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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 8.11.2017**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2017 – Part 2 and 2018 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI  
South countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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**on the Annual Action Programme 2017 – Part 2 and 2018 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 action<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2(1) 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 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 232/2014<sup>3</sup> lays down the objectives and main principles for assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (2) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)<sup>4</sup> 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.
- (3) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2017 – Part 2 and 2018 – Part 1 to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>5</sup> are to: contribute to enhancing energy security of beneficiary countries while fostering their transition to low carbon economy; strengthen the role of civil society organisations in sustainable development and resilience in the Southern Neighbourhood.
- (4) The first action entitled “Energy Security and Climate Action in the Southern Neighbourhood (2017-2018)” aims at contributing to enhancing energy security of beneficiary countries while fostering their transition to low carbon economy, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts. Moreover, the action will contribute to enhancing energy security in the EU, diversifying sources of supply and integrating the markets. Direct management (procurement and grant directly awarded to Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> C(2014) 5242 of 30.07.2014.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

Euro-Mediterranean Transmission System Operators, Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation, Observatoire européen de l'Énergie and the Joint Research Centre) is envisaged for this regional project.

- (5) The second action entitled "2017 Civil Society Facility Neighbourhood South: Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality" will seek to strengthen in the Southern Neighbourhood the role of civil society organisations in sustainable development and resilience, and address the root causes of violence against women. Direct management (procurement and grants) is envisaged for this regional project.
- (6) 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<sup>6</sup>.
- (7) The envisaged assistance to Egypt, Lebanon, Lybia, Syria and Tunisia is deemed to strictly apply with the conditions and procedures set out by the EU restrictive measures concerning the said countries.
- (8) 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 Annexe 1 (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and Annex 2 (section 5.3.1).
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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 financing instrument referred to in recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

#### **Adoption of the measure**

The Annual Action Programme 2017 – Part 2 and 2018 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Energy Security and Climate Action in the Southern Neighbourhood (2017-2018);

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<sup>6</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

- Annex 2: 2017 Civil Society Facility Neighbourhood South: Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 20.6 million to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union:

- budget line 22.04.01.02 for an amount of:
  - EUR 13.3 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2017;
  - EUR 0.7 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2018.
- budget line 22.04.01.01 for an amount of:
  - EUR 6.6 million from the general 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 for 2018 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 set by the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Commission 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, 8.11.2017

*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 2017 – Part 2 and 2018 – Part 1 in favour of ENI South countries

**Action Document for Energy security and Climate action in the Southern Neighbourhood 2017-2018**

**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

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Energy security and Climate action in the Southern Neighbourhood 2017-2018  CRIS number: ENI/2017/040-335 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	The action shall be carried out at the following location: Southern Neighbourhood countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel <sup>1</sup> , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine <sup>2</sup> , Tunisia and Syria <sup>3</sup> )	
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)	
<b>4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area</b>	Building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development	DEV. Aid: Yes
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 15 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 14 million	

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011.

	<p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 13,3 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2017 and for an amount of EUR 0.7 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2018, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget.</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1 million.</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.01.02</p>			
<b>6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management – grants – direct award</p> <p>Direct management – procurement of services</p>			
<b>7 a) DAC code(s)</b>	<p>23110 Energy policy and administrative management (25%)</p> <p>23210 Energy generation, renewable sources – multiple technologies (46%)</p> <p>41010 Environmental policy and administrative management (29%)</p>			
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	<p>20000 Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil society for Components 1 to 4</p> <p>50000 Other for Component 5</p>			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	<p>Global Climate Change Alliance + (GCCA+)</p> <p>Climate Change Mitigation: Supporting low carbon development</p>			
<b>10. SDGs</b>	<p><u>Main SDG Goal(s):</u></p> <p>Goals 7 on "Affordable and clean energy" and 13 on "Climate action"</p> <p><u>Secondary SDG Goal(s):</u></p> <p>Goals 11 "Sustainable cities and communities" and 12 "Responsible consumption and production".</p>			

## SUMMARY

The overall objective of the programme is to enhance energy security in beneficiary countries while fostering their transition to low carbon and climate resilient economy, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive and climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts.

Component 1 **Energy** will promote:

- sound regulatory frameworks conducive to the efficient and sustainable production, distribution, trade and consumption of energy, including ensuring its climate resilience;
- the integration of the electricity markets, including through the co-ordinated planning and development of electricity transport infrastructure;
- the diversification of energy sources, suppliers and routes;
- deployment at local level (in particular through the Covenant of Mayors) of renewable energy and energy efficiency and demand management measures.

Component 2 **Climate action** aims at mitigating and adapting to climate change, with a specific emphasis on designing and implementing the countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and integrate climate action into national and urban development strategies in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors.

## 1 CONTEXT

### 1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

#### 1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

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

With the goal of building a resilient Energy Union, entailing an ambitious climate policy at its core, the EU is committed to strengthen its energy dialogue with neighbourhood countries in energy security, energy market reforms and the promotion of sustainable energy. Moreover, energy and climate resilience are key to the sustainable development and stability of the partners themselves, as well as shared prosperity.

EU action described in this document contributes in particular to achieving Goals 7 on "Affordable and clean energy" and 13 on "Climate action". It also helps achieving Goals 11 "Sustainable cities and communities" and 12 "Responsible consumption and production Action".

On 1 December 2016, in Rome, the ministers in charge of energy from the 43 members of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have agreed to step up regional co-operation in order to deliver a secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply. They decided that policy dialogue and concrete initiatives would be carried out under three UfM energy platforms covering the priority policy areas, namely the UfM Regional

Electricity Market Platform (UfM REM Platform), the UfM Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Platform (UfM REEE Platform) and the UfM Gas Platform.

Moreover, energy and climate objectives are closely linked<sup>4</sup> in the EU's Energy Union Strategy as well as in its external action. This was recognised when the 2015 review of the ENP<sup>5</sup> introduced for the first time climate action as a thematic priority, together with energy security under a single heading. This approach was vindicated in March 2017, when the European Council recalled that the EU's climate and energy objectives are mutually reinforcing, and called for strengthening synergies between EU climate and energy diplomacies<sup>6</sup>. The Council underlined the need for partnership with third countries to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Energy Union Strategy and the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to foster the linking of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with national development strategies. The EU climate and energy objectives should also be actively included EU in partnerships with the International Financial Institutions, Development Banks, and other financial institutions as well as within other multilateral organisations and fora.

Following decisive commitments from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of December 2015<sup>7</sup>, the Energy Union Framework Strategy<sup>8</sup>, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly<sup>9</sup> and EU's "Clean Energy for all Europeans"<sup>10</sup> of November 2016, climate goals must now be turned into climate actions, the clean energy transition being a vector of economic opportunities, job creation and a strong incentive for dynamic research and innovation's developments.

### **1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis**

Countries from the Southern Neighbourhood region have shown interest on increasing co-operation on energy and climate action, but so far the implementation of their key sector reforms remains uneven for political, economic and social reasons. Similarly, the involvement of non-state actors (including local and regional authorities), civil society and the private sector highly varies considerably from one country to another.

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

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

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

7 [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)

8 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank "A Framework Strategy for a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking Climate Change Policy" (2015/80; 25 February 2015)

9 <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

10 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank "Clean Energy For All Europeans" (2016/860; 30 November 2016)



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

National public authorities from Southern Neighbourhood countries are key stakeholders. These are not limited to energy and environment ministries: given the transversal dimension of NDCs, authorities in charge of cross-sectoral or interministerial co-ordination have an increasingly important role to play in driving and monitoring climate action.

Other relevant stakeholders include energy regulators and transmission system operators, private sector organisations, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), civil society, regional and local authorities. The latter would play a key role in the perspective of the implementation of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which brings together thousands of local and regional authorities, voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives on their territory.

### ***1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis***

As almost all countries have ratified or are in the process of ratifying the Paris Agreement, the comprehensive climate mitigation and adaptation strategies put forward in their NDCs are becoming a formal part of their national policy frameworks. These national plans include specific objectives and actions (including the need for enhancing resilience of infrastructures to climate change's impact, in key sectors like water, and solid waste), and form a useful basis to determine priority support areas – including for energy co-operation, as the mitigation objectives are largely based on actions in the energy sector.

From the perspective of energy security, partners countries' economic stability depends to a greater or lesser extent on a sustainable balance between their energy consumption and the profile of their energy supplies or production. Some partner countries are vulnerable to over-dependence on specific suppliers and therefore have a vital interest in increasing sovereignty by diversifying their sources of supply. Others in the Southern Neighbourhood also face challenges in managing their rising energy demand.

