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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX VI

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2022 action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood

Action Document for 2022 Youth Package

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan/measure in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS Basic Act	2022 Youth Package 2022 action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood OPSYS business reference: ACT-60813 ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.971262 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Component 2-NEET will contribute to the Regional Team Europe Initiative on Jobs through trade and investment - Pillar 2 (vocational training/technical skills)
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in: - <u>For the component 1-YMV II</u> : Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Syria ³ and Tunisia. As per Article 43(1) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, the activities under this component will be extended, for reasons of efficiency and effectiveness, to the

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

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

³ Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011, so involvement of Syria authorities under this component remains hypothetical (nevertheless civil society could potentially be reached out)

	<p>following non-EU members states of the Union for Mediterranean: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Türkiye and Mauritania.</p> <p>This is justified because this component is of a trans-regional nature. These countries are, together with the Southern Neighbourhood countries, the member states of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) which will implement this component. The ALF has the mandate of promoting inter-cultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region.</p> <p>This is in line with the “Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme (2021-2027)”, which makes reference, under priority 5 (specific objective 1) to the importance of regional integration⁴:</p> <p>- <u>For the component 2-NEET</u>: Neighbourhood South countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia.</p>
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (2021 2027) ⁵
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	<p><u>Component 1-YMV II:</u></p> <p>Priority area 1: “Human Development, good governance and rule of law:</p> <p>SO1: To promote democracy, human rights, good governance and transparency;</p> <p>SO3: To promote active youth citizenship.</p> <p><u>Component 2-NEET:</u></p> <p>Priority area 1: “Human Development, good governance and rule of law”:</p> <p>SO3: To promote active youth citizenship.</p> <p>Priority area 2: “Strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transformation”:</p> <p>S04: to enhance inclusive economy and promote financial inclusion.</p>
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	<p><u>Component 1-YMV II:</u></p> <p>151 Government and Civil Society</p> <p><u>Component 2-NEET:</u></p> <p>110 Education</p> <p>151 Government and Civil Society</p>

⁴ “The future regional cooperation should have a flexible geographical and thematic scope, also allowing for interlinkages with other regions, where necessary and appropriate as highlighted in the Joint Communication on a Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A new Agenda for the Mediterranean⁴.” and “The EU will be ready to explore further regional, sub-regional or trilateral cooperation and joint initiatives between partners in targeted areas of mutual interest and of a cross-border nature” - 2.5 Support to the main drivers of regional integration, specific objective 1 (to enhance cooperation with regional organisations).

⁵ C (2021) 9399 dated 16.12.2021

	160 Other Social Infrastructure & Services
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDGs : SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”; SDG 8: “Decent work and economic growth”, SDG 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.</p> <p>The component 1-YMV II will have a direct impact on young people in relation with the following SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 5: “Gender Equality and women's empowerment”; • SDG 8: “Decent work and economic growth”, • SDG 10: “Reduced Inequalities”; • SDG 11: “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” • SDG 16: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” <p>The component 2-NEET will have a direct impact on young people in relation with the following SDGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”; • SDG 5: “Gender Equality and women's empowerment”; • SDG 8: “Decent work and economic growth”; • SDG 10: “Reduced Inequalities”.
8 a) DAC code(s)	<p>Component 1-YMV II:</p> <p>15150 - Democratic participation and civil society</p> <p>Component 2-NEET:</p> <p>11230 - Basic life skills for youth and adults</p> <p>11330 - Vocational training</p> <p>11430 - Advanced technical and managerial training</p> <p>15150 - Democratic participation and civil society</p> <p>16020 - Employment creation</p>
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	<p>Component 1-YMV II: 47000 - Other multilateral institutions</p> <p>Component 2-NEET: 940 - International Labour organisation (ILO)</p>

9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development ⁶ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

⁶ For the Neighbourhood, activities related to education shall be marked as part of the “Social Inclusion and Human Development” target, in line with the NDICI-GE programming guidelines.

job creation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital skills/literacy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Connectivity @</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tags: transport		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
people2people		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
energy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Migration @</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of Inequalities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020110 Total estimated cost: EUR 7 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 7 000 000
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MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Implementation modalities (type of financing and management mode)	Project Modality Direct management through: - Grant Indirect management with the International organisation of Labour (ILO)
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1.2. Summary of the Action

Component 1-YMV II:

This component is anchored in the legacy of the previous Young Mediterranean Voices programme (2018-2021) and Young Arab Voices programme (2011-2016) and will support the cooperative engagement of citizens of the two shores of the Mediterranean in public affairs, political participation as well as local and regional transformative initiatives, targeting young women and men, empowering them to assume an active and visible role in addressing social challenges with intercultural values and principles.

