming documents.</i></p> <p><i>Number of publications sold and visits to EU Delegations websites.</i></p> <p><i>Participation of partner countries institutions, organisations and citizens in events organised by the EU Delegations.</i></p>	<p><i>Socio-economic and political stability of the partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Quality of the political dialogue with partner governments.</i></p> <p><i>Quality of the dialogue with citizens and non-governmental organisations.</i></p> <p><i>Quality of the past support provided to partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Relevance of the activities in the socio-economic and political context of the partner countries.</i></p>

			<i>Feedback from participants in meetings and training activities.</i>	
Expected results	<p><i>Projects funded from ENI South (e.g. sector studies, country or region studies, studies on horizontal and cross-cutting issues or in specialised areas, preparatory activities, etc.) identified and formulated. Monitoring and follow-up of the projects undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>Other small-scale activities to back up major projects during their implementation undertaken.</i></p> <p><i>Audits, evaluations and impact assessment of projects for which financing of such activities could not be foreseen due to the N+1 rule, or is no longer available funded.</i></p> <p><i>Information and communication activities to (i) raise awareness and visibility of the EU and the European Neighbourhood Policy; (ii) to enhance the visibility of EU-funded activities; and (iii) to improve the understanding of EU cooperation policies in the Southern Neighbourhood region implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Organisation of meetings and training activities, thematic workshops and working groups, civil fora, sectoral preparatory meetings, etc.</i></p>	<p><i>Number of identification and feasibility studies.</i></p> <p><i>Number of projects identified and prepared in cooperation with institutions and organisations in the partner countries</i></p> <p><i>Design and formulation of good quality programmes within the set deadlines.</i></p> <p><i>Number of studies, audits and evaluations carried out and that cannot be financed with the allocated budget of the programmes.</i></p> <p><i>Number of publications</i></p> <p><i>Number of events promoting visibility of the ENP.</i></p> <p><i>Number of meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. organised and number of participants.</i></p> <p><i>Number of trainings and number of participants.</i></p>	<p><i>CRIS</i></p> <p><i>Budget execution and amount of RAC (Reste à contracter).</i></p> <p><i>External Assistance Management Reports (EAMR) as well as other yearly reports at HQ level.</i></p> <p><i>Delay for the approval and comments by HQ on the action documents going through quality review.</i></p> <p><i>Minutes of the meetings with the counterparts on the implementation of the programmes.</i></p> <p><i>Programmes implementation reports.</i></p> <p><i>Result-oriented monitoring (ROM) reports.</i></p> <p><i>Programmes evaluation reports.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback from participants in meetings and training activities.</i></p>	<p><i>Socio-economic and political stability of the partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Good quality of dialogue and cooperation between Delegations and counterparts in partner countries.</i></p> <p><i>Good quality of terms of reference and work of experts in charge of the studies and of the technical assistance.</i></p> <p><i>Capacity and willingness of a constructive and substantial participation of the counterparts in dialogues, meetings, events, training, etc.</i></p>