The EU will therefore offer co-operation and promote:

- actions aiming at mitigating and adapting to climate change, with a specific emphasis on embedding country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) into national development strategies and supporting the elaboration of the next generation of NDCs;
- sound regulatory frameworks conducive to the efficient and sustainable production, distribution, trade and consumption of energy;
- the creation of an enabling environment for increased public and private investments in sustainable energy;
- the integration of the electricity markets, including through the co-ordinated planning and development of electricity transport infrastructure;
- the diversification of energy sources, suppliers and routes;

- deployment at local level (in particular through the Covenant of Mayors) of renewable energy and energy efficiency and demand management measures;
- the mainstreaming of climate adaptation and resilience across sectoral policies and the development of replicable solutions across the region.

A specific focus will be given on better access to finance through the whole set of actions. In particular, as regards climate finance, various existing sources of funding will be taken into account including the Green Climate Fund, and innovative approaches will be sought with international financial institutions and multilateral development banks as well as private finance, in order to make finance flows consistent with the needs for lowering greenhouse gas emissions and support climate resilient development.

The EU also intends to mainstream a broader awareness, analysis and management of climate risks, and support partners to better understand, integrate, anticipate and manage the impacts of climate change on domestic stability, international security and the displacement of people.

In summary, this programme will help developing economies being more efficient, competitive, resilient and stable while increasing energy sovereignty and reducing emissions.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Political instability within some of the partner countries, preventing a regional focus on energy and climate actions	H	Adoption of a progressive or variable projects' approach
Limited involvement and uneven interest from programme's key stakeholders	M	Flexibility to be kept in all components of the programme, in order to allow for partner countries to choose between different levels of partnerships without jeopardizing the overall programme's implementation.
Limited capacity of actors at local level	M	Specific capacity building support to be provided at local level, in particular for actions related to climate change and energy saving
Insufficient capacity of the financial sector to properly evaluate returns on energy efficiency / climate investments.	H	Continued co-operation with the financial sector and use of EU funds to mitigate financial risks
<b>Assumptions</b>		
Policy makers, country's specific agencies dealing with Energy and Climate Action, local actors and civil society are willing to co-operate and share their experience within the region.		

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

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

National authorities, IFIs and the financial sector show interest and participate in evaluating the potential gains of climate and energy efficiency finance, and propose the necessary financial instruments and schemes.

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

#### **3.1 Lessons learnt**

- Greater flexibility in the approach and the proposed co-operation instruments must be sought to enable the EU and its partners to respond to ever changing needs and circumstances.
- Energy market integration and interoperability/interconnections require the adoption of minimum comparable technical and economic standards.
- Regional co-operation facilitates the relations between neighbouring countries and sub-regional co-operation approaches may prove effective in certain sectors or as demonstration cases.
- Regional programmes require extensive organisational work in order to secure adhesion of the participating countries and stakeholders, which in turn requires consistent dedicated resources.
- Bottom-up approaches should be promoted in particular for the design and implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions, in line with country's national strategies and committed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

#### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination**

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

It will build on the achievements of (and ensure continuity to) the EU-funded projects "Cleaner Energy Savings Mediterranean Cities (CESMED)", "Sustainable Urban Development Program" (SUDEP) and "ClimaSouth" currently in place. The programme will in particular reinforce the coherence among the different intervention levels (national, decentralised and local administrations). CESMED supports local authorities in drafting their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP's), which are subsequently validated by the EU Joint Research Center. The Project should learn and adapt from the methodology of CESMED. SUDEP provides the financial resources to implement a selected number of energy efficiency related investments in the region through grants, and should be replaced by more

innovative financial techniques. ClimaSouth's objective is to assist the partner countries in the transition towards low carbon economies and enhanced climate resilience, by supporting the design and the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures. It also helps identifying possible innovative climate finance tools.

Improved synergies will be sought with EU's bilateral programmes, technical assistance and projects funded by the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF). To this end, a large evaluation launched end 2016 on all EU-financed programmes in the Southern Neighbourhood region will provide appropriate recommendations by mid-2017, which will be considered for the formulation phase of the programme.

A complementary instrument is the EU Technical Assistance Facility on Sustainable Energy (EU TAF) available also for Southern Neighbourhood partner countries to support the achievement of the sustainable energy objectives. The Facility (in place until December 2018) can deliver high level technical assistance at country and regional level through expert missions mobilized to support partner countries in fine tuning their policies and regulatory framework and providing attractive and enabling environment for increased investment in energy access, energy supplies, renewable energy as well as energy efficiency.

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

The EU will pursue co-ordination with other donors and, major international financial institutions as well as working through the Union for the Mediterranean, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Co-operation Council.

### **3.3 Cross-cutting issues**

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

Moreover, in EU's neighbour countries (and particularly in rural areas), equal access to modern energy is a crucial aspect for poverty reduction, acting as an important engine of economic growth and social development (including better health and education). As men and women's roles and responsibilities are significantly different in households, markets and communities, all activities within this programme will entail (to the extent possible) a gendered approach that encourages equality and equal opportunities. In particular, the participation of qualified women at key decision-making levels will be encouraged.

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

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 4.1 Objectives/results

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets 7 on "Affordable and clean energy", 13 on "Climate action", 12 "sustainable consumption and production" and contributes to progress towards Goals 11 "Sustainable cities and communities" This does not imply commitments by the countries benefiting from this programme but supports those who have committed to achieving the SDGs.

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

Climate change is a global challenge, therefore all climate action measures implemented in the region will benefit directly or indirectly EU Member States.

Throughout the two components (energy and climate action) of the programme, where the gender equality's dimension will be fully embedded, the following specific objectives results will be achieved:

#### Component 1

Specific objectives: Euro-Mediterranean electricity and gas markets become gradually more integrated and climate resilient, and support the progressive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region.

Expected results are as follows:

- better harmonisation of regulatory frameworks for electricity and gas (including on consumers protection);
- more efficient functioning of regulators and electricity transmission operators through optimised processes and planning capacities;
- adoption of common principles on renewable energy sources' integration in the network, following in-depth reviews of national and (possibly) sub-regional strategies and policies;
- formulation of regional development plans for gas, based on the assessment of existing (and future) infrastructures and gas supply-demand schemes in the Mediterranean region, that take into account the potential impacts of climate change on infrastructure and on energy demand;
- increased private-sector's involvement in boosting the renewables and energy efficiency markets, taking into account the potential impacts of climate change on infrastructure and on energy demand;
- widened public awareness on energy's major stakes and challenges;
- efficient functioning of the 3 UfM Energy platforms.

Component 2 Specific Objective: The transition of Southern Neighbourhood countries towards sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient development is boosted by the formulation and implementation of sustainable energy policies and climate actions at national and local levels.

Expected results are as follows:

- enhanced capacities of partner countries' authorities to implement their (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions and develop national and regional adaptation and mitigation plans (including Measuring, Reporting and Verification, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and Low Emission Development Strategies) and production of the next generation of NDCs and of mid-century low emission development strategies by 2020;
- increased number of sustainable energy and climate action plans being developed and implemented by municipalities in the Mediterranean, in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy;
- innovative access to finance's channels are established in close co-operation with (national and international) financial institutions, thereby facilitating the planning and implementation of climate action projects by national and local stakeholders.

#### **4.2 Main activities**

The programme will be implemented through (i) training and capacity building activities at national and local levels, with a particular attention on gender equality; (ii) seminars and workshops allowing for policy dialogue, increased co-operation and sharing of experience; (iii) specific technical assistance, as well as studies; (iv) tailored awareness campaigns on relevant strategic themes, (v) grants to support the technical partners/secretariats of the UfM energy platforms.

#### **4.3 Intervention logic**

The strategic intervention of the "Energy security and Climate Action in the Southern Neighbourhood" programme is structured in two components:

The first component "Energy" supports actions which lead to more efficient, secure and better integrated energy markets in the Southern Neighbourhood region, which are climate-adapted and climate-resilient. This component will be implemented through direct grants awarded to key associations: the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG), the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO), the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER) and Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME). The involvement of RCREEE (Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) as MEDENER partner could be envisaged as well, depending on the value that this Centre can offer to the UfM Energy platform. The grant to OME will, among others but not exclusively, finance some of its activities as Secretariat of the UfM Gas Platform.