The component will contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Security and Strong Institutions) as the key SDG that is targeted.

Component 2-NEET:

This component will operate as a Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) supporting, on a demand-driven basis, the institutions / stakeholders in the MENA region that are willing to develop innovative options in order to reengage NEET youth (population aged 15-29) in education, training and the labour market, particularly inactive young women, discouraged workers, long-term excluded or with disabilities and those with low

educational attainment. In the medium run, the TAF can be instrumental in establishing or even piloting some Young Guarantees Schemes (YGS) inspired by those existing in the EU.

This component will contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”; SDG 8: “Decent work and economic growth” (key targeted SDGs).

Overall, this action will address the issue of **active citizenship of youth through engagement in the society and labour market**.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

Context in the MENA region:

The Arab Spring in the MENA region (which began in Tunisia in 2011 before spreading to other countries) raised high hopes for democratisation and freedom of expression and for youth to be a driver of change. However, a decade later, young men and women in the region still face considerable obstacles in becoming a driving force for social and economic development in their countries. In the MENA region, the level of political and civic engagement of youth is one of the lowest in the world, often deeply rooted in generational inequalities and thus preventing youth from using their ideas and energy to address complex issues affecting society at large.

Even before the sudden and deep economic shock induced by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, young men and women in the MENA region faced higher unemployment and inactivity levels than young people in any other region in the world, posing a challenge to the socio-economic development of the countries in the region.

Over half of the population in the MENA region is under 24 years old and a quarter of young people in the labour force are unemployed. Some countries report above 30 % of the population aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEETs), compared to 22.3% worldwide, whilst around or above 40% in case of females. The gender gap continues to be wide in the region due to persisting harmful social norms and gender stereotyping that restrain women's social, political, and economic rights and exposes them to different forms of violence (i.e. domestic violence, early forced marriages). Young females are particularly vulnerable and the impact on their participation in the socio-political and economic spheres is reflected for example, in female youth daily average wage, which is about 68% of the male youth wage. Also, 87% of young people who work in North Africa and 85% in Middle East are in informal employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased unemployment, inactivity and underemployment, especially among young people and women. Also vulnerable youth, such as migrants and refugees and persons with disability, face even greater challenges to find decent employment and they are more exposed to discrimination, poverty and social exclusion.

EU agenda on Youth:

Youth is a priority for the EU, which has developed a youth policy at EU level since 2001. In May 2018, the Commission proposed a new **EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027**⁷, building on the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018. In November 2018, the Council, in its turn, adopted a resolution on the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. In particular, the strategy aims to: foster youth participation in democratic life; ensure equality of all genders and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of life of a young person; bring young people together across the EU and beyond to foster voluntary engagement, connect youth through learning mobility, connect young people across Europe and beyond (e.g. through Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges); promote solidarity and intercultural understanding; support youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work. This strategy will in turn translate for its external dimension into a “*Youth Action Plan in EU external action (2022-2027)*” that is under elaboration.

In addition, President Von der Leyen has declared 2022 as the **European Year of Youth**. The Commission will adopt a Communication on Youth in the external action in 2022.

More specifically regarding youth employment, the **European Youth Guarantee (EYG)** was established in 2013 and national implementation began in all EU countries in 2014. The EYG is a broad-based youth employment programme which goes beyond traditional active labour market interventions. It implies the basic commitment by Member States to provide young people with a quality offer of employment, education or training within four months of them leaving education or becoming unemployed.

On 1 July 2020, the EU launched a second round, a reinforced approach of the EYG under the title, “**A Bridge to Jobs**”, building on the experiences gained from the implementation of the EYG during its first five years. The renewed programme includes the same basic commitment but aims to be more inclusive through the raising of the eligibility from 24 to 29 years old and extending outreach to more vulnerable groups such as minorities, persons with disabilities and rural youth. Youth with disabilities are particularly disadvantaged in the labour force and education. Moreover, the reinforced Youth Guarantee includes more tailored and individualised approaches. Finally, it aims to better prepare the young people for the green and digital transition.

EU agenda on Youth for the MENA region:

With regard to the MENA region, the recent **Joint Communication on the renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood - A new Agenda for the Mediterranean and its accompanying Economic and Investment Plan**⁸ puts forward empowering youth as a priority. It sets out the objective for the years to come to build fairer and more prosperous and inclusive societies for the benefit of people, especially young women and men.