The second component "Climate action" will contribute to providing policy advice, technical assistance and support to projects aimed at mainstreaming mitigation and adaptation approaches within partner countries' national sector policies, including a specific support to the deployment of the Covenant of Mayors initiative at

local/municipal level. This component will be implemented through a services contract providing technical assistance to the key stakeholders of the partner countries involved (national authorities, local authorities, civil society), and a direct grant awarded to the Joint Research Centre (deeply involved in the Covenant of Mayors initiative), specifically targeted to support participating municipalities.

## **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 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**

In direct management, the Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures affecting the respective countries of operation.

#### **A. Component 1: Energy**

##### **5.3.1 Grants: direct award (direct management)**

###### **5.3.1.1 Grant: direct award – Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators**

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

This grant aims at contributing to the setup of an integrated Euro-Mediterranean energy market, by harmonizing energy market design and rules that ensure open and non-discriminatory market access, adequate and sustainable investments (including renewable energy sources), and consumers protection. Expected results entail (i) more harmonized regulatory frameworks for gas and electricity (including on consumers protection), (ii) tailored support to the setup of independent regulators, (iii) adoption of common principles on renewable energy sources' integration in the market, (iv) enhanced capacities of regulators' staff and (v) efficient support to secretarial tasks of the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform, in close collaboration with MED TSO Association.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation. This is the case of the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG) is the only platform for the construction of a coherent and efficient regulatory framework and the promotion of a shared regulatory culture at regional level.

(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 of the proposed action to the objectives set up for this component; 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 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 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

Last trimester of year 2017.

**5.3.1.2 Grant: direct award – Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Transmission System Operators**

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

This grant aims at promoting the progressive integration of partner countries' transmission networks (taking into account energy efficiency requirements), the enhancement of cross-border electricity exchanges as well as renewable energy sources' integration in the Mediterranean region, through the co-ordination of both national development plans and access rules to the grids. Expected results entail (i) improved planning capacities of the operators, (ii) enhanced regulatory frameworks, (iii) optimized operations processes and (iv) efficient support to secretarial tasks of



the UfM Regional Electricity Market Platform, in close collaboration with MEDREG Association.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Association of Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation. MED TSO is the extension to the Mediterranean region of the European Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E). Therefore, MED TSO is the single and only association gathering electricity companies operating the grids (from 18 Mediterranean countries), including both EU and non EU Member States at regional level, whose contribution remains at the core of the dynamics of Mediterranean energy markets' integration.

(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 of the proposed action to the objectives set up for this component; 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 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 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

Last trimester of year 2017.

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

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

This grant aims at fostering regional co-operation in promoting concrete renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, considering the massive potential of untapped sustainable energy sources, the opportunities for jobs creation and the

contribution to reducing carbon emissions, taking into account climate impacts on energy demand and infrastructure.

Expected results entail (i) in-depth reviews of national and (possibly) sub-regional strategies and policies, (ii) enhancement of legislative and regulatory frameworks, (iii) widened public awareness and improved management capacities of stakeholders, (iv) increased private-sector's involvement in boosting the renewables and energy efficiency markets, and (v) efficient support to secretarial tasks of the UfM Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Platform.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation. This is the case of the Mediterranean Association of the National Agencies for Energy Conservation (MEDENER) which brings together since 1997 many agencies in the Mediterranean region in charge of energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources, and has been at the initiative of this platform with RCREEE and RES4MED under the umbrella of the UfM and the European Commission.

(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 of the proposed action to the objectives set up for this component; 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 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 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

Last trimester of year 2017.

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

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

This grant aims at contributing to the gradual setup of a secure, sustainable and integrated Euro-Mediterranean gas market, by promoting security, transparency and predictability of both supply and demand (while fairly taking into account the interest of producing and consuming countries).

Expected results entail (i) in-depth assessments and perspectives of infrastructures and gas supply-demand balances in the Mediterranean region, (ii) enhancement of gas regulatory frameworks, (iii) improved management capacities of key stakeholders and (iv) efficient secretarial tasks of the UfM Gas Platform.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation. This is the case of the Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) which gathers since 1988 the leading energy companies operating in the Mediterranean region, and has been formally nominated as Secretariat of this UfM Gas Platform.

(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 of the proposed action to the objectives set up for this component; 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 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 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

Last trimester of year 2017.

## **B. Component 2: Climate action**

### **5.3.2 Grant: direct award (direct management) – Support to the participation of Mediterranean Cities in the Covenant of Mayors initiative**

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

This grant aims at providing technical and scientific assistance to Mediterranean cities in the process of joining, or in implementing the commitments under the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Joint Research Center (JRC).

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation. This is the case of the Joint Research Center (JRC) which has been entrusted, by the European Commission, specific supporting tasks and responsibilities in the implementation of the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

(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 of the proposed action to the objectives set up for this component; 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 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 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

Last trimester of year 2017.

### 5.3.3 Procurement (direct management)

	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Support to climate action and its integration into national and urban development strategies (EU4ENERGY and CLIMATE)	Services	1	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2017 (with suspension clause)

### 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.

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 (EUR)
5.3.1 Direct grants (direct management):		
5.3.1.1 Direct grant: Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Regulators (MEDREG)	2,000,000	223,000
5.3.1.2 Direct grant: Support to the co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean Transmission System Operators (MED TSO)	1,000,000	250,000
5.3.1.3 Direct grant: Support to the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region (MEDENER)	1,500,000	167,000
5.3.1.4 Direct grant: Support to regional co-operation towards an integrated gas market in the Southern Neighbourhood region (OME)	1,000,000	250,000

5.3.2 Direct grant (direct management): Supporting participation of Mediterranean Cities in the Covenant of Mayors initiative	500,000	110,000
5.3.3 Procurement (direct management): Support to climate action and its integration into national and urban development strategies (EU4ENERGYandCLIMATE)	8,000,000	N.A
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14,000,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

## 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by Commission services (Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant in close co-operation with other Commission services and other relevant stakeholders. For each component, in cases where a Steering Committee is created, the participation of relevant Commission services is foreseen.

## 5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

Baseline reports or databases with concrete results/impact indicators will be established (e.g. impacted population, infrastructures, creation of green jobs, promotion of renewable energies etc), which will ease the evaluation of the project. Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular (i) the innovative approaches fostered through numerous activities financed under this programme, and (ii) the highly expected potential for synergies and complementarity with other

actions financed by the European Union in the frame of its bilateral co-operation with each country in the region.

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

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

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

## **5.9 Audit**

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

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

## **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 countries, 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.

## **6 PRE-CONDITIONS**

Not applicable

**APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)**

	<b>Results chain</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective: Impact</b>	To enhance energy security of regional partner countries while fostering their transition to low carbon and climate resilient economies, thereby contributing to more stable, efficient, competitive, climate-resilient socioeconomic contexts.	Reforms adopted, and evolution of the partner countries' energy mix (including the import/export ratio) and consumption models  Progress of partner countries in achieving their COP21 commitments (Nationally Determined Contributions-NDC's)	Country specific (2017)	Country specific (2022)	- Partner Countries' National Development Plans - Annual reports from Partner countries' Ministry of Energy - Reports from Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME)	
<b>Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)</b>	Euro-Mediterranean electricity and gas systems become gradually more integrated and climate resilient, and support the progressive deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in the Southern Neighbourhood region.  The transition of Southern Neighbourhood countries towards sustainable, low-carbon and climate resilient development is boosted by the formulation and implementation of sustainable energy policies and climate actions at national and local levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new market interconnections at regional or sub-regional levels</li> <li>• Number of capacity building and training plans designed and implemented, thereby enhancing the governance capacities of staff from regulators, electricity transmission operators and public authorities involved in energy security and climate action</li> <li>• Number of regional and national public awareness</li> </ul>	0  Country specific (2017)  0	2  Country specific (2022)  15	- Annual reports from Partner countries' Ministry of Energy  - Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie (OME) reports  - Reports from the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean  - Regional and local surveys	- Policy makers, country's specific agencies dealing with Energy and Climate Action, local actors and civil society are willing to co-operate and share their experience within the region.



		actions on energy efficiency and renewables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of climate action/renewables/and energy efficiency projects implemented thanks to enhanced private sector's financial involvement</li> </ul>	0%	10%		- Energy security and climate action remain amongst the main priorities of partner countries' national development plans, and governments show willingness and readiness to adopt proactive and innovative political initiatives in this sense.
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory frameworks for gas and electricity sectors gradually converge at regional or sub-regional levels.</li> <li>• The setup of newly operational independent regulators for gas and electricity is being fostered, and partner countries' authorities in charge of implementing their COP21 commitments (INDC's) are being accompanied.</li> <li>• Formulation of regional development plans for gas, and sub-regional strategies and policies on renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• The energy transition towards renewable energy sources and the resilience of municipalities to climate induced threats in the Mediterranean is accelerated, in the framework of the Covenant of Mayors' initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developed and agreed principles and regulations (including on consumers protection, energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and climate resilience) at regional or sub-regional level</li> </ul>	0	20		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of man days of technical assistance being successfully provided to beneficiaries (following gender equality principles) through workshops and dedicated meetings</li> </ul>	0	1500		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of studies and assessment being drafted and disseminated</li> </ul>	0	20		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of sustainable energy and climate action plans being developed and implemented by municipal cities</li> </ul>	0	30		- Partner countries commit to ensure sustainability and durability to the respective projects, by making available the necessary human, financial and material resources.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative access to finance schemes are established in close co-operation with (national and international) financial institutions</li> <li>• The 3 UfM Energy platforms meet at regular and efficient pace (from technical workshops to high level meetings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of the financial flow transfers from the private sector and through innovative access to finance's schemes</li> <li>• Number of meetings of the 3 UfM Energy platforms</li> </ul>	0	20%		
			0	24		



This action is funded by the European Union

**ANNEX 2**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2017 – Part 2 and 2018 – Part 1 in favour of ENI South countries

**Action Document for 2017 Civil Society Facility Neighbourhood South: Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality**

**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

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	2017 Civil Society Facility Neighbourhood South: Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality  CRIS number: ENI/2017/040-528  financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	The action shall be carried out at the following locations and/or involve citizens from:  - Neighbourhood South countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel <sup>1</sup> , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine <sup>2</sup> , Tunisia and Syria <sup>3</sup> ) and,  - in duly justified cases, countries which are members of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (others than Neighbourhood South countries): EU Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Monaco, Montenegro and Turkey.
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South and East Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011.

	Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)			
<b>4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area</b>	Building a Partnership with the People	DEV. Aid: YES		
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 7.5 million.</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 6.6 million.</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 0.9 million.</p> <p>Budget line: 22 04 01 01</p>			
<b>6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management:</p> <p>Grants – calls for proposals</p> <p>Procurement of services</p>			
<b>7 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society			
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	52000 - Other			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	NA			
<b>10. SDGs</b>	<p>SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>SDG 10: Reduced inequalities</p> <p>SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>			

The overall objective of the civil society Facility Neighbourhood South is to strengthen the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in sustainable development and resilience in the Southern Neighbourhood. The programme "*Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality*" will develop a regional civil society roadmap which will define the added value of the regional approach for civil society, complementing the support provided to civil society at national level through bilateral funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). This will concentrate on providing capacity building to civil society organisations on advocacy and dialogue, with particular focus on women's rights and encouraging the participation of young women and men in public life.

It aims at enabling civil society to advocate and promote regional solutions to regional challenges working jointly with governments, authorities and regional institutions while holding them accountable. This will allow tapping into civil society's potential for developing a strategic vision for the region and promoting inclusive growth and economic development, stability, peace and democratic governance.

Two components will be supported with the following specific objectives:

**Component 1:**

To provide technical assistance to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in order to:

1. Strengthen the involvement of CSOs and CSO networks in emerging regional agendas and thematic dialogues, reinforcing their ability to co-ordinate and network with their peers from the region;
2. Ensure that the regional hub networks and consults regularly with CSO stakeholders in the Neighbourhood South with an increased number, frequency, quality and impact of regional dialogues with civil society, European Union(EU) institutions, regional entities and authorities;
3. Assist young civil society leaders to launch advocacy initiatives as part of the dialogue with the EU and with relevant stakeholders from the region;
4. Strengthen CSOs' role in developing resilience and stability at regional level, complementary to the bilateral level.

**Component 2:**

Increased public awareness towards violence against women with attitudes and behaviour towards violence against women changing;

Increased capacities and number of CSOs promoting legislation criminalising violence against women and its implementation, particularly the Istanbul Convention.

**1. CONTEXT**

**1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area**

**Component 1 and 3: Strengthening Civil Society's role in sustainable development**

The situation of civil society in the southern Neighbourhood region differs from one country to another but several common challenges can be identified at regional level.

The overall political climate in the region has deteriorated with the hope engendered by the "Arab Spring" movements of 2011 fading. In a large number of countries, the political context has not favoured the blossoming of civil society and of cultural exchanges, with restrictive legislation affecting freedom of assembly and association and resulting in a "shrinking space" for civil society to operate and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development and democratisation processes.

The capacities of CSOs with a view to engaging in policy dialogue at national and regional levels remain rather weak. Many CSOs remain isolated within their geographic or thematic field of activity and are often poorly structured, lacking external communication, co-ordination and networking opportunities with other CSOs. 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. A new regional hub for structured dialogue is about to be created and supported by the EU in order to enable civil society to organise autonomously and co-ordinate advocacy and consultation efforts to feed into a more systematic dialogue between CSOs from the region and the EU.

Considering this context, the EU is firmly committed to supporting efforts for civil society to become more inclusive and empowered in the Southern Neighbourhood region and to complementing bilateral support with a targeted regional intervention. To this end, promoting an enabling environment with partner countries is fundamental, and complementary to dialogue mechanisms at regional and national level.

Promoting active participation by CSOs in policy making is key; hence the relevance to support capacities of young leaders and members of CSOs for advocacy, for playing an efficient watchdog role and monitor reforms. Networks of CSOs also need support for enhancing their governance and co-ordination.

## **Component 2: Addressing root causes of violence against women with the support of CSOs**

Violence against women in all its forms - physical assault, sexual abuse, rape, threats and intimidation is a shared global scourge. Societies are ruled by a traditional and universal system of patriarchy that generates and perpetuates violence against women, gender based discrimination and inequality. Dominance and violence can be open, but also very subtle, coming to the everyday life as "norms" and "values" to which we get used to and can't recognise as abuse.

Studies about violence against women show that patriarchal violence is widespread, systematic and structural and based on perceptions of female subordination and men's right to ultimately practice violence in order to control women. It can be perpetrated within the family, within the community and by the State, including an occupying and/or invading power. In all situations, it is caused by normative and institutional denial of fundamental human rights, by lack of gender equality, by oppression and discrimination, including in the law, as well as by impunity and the absence of legal and social protection mechanisms. Different socio-economic, cultural, religious and political factors are intertwined causing and perpetuating such injustice on women. It is an acknowledged fact that legal and socially institutionalized discrimination against women enables the perpetuation of violence against women. Despite the growing and deepening consensus about the nature and

costs of violence against women, it is many governments are slow to adopt appropriate and comprehensive policies to address violence.

Although women in the Euro-Med area, as well as in all parts of the world are subject to violence in the private and public spheres, the South Neighbourhood region stands out because of the combination of discriminative legislation, poor legal protection for victims; the absolute division between the public and the private spheres; and the traditional link between family honour and women that leads to the most extreme form of domestic abuse, and culture and religion values that normalize Violence against Women. Even when countries have adopted specific laws against honour killings, perpetrators often get a lighter sentence than if they had killed somebody outside of the family.

Practices and cultural or religious prejudices persist: genital mutilation, difficulty of access to sexual and reproductive health, prohibition of therapeutic abortion including in cases of danger to the health of the mother, and risk of malformation of the foetus in cases of incest and rape, forced and early marriage, to name some. Religion is used to both justify these and abuse women.

Economic factors such as poverty and unemployment can exacerbate violence against women and children. Poverty generates frustration and humiliation that create violence against “the weaker part” of the family: women and children. Financial autonomy of women is a major precondition to curb violence. Poverty, which is widespread in certain parts of the region, makes women more vulnerable to male violence because it deprives them of their autonomy. Refugee and migrant women and girls are also particularly vulnerable and exposed to gender-based violence.

In rural areas, girls and adult women are often expected to stay at home and work in the house and farms. Moreover, most women’s organisations that work for increased protection of women and promote women’s rights are situated in big cities. Violence against women and honour killings tend to be much more common and early marriage is widespread. Young women are particularly affected by violence, and public space is increasingly unequal and sexist.

Besides all these types of violence, women are also facing **institutional violence**: in most countries, women do not have the same citizenship rights and nationality rights as men. In all countries in the Middle East and North Africa women face legal discrimination in personal status law and penal code. Lack of legal status of refugee and migrant women can expose them to further institutional violence.