In the **Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme (2021-2027)**, one specific objective targets active youth citizenship in the region by amplifying inclusive youth voice in public policy-making as global actors of change across the Southern Mediterranean region. The Regional South MIP 2021-2027 mentions the need to support young people in developing critical thinking as an essential component of life and formulating policy recommendations on global issues and priorities, which properly reflect their needs and concerns. Through active citizenship competence, youth can become dynamic participants in public life and a source of influence.

⁷ C 456/01 dated 18.12.2018

⁸ JOINT (2021) 2 final of 09.02.2021

Contributing to empowering women, girls and young people to fully use their human rights and increase their participation in political, economic, social, and cultural life is a key objective of the **EU Gender Action Plan III-An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in EU External Action (2021-2025)**⁹. The GAP III strongly supports and promotes the participation and leadership of girls and young women in public life, political processes and decision making, encouraging young women’s and adolescent girls’ civic engagement, also in partnership with youth organisations.

The **Ministerial conference of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on Employment and Labour affairs** that held its fifth meeting in **Marrakech on the 17 and 18 May 2022** acknowledges through a Declaration the importance of youth, as one of the biggest assets in the Mediterranean region. High rates of inactivity, informal employment, structural unemployment, underemployment in the MENA region are acknowledged as critical issues.

The Declaration acknowledges that pushing jointly for strong policies that support young people in accessing the job markets is critical so they can fulfil their potential and unlock a fair and sustainable economy. It is critical to provide young people with the skills they need to support the green and digital transitions, assist informal workers so they can integrate in formal employment and work on women’s economic empowerment.

Against this background, improving services to reach out to the young people “**Not in Employment, Education or Training**” (**NEET youth**) is marked as a priority and the Ministers agree to take inspiration from the EU Youth Guarantee schemes implemented in the Member States for better employment, continued education, apprenticeship and traineeship, in accordance with regional and local contexts, as well as to take advantage of the gradual opening to the Southern Neighbourhood of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.

2.2 Problem analysis

Component 1-YMVII:

The level of political participation and civic engagement of youth in the MENA region is one of the lowest in the world and is often reinforced by traditions and culture. Few countries in the region have either developed youth policies or are in the process of formulating them. Progress also remains hindered by the ineffective implementation of those policies that exist, as well as by the overall lack of functioning accountability mechanisms, and the limited meaningful engagement of youth in policies and programmes affecting their lives.

Youth are increasingly demanding more just, equitable and progressive opportunities and solutions in their societies as well as a space to voice their fears and concerns. They want to meaningfully participate, to be heard and to be given a voice in the decision-making.

This component of the programme will precisely aim at building capacities of youth and enhancing mechanisms in order to shape public policy, influence decision-makers, shape media narratives and implement transformative initiatives on issues and intercultural policies affecting the lives of youth and the future of the Euro-Med region. The main objective will be to actively engage young women and girls, and young men and boys as drivers of social and democratic change.

⁹ JOINT (2020) 17 final of 25.11.2020

Clear gender responsive relation plans and partnership strategies will be established with youth leaders, youth led organisations, academia (think tanks and knowledge institutions), media outlets as well as policy makers and practitioners as the main stakeholders under this component.

Young women’s participation will be supported by targeting them specifically as participants and key agents of social change, ensuring their inclusion and contribution to decision-making and public fora, as well as consultations and representation of the youth collective.

Component 2-NEET:

Over half of the population in the MENA region is under 24 years old and a quarter of young people in the labour force are unemployed. Some countries report above 30 % of the population aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEETs), whilst around or above 40% in case of females.

	Proportion of people aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEETs)	Gender gap in NEETs
Algeria	26.2% (in 2019)	20.4% for males and 32.1% for females
Egypt	28.0% (in 2019)	16.4% for males and 40.3% for females
Israel	17.3% (in 2020)	17.4% for males and 17.1% for females
Jordan	36.0% (in 2019)	29.3% for males and 43.8% for females
Lebanon	22.0% (in 2019)	16.7% for males and 26.8% for females
Morocco	26.6% (in 2020)	13.9% for males and 39.7% for females
Palestine	34.5% (in 2020)	30.0% for males and 39.1% for females
Tunisia	30.2% (in 2020)	29.0% for males and 31.4% for females

Source: ETF - Education, training and Employment Developments Country profiles 2021

The high NEETs rates among the youth of MENA stem from challenges on both the supply and demand sides of the labour market: the inability of the educational and training systems to provide the right skills, as well as the limited creation of decent employment opportunities for youth. Also, young people in the region consistently find themselves unprepared for a rapidly-evolving labour market, including the transformations in the digital and green economies.