### ***1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework***

The proposed action is in line with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), adopted in November 2015, which places special emphasis on supporting civil society and promoting citizen participation and engagement, focusing especially on young women and men. More specifically, the programme "Dialogue with Civil Society for Rights and Equality" aligns with the new ENP in:

providing support to civil society, both through direct means (developing the capacities of civil society organisations, professionals and leadership) and indirectly by facilitating participation of civil society at local, national and regional levels, deploying tools for a deeper engagement with civil society and social partners;

- promoting inclusive dialogue on good governance, human rights and democracy issues, and main issues of concern at national and regional levels;
- placing emphasis on the prospects for youth, stepping up partnerships with young people, promoting people-to-people contacts and providing young people with new venues and tools for exchange, debate and network;
- promoting gender equality and women's rights; empowerment of women and girls; their access to justice, education, health care and other social services; strengthening their voice; fighting stereotypes; shifting institutional culture to be 'gender friendly';
- supporting citizens' ability to hold governments accountable; improve the pluralism, independence, and professionalism of the media; helping it to act as a forum for public debate and as the catalyst for change in partner countries; promoting open and free internet.

In addition, the proposed action relating to supporting civil society capacities in the region is in line with and complementary to the following frameworks:

The Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility, launched in 2011 with the objective of strengthening civil society's capacity to promote and monitor reform, to carry out advocacy work and to increase public accountability, based on the acknowledgement by the EU of the crucial role played by CSOs in promoting democratic governance, equitable development and inclusive, sustainable growth.

The 2012 European Commission Communication "The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations", proposes an enhanced and more strategic approach for EU's engagement with civil society. The Communication's objective is to facilitate constructive relations between states and civil society organisations and it identifies priority areas for engagement with local CSOs in partner countries relating to promotion of an enabling environment; participation of civil society in domestic policies, in the EU programming cycle and in international processes and capacity development for CSOs to perform their roles more effectively. The Communication foresees the creation of National Civil Society country Roadmaps by EU Delegations and Member States to activate and ensure structured dialogue and strategic co-operation, improve the impact predictability and visibility of EU actions and ensure consistency and synergy throughout the various sectors covered.

The Civil Society Forum –Neighbourhood South was convened for the first time in 2013 and aims at establishing sustainable mechanisms for open dialogue between the Civil society and the EU. In this context a regional hub for structured dialogue will be established at the end of 2017 which will enable civil society to organise autonomously and to co-ordinate advocacy and consultation efforts to feed into a more systemic dialogue between CSOs from the region and EU Institutions. Amongst its specific objectives is empowering CSOs to defend the rights of women and girls and the promotion of women's rights.

Enhancing and enabling regular dialogue and consultations with civil society is one of the principles of the Lisbon Treaty, with a view to ensuring the consistency and transparency of EU policies. In development policy, the EU has promoted the comprehensive and progressive participation of civil society organisations in national



development processes and in broader political, social and economic dialogues at all levels, including on climate change and the environment.

The proposed action is also in line with the Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan: chapter I.b ("invigorating civil society"), and more particularly objective 8 "Empowering Civil Society Organisations defending the rights of women and girls" and chapter II (Addressing Human Rights Challenges) particularly Objective 14 "Promoting gender equality, women's rights, empowerment and participation of women and girls" that includes empowerment objectives for young women and men.

This initiative is fully in line with the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) II which establishes Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) as an essential means for achieving peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. The second component of this initiative also will support recommendations from upcoming UfM Ministerial on Women Empowerment.

This action is fully in line as well with the DAPHNE specific objective of the EU Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, which aims to contribute to the prevention of, and the fight against all forms of violence occurring in the public or the private domain, including sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings. A regional project with Council of Europe to be launched with 2017 ENI funds will include a component advocating the signature and ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

### **1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis**

The programme involves a wide variety of actors active in the Mediterranean Region: a) civil society and citizens in general with particular focus on young women and men; ii) national authorities; iii) EU institutions; iv) regional institutions and entities.

The target groups of the actions are mainly civil society organisations (CSOs), including organisations active in pursuing women's rights in the region.

As defined in the 2012 EU Communication on "**The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations**", 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. They include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) organisations, co-operatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media. Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs.

Civil society has been facing key challenges: emerging CSOs in the region, especially for women and youth organisations have to define their role and complementarity: in particular, on issues such as specialisation, more professional

approach and mobilisation of the general public, isolation vs. regional networking and dialogue, young vs. older/institutionalised CSOs.

The action focuses on empowering civil society, including young women and men from diverse socio-economic and geographical backgrounds. These young people, who represent a large part of the population, have limited access to quality education and job opportunities. They lack venues for citizen's engagement, they do not find that politicians or mainstream media adequately reflect their interests and concerns, and in addition, they have little means of influencing this.

For component 1: special attention will be paid to identifying and supporting new networks that have emerged 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’), may be considered as partners.

Partner governments’ authorities who are open to engaging in a regional policy dialogue may be associated in the capacity-building activities, to be assessed on a case by case. The Civil Society Facility should ultimately also aim to foster public institutions’ ability and willingness to associate CSOs in regional policy dialogues, co-operation activities and sector reforms.

EU Delegations supporting CSO capacity development and inclusion in policy dialogues through bilateral programmes need to be closely associated in order to ensure co-ordination, complementarity and synergies between national and regional activities. If relevant, partner countries other than ENI beneficiaries may be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) 232/2014. This refers in particular to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey, which are Member States of the UfM).

### ***1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis***

#### **Component 1: Strengthening Civil Society’s role in sustainable development**

The Arab Spring created new opportunities for the emergence of a comprehensive, thriving and active civil society. To a certain degree, civil society became more organised and structured, and acquired new roles, moving from being mainly service deliverers to become more politically vocal, able to exert public influence and recognised as drivers of change. However civil society has been dealing those last years with political instability, lack of resources and capacities.

In many cases, the limited experience of the new players in managing networks, implementing national and regional projects and participating in public life and dialogue curtails their potential.

Young leaders and specialised CSOs in the Southern Neighbourhood Region are often also characterised by fragmentation, isolation and lack of strategy. There are needs to reinforce their ability to co-ordinate and network with their peers from the region in order to engage in emerging regional agendas that are owned and credibly defended by viable networks with roots in their own societies and pursued over a longer period of time.

Therefore, supporting capacity building on advocacy for regional dialogue and co-operation through major themes, and networking between CSOs are the main priorities. Specific actions to strengthen civil society participation in policy dialogue and governance will concentrate on capacity-building at a regional level, one of the main recommendations of a recent evaluation of past regional civil society programmes, in order to maximise complementarity with activities carried out by EU Delegations at national level.

### **Component 2: Addressing root causes of violence against women with the support of CSOs**

Harmonising legislation with international standards, notably the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UN Security Council Recommendations on Women, Peace and Security and Beijing Platform for Action has been seen as a pre-condition for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. In this respect, lifting the reservations to the CEDAW which allow formal, legal discrimination against women in personal status matters (divorce, marriage, inheritance, property, custody), remains a means and a goal. Through these reservations women are denied their status of full citizens. Furthermore, the reservations concern fundamental articles of the CEDAW as well as the object and purpose of the treaty, and hence they are invalid according to Article 19 of the Vienna Convention on the Laws of Treaties.

More importantly, the Council of the EU has signed the Istanbul Convention which is a key framework for progressing in this area, on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The Istanbul Convention is the first legally binding regional instrument in Europe that comprehensively addresses different forms of violence against women including psychological violence, stalking, physical violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment. This is an open convention that all countries can sign and ratify and, beyond the CEDAW, represents the most comprehensive framework on Violence Against Women in Europe to date. The EU should promote this Convention as a regional standard for the Southern Neighbourhood countries, by inviting states to ratify it. The Istanbul Convention addresses all forms of violence against women and it foresees a role for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and a range of stakeholders to be involved in combating the problem. One of the 4 pillars of the Convention is related to policy integration, promoting support to NGOs in order to assure their key role in monitoring the implementation of the Convention by the States. Another pillar tackles the prevention of Violence Against Women by eradication of gender stereotypes.