Well-functioning active labour market programmes and employment services are not present in most countries/localities, while the education and skills development systems are not well connected or responsive to the demands in the labour market. Currently, only four countries (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan) in the MENA region have a national youth employment strategy.

All these factors create a sense of urgency in order to reinforce the youth education, skills development and employment strategies and systems of the MENA countries with the aim of providing the NEET youth with the right skills for a successful integration into the labour markets.

Learning from the experiences of the European Youth Guarantee (EYG) scheme, governments and social partners in the MENA region show increased interest in applying comprehensive and integrated approaches to promoting better youth employment outcomes.

While it is clear that due to differences in the labour market and institutional capacity, directly replicating the EYG in the Southern Neighbourhood is not feasible yet, countries can build and implement integrated national youth employment strategies drawing on lessons learned from the EYG and its recent application in the Western Balkans.

Based on a demand-driven approach, an integrated package of support targeting NEET youth is needed that builds on previous efforts, while reducing fragmentation and overcoming implementation challenges.

Once the basic framework, coordination mechanism and field testing have been achieved, a long term and sustainable strategy to finance youth employment and NEET outreach is required in order to sustain the activities of the component. At a later stage (outside the scope of this action) a combination of bilateral and international funding combined with national resources can lead to possible replication of elements of the EYG at national (or sub-local) level.

Key stakeholders:

Regarding the stakeholders of the component, clear relation plans and partnership strategies will be established with MENA relevant Ministries of *inter alia* Labour, Education and Youth, Public Employment Services, Private Employment Services, Vocational Training Institutes, Youth Organizations, local NGOs, employers and employees representatives including trade unions and private sector Associations.

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) can ensure consistency with the core elements of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean regarding empowering the most vulnerable young people and fostering gender equality, supporting transitions to the green and digital economies.

BUSINESSMED (Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises) as well the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) are also key platforms for multilateral cooperation in the fields explored by the component. Therefore they will be all associated to the component.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **overall objective** of the Youth Package is to promote active citizenship of youth through engagement in the society and labour market with two intermediate Objectives:

Intermediary Objective 1¹⁰: Youth across the Mediterranean become responsible leaders;

Intermediary Objective 2¹¹: Public policies and practices in MENA countries are more responsive to the needs of the NEETs.

Young women and young people with disabilities will be particularly targeted. As regards component 2, green and digital economic pathways as potential areas for future employment opportunities will be duly considered.

The **six specific objectives** of this action are to:

Through component 1-YMV II:

¹⁰ To be reached through the implementation of the component 1 of the programme - YMV II

¹¹ To be reached through the implementation of the component 2 of the programme – NEET

- 1.1: Youth leaders take initiative to shape public policy, influence decision-makers, shape media narratives and outreach civil society with academia;
- 1.2: Youth implement transformative initiatives;
- 1.3: Youth leaders coordinate, monitor and identify solutions with peers across the Mediterranean.

Through component 2-NEET:

- 2.1: Stakeholders in the MENA countries¹² contribute to the design of innovative/more effective policy approaches on education, training and employment targeting the NEET youth (aged 15-29);
- 2.2: Stakeholders in the MENA countries coordinate, monitor and evaluate more in depth the impact of their current policies targeting the NEET youth;
- 2.3: Some local actors commit to pilot a local Youth Guarantee Scheme (YGS) customised to their NEET youth's profiles and needs on their territories.

The **nine outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific objectives are:

Through component 1-YMV II:

- 1.1.1: Youth skills are enhanced for critical thinking, debate, communication and problem solving;
- 1.1.2: Decision-making skills of selected young leaders are improved;
- 1.2.1: Youth have the means / resources to develop transformative initiatives;
- 1.3.1: Youth leaders' capacities strengthened to cooperate with peers across the Mediterranean;

Through component 2-NEET:

- 2.1.1: Designated Focal points in the MENA countries on policy approaches towards NEET youth are supported on a demand driven basis;
- 2.1.2: Country NEET profiles are established/updated in the MENA countries;
- 2.1.3: National and local authorities of the MENA countries acquire competences to effectively contribute to education, training, labour market analysis, diagnostic and program design focusing for NEET youth (with a focus on digital and green pathways);
- 2.2.1: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established involving all MENA stakeholders (and Focal Points designated in the MENA countries);
- 2.3.1: Some local actors in a given territory are capacitated to conceptualise/develop a pilot YGS for NEET youth.