Nevertheless, it is not enough to adopt non-binding resolutions and good legislation. Both adoption and effective implementation of laws must be ensured through political will, zero tolerance towards violence approach, political and financial resources, **training of all institutional stakeholders, accompanied with large-scales awareness raising campaigns on root causes of men's violence against women.**

Moreover, it has been noted that increased radicalisation in the region could exacerbate existing limitations on women's freedom and access to their rights, including a heightened sense of responsibility (and blame) for their children's action. Women's fears about the impact of radicalisation relate directly to their daily

activities – their day-to-day freedom of movement outside the home, their ability to find a job or an educational opportunity, increased violence within the home and decreased opportunities for engagement and volunteering with their communities.

Hence, this action will promote EU commitments towards this Convention by contributing to shape public opinion and governmental agendas and by creating the political will to address violence against women as a political priority, demanding institutional reforms that lead to comprehensive improvement.

## 2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Risks of political instability in the region and possible changes of government or regimes. Support given to political actors, leaders of political movements and emerging leaders is a highly sensitive issue.	H	Monitoring of the situation and supporting democratic structures and principles. Partner countries can choose between different schemes of co-operation and actions do not necessarily concern all countries. Implementation will need to be modulated taking account of the different levels of commitment by partner countries to supporting both major components. The fact that individual countries will not be "targeted" and that for, component two, the action will support a Ministerial Declaration of the UfM should help to alleviate this risk.
Opposition to violence against women may face opposition from religious and socially conservative trends as this step directly challenges male privilege and control of women	H	Participatory approach envisaged, in order to gather diverse range of actors, including youth, women activists, religious leaders and government sectors.
Actions regarding combatting violence against women could be perceived by some governments/sectors of society as Europe/western culture impositions and against their traditions and culture	M	Link with EU Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme activities, which focuses on tackling same problems within Europe. The Istanbul Convention is the regional standard on Violence Against Women which has been adopted by the EU and all Member States .Advocacy for adoption in Neighbourhood South countries will be promoted by other bilateral and regional initiatives

<p>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.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Problems in implementation will be raised with the states concerned as part of the Policy Dialogue foreseen by the Partnership Priorities (for those countries which have agreed these) and by bilateral Action Plans for the remainder. Co-operation with regional organisations such as UfM and League of Arab States could also help in mitigating this risk.</p>
<p>Unwillingness of CSOs to engage in policy dialogue with the State or simply the lack of incentives to do so.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Tripartite dialogue where possible (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>
<p>Poor mobility between countries, due to a lack of regional integration, could affect the efficiency and effectiveness of regional activities, as prospective participants can have difficulty in obtaining visas in a timely manner.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Care has to be taken in selecting locations for regional CSO events. In some cases active intervention with the relevant authorities will be required in order to facilitate visas for participants.</p>
<p><b>Assumptions</b></p>		
<p>-The current proposal has been drafted in full knowledge of the current environment for CSOs , including those advocating for women's rights and assumes that this will not deteriorate further at regional level.</p> <p>- It is assumed that certain partner countries may invoke security concerns as an excuse to control CSOs and limit freedom of speech will not prevent regional activities from taking place, albeit that it may imply that careful thought will need to be given to where and when particular events may take place.</p>		

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

**3.1 Lessons learnt**

Ongoing support to good governance and democratisation processes in the Neighbourhood South region have shown the need to support citizens' engagement and especially participation of young women and men in public affairs. Citizens request to voice their concerns, to debate, to be heard and to be taken into account.

In the last quarter of 2016, the Commission commissioned an independent evaluation of the capacity development support provided by both regional and bilateral programmes to civil society from the Neighbourhood South<sup>4</sup> following the Arab Spring of 2011. The purpose was threefold. First, to assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the various capacity development initiatives that sought to empower civil society –while taking into account the major contextual challenges that occurred over the period 2012-2016. Second, to draw core lessons from the way in which EU support strategies were implemented. Third, to formulate recommendations that could help the EU to rethink, where needed, its overall response strategy towards civil society in a volatile region confronted with major challenges that also directly concern Europe’s geopolitical, economic and security interests. The evaluation found that the ENI-funded programmes building capacities of civil society from a regional perspective have proven of added value in the Neighbourhood South and recommended strengthening and expanding current networks, looking to diversify participants, include wider civil society organisations (schools, universities, media, etc.) and promote the interaction between civil society and national authorities and regional entities. In addition it is important to promote both axes of communication and exchange between countries in the region, North-South and South-South.

An evaluation was held early 2017 to assess capacity building initiatives in the region at bilateral and regional levels: it was the opportunity to consult various CSOs including beneficiaries from Civil society EU grants and technical assistances, as well as the Anna Lindh Foundation and the European Endowment for Democracy.

New initiatives promoting participation and engagement of civil society need to show: i) political recognition and leverage; ii) policy orientation; iii) openness and transparency; iv) ownership by civil society v) open channels of interaction with authorities and EU institutions; vi) coherent and complementary of the dialogue at national and regional levels; vi) engagement of wide range of stakeholders, such as local authorities, trade unions, business associations, environmental organisations, social movements, local development agencies, foundations, youth organisations, media or academia. They should also promote the engagement of Youth and Women and capacity to specialise in priority fields for regional dialogue.

Complementary to bilateral action, the main role of the selected organisation under the civil society component, will be to work on the theme of resilience with relevant organisations (such as the UfM, League of Arab States or Council of Europe) with a concept of resilience being understood as one going further than classic security concerns and on the basis of security approach.

### 3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

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 have been also responsible for keeping other donors informed of the progress made under the Civil Society

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<sup>4</sup> Encompassing Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Syria.

Facility in the country-level donor co-ordination groups between 2013 and 2017. The regional project addressing violence against women is part of an overall approach to the question, linking in at political level through the UfM Ministerial Conference, to internal EU programmes such as the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme" and with the approach through our financial support in 2017 to the Council of Europe's regional activities which will place a strong emphasis on advocating for governments in the Southern Neighbourhood to adhere to the Istanbul Convention. The project is also complementary to a number of activities carried on in this theme at bilateral level through EIDHR country-based support programmes and ENI bilateral programmes.

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 the main 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/Local Authorities, 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 co-ordination should be ensured by the establishment of a Steering Committee with a strategic vision, possibly chaired by the EU, 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 Programme 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.

The activities for young leaders included in the civil society component will take into account the main programmes implemented by the major donors in the region for Young leaders. A number of ongoing programmes are financed by the EU and contribute to enhancing Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the field of youth. These include NET-MED Youth; Spring Forward for Women; MedMedia; MedCulture; and institutional support for Anna Lindh Foundation, Endowment for Democracy and Erasmus+ Programme. in addition to the Dialogue Fellows programme of the Civil Society Facility South in 2016 and 2017.

In addition, the programme Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0 is about to complement a global initiative under the thematic programme 'Investing in People' whose aim is to contribute to inclusive growth by helping partner countries to better respond to the aspirations of young people and strengthen their involvement in national development processes, through a better understanding of the determinants of youth

inclusion and greater capacity to design effective evidence-based national policies promoting youth inclusion.

The programme will take into account and co-ordinate with other regional, as well as bilateral and thematic, EU programmes dealing with enhancing women's rights and promoting equality as well as humanitarian aid providing psycho-social and legal support for victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Complementarity and synergy will be sought in particular with other initiatives promoting the Istanbul Convention and/or campaigning and raising awareness on Violence Against Women. In particular, special attention will be given to find complementary with global call for proposals to be launched during 2017 by the European Commission on "Preventing Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women and Girls in Developing countries". This Call for Proposals will focus on specific actions to palliate violence suffered by women in 'forgotten crises' and refugee camps all over the world, including most of the countries in the Neighbourhood South region.

### 3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The action is framed in the context of the rights-based approach which is the basis of the themes chosen and the activities in support of these. This is particularly the case with the Component 2 where support for adherence to the Istanbul Convention on violence against women is at the heart of the programme.

In 2013, civil society representatives requested the EU institutions to articulate debate and consultation around three main areas: i) reducing inequalities (economic and social rights), including gender equality and women's rights; ii) shrinking space for civil society (civil and political rights); iii) mobility and migration shrinking space. In 2017, resilience and security were introduced among the priority areas. Therefore, by promoting citizens' engagement and participation under those three axes, this programme includes crucial cross-cutting issues such as human rights, governance and rule of law, gender, environment and climate change.

The action will contribute to governance and democratisation by supporting involvement and participation of citizens, especially young people, in public affairs. Debates will be organised among women and men dealing with priority themes for the region, among them respect for human rights and promotion of democracy, equality between women and men, respect for environment and sustainable use of resources, migration and mobility, refugees situation, etc.

The relation between civil society and the media and the role of the social media in particular in the promotion of civil society message is key.

The 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 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.

The second component of the action targets specifically women and special attention will be given to vulnerable groups such as migrant or rural women with regards to Violence Against Women.



Working with civil society organisations on **economic development**, employability and reducing inequalities will be at the centre of the facility's priorities.

**Environmental sustainability** and **climate change** are major issues in the Southern Neighbourhood where scarce water resources are a potential (and current) source of conflict and unsustainable agricultural practices require to be changed. Sustainable urban development is a major issue receiving attention at Ministerial level within the Union for the Mediterranean and CSOs have expertise in these fields which can contribute significantly to de-escalating tensions and finding sustainable solution to the challenges facing the region.

#### **4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

##### **4.1 Objectives/results**

The overall objective of the civil society Facility Neighbourhood South is to strengthen the role of Civil Society Organisations in sustainable development and resilience in the Southern Neighbourhood

Specific Objectives - Component 1:

To provide technical assistance to CSOs in order to:

1. Strengthen the involvement of CSOs and CSO networks in emerging regional agendas and thematic dialogues, reinforcing their ability to co-ordinate and network with their peers from the region;
2. Ensure that the regional hub networks and consults regularly with CSO stakeholders in the Neighbourhood South with an increased number, frequency, quality and impact of regional dialogues with civil society, European Union(EU) institutions, regional entities and authorities;
3. Assist young civil society leaders to launch advocacy initiatives as part of the dialogue with the EU and with relevant stakeholders from the region;
4. Strengthen CSOs' role in developing resilience and stability at regional level, complementary to the bilateral level.

Specific Objectives- Component 2:

Increased public awareness towards violence against women with attitudes and behaviour towards violence against women changing;  
Increased capacities and number of CSOs promoting legislation criminalising Violence Against Women and its implementation, particularly the Istanbul Convention.

##### **4.2 Main activities**

###### **Component 1:**

**Specific objective 1.** Strengthen the involvement of CSOs and CSO networks in emerging regional agendas and thematic dialogues, sustainably reinforcing their ability to co-ordinate and network with their peers from the region.

Indicative types of activities:

- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of CSO networks and initiatives with a regional dimension or agenda;

- Develop a Civil Society Roadmap at regional level, identifying priorities, needs, synergies and added value. This could be used as a political analysis tool on and for enabling environment and dialogue with civil society organisations, regional entities and other relevant stakeholders in the region;
- In complementarity to bilateral support programmes, implement capacity-building activities supporting CSO's for advocacy on regional development and integration processes;
- Identification and dissemination of good practices regarding CSOs-oriented ENP programmes and the participation of non-state actors in new aid modalities in order to bring substance to contribution of civil society actors to programming, review and evaluation;
- Organisation of trainings, seminars, meetings; providing a "safe space" for CSOs to meet, exchange good practices, feel part of a wider community and engage in dialogue with regional bodies, including the EU;
- Ad-hoc back-stopping support (e.g. helpdesks for CSOs, support to CSOs umbrellas, etc.) is provided;
- Support North-South exchanges 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 or material for the online platform of the regional hub for structured dialogue can also be funded.

**Specific objective 2.** Accompany and guide the newly-created regional hub for structured dialogue at regional level and with the EU Institutions.

Indicative types of activities:

- Trainings and workshops to increase capacity to co-operate with the EU at regional level and increase knowledge and awareness of priority themes (such as migration, security and resilience, governance and human rights, reducing inequalities and economic development) in close co-operation with the hub;
- Concerning the reinforcement of policy dialogue: organisation of workshops and conferences, together with preparatory events for these; organisation of joint training with civil society actors to strengthen their ability to undertake dialogue and foster co-operation amongst them; identification and dissemination of results of social dialogue processes; exchange of best practices etc.

**Specific objective 3.** Reinforce the participation of young women and men in public life by expanding programmes for young civil society leaders.

Indicative types of activities:

- Targeted trainings for young civil society leaders of the regional through exchange programmes, career-shadowing, coaching and networking, intervening into regional dialogue;

- Dedicated workshops involving Young leaders during or for preparing the EU Fora involving Civil Society from the Neighbourhood South.

**Specific Objective 4:** Support CSOs' role in developing resilience and stability at regional level.

Complementary to bilateral action, the main role of the selected organisation under the civil society component, will be to work on the theme with relevant organisations (such as the UfM, League of Arab States, or Council of Europe) with a concept of resilience being understood as one going further than classic security concerns and on the basis of security approach.

Indicative types of activities:

- Workshops for supporting authorities (local, national, regional) and CSOs in working jointly in policy design and implementation in the region;
- Support for increased engagement with civil society by regional bodies, in particular, the Union for the Mediterranean, League of Arab States.

### **Component 2:**

**Specific objective 1:** Increase public awareness towards violence against women, as well as change attitudes and behaviours towards Violence Against Women, including a campaign with regional scope.

Indicative types of activities:

- A regional campaign for awareness-raising of all people to stand up against Violence Against Women and take action when witnessing it. This will address the social tolerance and victim blaming.;
- Maintaining national campaigns involving opinion makers, actors and role models.

**Specific objective 2:** Increase capacities and number of CSOs that promote legislation criminalising Violence Against Women and its implementation, particularly Istanbul Convention.

Indicative types of activities:

- Mobilise CSOs to raise awareness of Istanbul Convention and advocate for its implementation at national level;
- Regional outreach – promote regional debates on changing discriminative legislation and support implementation of laws grounded in international Women's Rights norms and legal framework.

## **4.3 Intervention logic**

The Southern Neighbourhood is a region where civil society has had difficulty in organising, on a national basis due to often restrictive political and administrative environments. The complications of a region which is the least-integrated in the world in terms of social, political and economic links, exacerbated by a number of long-standing and in some cases, more recent conflicts, render the task of organising an effective civil society voice at regional level even more challenging. The "Arab Spring" movements in 2011 provided hope for an improvement in this situation, but with some exceptions, such hope has not been fulfilled.

In this situation women have faced discrimination on a long-term basis and are often excluded from participation in economic and political life, increasing their vulnerability and exposure to gender-based violence. Components 1 and 2 of the present Action Document are therefore designed to take concrete measures to address the problems described in Sections 1.1.1 (**Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework**) and 1.1.2 (**Stakeholder Analysis**) of the present document. The engagement proposed with civil society organisations is based on recommendations received at the Southern Neighbourhood Civil Society organised annually by the Commission since 2014, where CSO representatives consistently expressed their need for assistance for capacity-building, awareness-raising, lobbying and creating platforms which would allow them to take control of their own agenda in the areas of their competence in addressing both the EU and other relevant regional bodies.

Component 2 is complementary with the political action currently being prepared by the Union for the Mediterranean which will organise a Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment in Cairo at the end of 2017. This Declaration is intended to provide the political impetus to encourage participating status to accept and ratify the Istanbul Convention on Violence Against Women. It will be followed up by an ENI regional action undertaken by the Council of Europe (the "sponsor" of the Convention ) which will concentrate on awareness-raising at the political and legislative level. The present action should therefore be seen as a component part of a broader political initiative aimed at decreasing the incidence of gender-based violence in the region, by concentrating on activities nearer the ground level where it is easier for CSOs rather than international bodies to be present.

With a view to 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 a **service contract and grants**.

The actions related to component 1 will be implemented via service contract to meet the need for relevant expertise combined with flexibility to specific needs to be formulated by the EU, the regional hub, CSO representatives be working at regional level, and young leaders from civil society. Requested expertise will be respond to specific needs and provided by different types of actors: civil society, consultants, thematic experts, higher and research institutions, or media.

The actions related to component 2 will be implemented by means of grants as:

This allows a civil- society driven leadership rather than an EU driven one.

It thus opens the possibility to more creative ideas and implementation of the priorities of civil society.

## **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 36 months.

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 direct management, the Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures affecting the respective countries of operation.

### 5.3.1 Grants: call for proposals (direct management) for component 2

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

- (i) Increased public awareness towards violence against women, as well as change attitudes and behaviours towards Violence Against Women, including a campaign with regional scope;
- (ii) Increased capacities and number of CSOs that promote legislation criminalising Violence Against Women and its implementation, particularly Istanbul Convention.

(b) Eligibility conditions

Place of establishment of applicants: ENI South countries, EU Member States, countries covered by Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), European Economic Area (EEA) countries.

Type: CSOs in the widest sense of the term, as defined in above-mentioned 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; associations of media and media development agencies; 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 sole beneficiaries or to consortia of beneficiaries (co-ordinator and at least two co-applicants).

The indicative duration of the grants (their implementation period) is 24 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 these calls 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 need for 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

1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2018.

**5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)**

	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Component 1	Services	3	1 <sup>st</sup> semester 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 realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

## 5.5 Indicative budget

	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</b>
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 2	3,600,000	900,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management) – Component 1	3,000,000	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,600,000</b>	<b>900,000</b>

## 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by Commission Services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations). An appropriate inter-service consultation mechanism will be created to ensure the coherence of the project and synergies with the similar projects ongoing in the Neighbourhood East and the Western Balkans.

For component 1, a Steering Committee shall be established, chaired by Commission Services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), to ensure strategic guidance of the action in co-ordination with EU Delegations in the region.

## 5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least 2 months 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 the partner countries and other key stakeholders. The implementing partners and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner countries, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the 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 countries, 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.

## **6 PRE-CONDITIONS**

Not applicable



**APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)**

	<b>Results chain</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective: Impact</b>	The role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in sustainable development and resilience in the Southern Neighbourhood is strengthened.	<p>Measures the long-term change at country or sector level. For example, literacy rate disaggregated by sex. However, it is normally not appropriate for the project itself to try and collect this information.</p> <p>Reinforced and systematic consultations of civil society in the region on policy dialogue for resilience and stability</p>	<p>Ideally, to be drawn from the partner's strategy</p> <p>2 per year at regional level through the Civil society Forum</p>	<p>Ideally, to be drawn from the partner's strategy</p> <p>At least 1 consultation at regional level per priority theme</p>	<p>To be drawn from the partner's strategy.</p> <p>Integrated Civil Society in Policy documents (ENP, UfM Declarations, etc.)</p>	<p>Shrinking space for civil society in the region</p> <p>Lack of political will to work closer with civil society</p> <p>Instability of the region: obstacles to regional integration</p> <p>Creating synergies with Neighbours of Neighbours</p> <p>Various sub regional dynamics</p>

	<b>Results chain</b>	<b>Outcome Indicators</b> Measures the likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an interventions' outputs.	<b>Baselines</b> (incl. reference year)	<b>Targets</b> (incl. reference year)	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Specific objective 1 Outcome(s)</b>	Strengthened involvement of CSOs and CSO networks in emerging regional agendas and thematic dialogues, sustainably reinforcing their ability to co-ordinate and network with their peers from the region.	Share (or number) of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks	To be determined by the regional mapping exercise	To be determined after the regional mapping exercise	Regional Mapping exercise Surveys Report of the TA Evaluation of Training activities	
<b>Specific objective 2 Outcome(s)</b>	The regional hub networks and consults regularly with CSO stakeholders in the Neighbourhood South with an increased number, frequency, quality and impact of regional dialogues with civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and authorities.	Number, frequency and quality of advocacy products, meetings and initiatives launched by the regional hub	0	Tbd in co-ordination with the hub	Surveys Report of the regional hub Report of the TA	
<b>Specific objective 3 Outcome(s)</b>	Young civil society leaders launch advocacy initiatives as part of the dialogue with the EU and with relevant stakeholders from the region	Number, frequency and quality of advocacy products, meetings and initiatives launched by the dialogue fellows	0	Tbd	Surveys Report of the TA Evaluation of Training activities	
<b>Specific objective 4 Outcome(s)</b>	Strengthened role of CSOs developing resilience and stability at regional level, complementary to the bilateral level	Number, frequency and quality of advocacy products, meetings and initiatives launched in relation to regional entities				

	<p><b>Component 2:</b></p> <p>Increased public awareness towards violence against women, attitudes and behaviour towards VA changed</p> <p>Increased capacities and number of CSOs that promote legislation criminalizing VAW and its implementation, particularly Istanbul Convention</p>	<p>Number of reached audience (disaggregated by sex/age)</p> <p>Evidence of changed behaviour and attitudes.</p> <p>Draft legislations are discussed by decision makers</p>	<p>0</p>		<p>Activities and campaign reports</p> <p>Official statistics on violence against women; opinion polls.</p> <p>draft laws official statements</p>	<p>Decision makers stay at present level of openness to women's rights movements or become more open</p>
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	Results chain	Output Indicators Measures the degree of delivery of the outputs. For example, number of schools built and teachers trained disaggregated by sex.	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Specific objective 1 Output(s) Specific objective 4 Output (s)	<p><b>Specific objective 1 - Output (s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a comprehensive mapping of CSO networks and initiatives with a regional dimension or agenda;</li> <li>• Develop a Civil Society Roadmap at regional level, identifying priorities, needs, synergies and added value for regional civil society capacity-building measures;</li> <li>• In complementarity to bilateral support programmes, implement capacity-building activities supporting CSO's for advocacy on regional development and integration processes.</li> <li>• Identification and dissemination of good practices regarding CSOs-oriented ENP programmes and the participation of non-state actors in new aid modalities in order to bring substance to contribution of civil society actors to programming, review and evaluation.</li> <li>• Organisation of trainings, seminars, meetings; providing a "safe space" for CSOs to meet, exchange good practices, feel part of a wider community and engage in dialogue with regional bodies, including the EU.</li> <li>• Ad-hoc back-stopping support (e.g.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Mapping conducted</li> <li>• Regional Roadmap elaborated</li> <li>• Number of regional capacity building measures (training, coaching, networking events) implemented</li> <li>• Information/co-ordination tools for CSOs (i.e. internet platforms, resource centres, etc) produced</li> <li>• Ad-hoc support provided to EU Delegations</li> </ul>	National roadmaps and mappings were done but none at regional level	tbd	Regional Mapping exercise Surveys Report of the TA Training products developed Evaluation of Training activities	

	<p>helpdesks for CSOs, support to CSOs umbrellas, etc.) is provided;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support North-South exchanges 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.</li> <li>• Activities targeting the facilitation of information to CSOs, such as internet platforms or resource centres or material for the online platform of the regional hub for structured dialogue can also be funded</li> </ul>					
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Specific objective 2 Output(s)</p>	<p><b>Specific objective 2 Output (s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of demand-driven capacity development support and ad-hoc assistance to the regional hub to strengthen regional policy dialogue between civil society and the EU, notably by enhancing knowledge and awareness related to priority themes of the ENP (such as migration, security and resilience, governance and human rights, reducing inequalities and economic development).</li> <li>• This assistance will be determined in co-ordination and complementarity to the activities and initiatives implemented by the regional hub, and will be based on a needs assessment conducted jointly with the regional</li> </ul>	<p>Capacity building measures for the hub and its stakeholders (training, coaching, networking events) implemented.</p>	<p>The hub will be created at the end of 2018</p>	<p>To be determined in co-ordination the hub</p>	<p>Surveys Report of the regional hub Report of the TA  Evaluation of training activities</p>	

	<p>hub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This assistance may include (but is not limited to) the organisation of thematic/regional workshops and conferences, preparatory events, co-organisation of training activities with civil society actors to enhance regional dialogue and advocacy capacities, identification and dissemination of results of social dialogue processes; exchange of best practices etc.</li> </ul>					
Specific objective 3 Output(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted trainings for young civil society leaders of the regional through exchange programmes, career-shadowing, coaching and networking, intervening into regional dialogue;</li> <li>Dedicated workshops involving Young leaders during or for preparing the EU Fora involving Civil Society from the Neighbourhood South.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training activities, exchange programmes, career-shadowing, coaching and networking, intervening into regional dialogue implemented.</li> </ul>	2 batches of about 25 fellows: one in 2016 and one in 2017	tbd	Surveys Report of the TA Evaluation of Training activities	
Specific objective 4 Output (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>workshops for supporting authorities (local, national, regional) and CSOs in working jointly in policy design and implementation in the region</li> <li>Support for increased engagement with civil society by regional bodies , in particular, the Union for the Mediterranean, League of Arab States</li> </ul>	Number of key political meetings where CS recommendations are considered				

	<p><b>Outputs: Component 2</b></p> <p>A regional awareness campaign combatting VAW</p> <p>Mobilisation of CSOs to raise awareness of Istanbul Convention and advocate for its implementation at national level.</p> <p>Regional outreach – promote regional debates on changing discriminative legislation and support implementation of laws grounded in international WR norms and legal framework.</p>	<p>Number of countries in which campaign can be organised</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>All southern Neighbourhood Countries (with exception of Syria)</p>	<p>CSO partners/Media/EU Delegations</p>	<p>Freedom of expression and speech is not suppressed and media are not censored.</p>
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