¹² Ministries of Labour, Education and Youth, Public Employment Services, Private Employment Services, Vocational Training Institutes, Youth Organizations and NGOs, disadvantaged Youth NEETS selected in order to represent their "community", employers and employees representatives, private sector associations.

3.2. Indicative activities

Under component 1 - YMV II:

Activities related to output 1.1.1:

- Debate spaces, with policy makers and authorities, debate tournaments, training programmes are organised where Youth, mindful of gender balance, can develop their skills.

Activities related to output 1.1.2:

- Youth are actively involved in the ALF National Networks to impulse media dialogues and outreach exchanges with CSO, academia and broader audiences;
- Youth voices are amplified in the institutional bodies of the Anna Lindh Foundation (Board of Governors and Advisory Council) to promote effective young women and men participation in formulating policy recommendations;
- Setting up of a Youth Council with the clear objective to strengthen the decision-making skills of the young people participating in YMV II and to provide them with an active role in the decision making process of all activities. The Youth Council will be gender-balanced, and mindful of Goal 2 of the EU Youth Strategy.

Activities related to output 1.2.1:

- Grant schemes are implemented so that local youth organisations, with a bottom-up and gender sensitive methodology, implement local transformative initiatives having an impact in their local communities.

Activities related to output 1.3.1:

- Implementation of collaborative regional platforms so as to capitalise at Euro Med level the diverse experiences of young women and men from different geographies in the region, and to promote mutual learning, cooperation, synergies and complementarities.

Under component 2 - NEET:

Component 2 will be working as a Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) to match the needs expressed by the authorities of the MENA countries in order to support decent education, training and work for youth from 15 to 29 years old, with a:

- Demand-driven approach (needs as expressed by the local authorities);
- Gender sensitive approach;
- Focus on green and digital economic pathways as potential areas for future employment opportunities.

The component will also have a regional window that will draw on both global best practices in implementing youth guarantees in other regions and experiences in demand-driven technical facilities supporting better outcomes in middle-income countries (example: TAF Youth Guarantee for the Western Balkans).

Activities related to output 2.1.1:

- Training programmes, implementation of collaborative platforms with MENA stakeholders in order to deepen the coordination between MENA stakeholders on policies towards NEET youth as well as designate focal points in each country.

Activities related to output 2.1.2:

- Diagnostic established / surveys conducted on the policy and legal framework in order to improve knowledge / develop country NEET profiles (with data disaggregated by sex).

Activities related to output 2.1.3:

- Peer learning and capacity building including training are provided in a framework of competence based, practical capacity programme for the MENA stakeholders in order to strengthen their skills on education, training and labour market analysis; conducting diagnostics on NEET youth; implementing innovative/more effective policy approaches towards NEET youth with a focus on digital and green pathways.

Activities related to output 2.2.1:

- Training sessions , transfer of good practices, implementation of collaborative platforms in order to: enhance the coordination, monitoring and evaluation systems of youth employment and education policies, including specific gender disaggregated data ; strengthen the capacity of the Monitoring and Evaluation departments of the local authorities.

Activities related to output 2.3.1:

- Good practices from EU YGS or other regions (example: TAF Youth Guarantee for the Western Balkans) are analysed and shared with the MENA stakeholders;
- Peer learning and capacity building including training are provided in the framework of competence based, practical capacity programme for some local stakeholders with the aim (if and where feasible) at developing YGS plans and – if and where feasible - a pilot local YGS.

Activities across the board:

Fora are organised at national and regional level in order to:

- Review good practices in terms of: effective policy approaches towards NEET youth ; existing YGSs; effective competence based practical capacity programmes for MENA stakeholders in field of education training and employment; monitoring and evaluation systems of youth employment and education policies; pilot local YGS if implemented in one country of the region;
- Allow MENA stakeholders to assimilate those good practices and make use of them in their own country.

As the topics covered under this component require coordinated inputs from DG NEAR, DG EMPL and ETF, the implementing partner will seek strategic advice from them on a regular basis (regular coordination meetings).The implementing partner will also have to coordinate thoroughly with the EU Delegations of the MENA region not least with a view to seek complementarity with the activities under the Education, TVET and Employment programmes funded under the bilateral envelopes.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiatives foreseen under this action plan will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Outcomes of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The SEA screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The CRA screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment)

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality is a significant objective of the action, in the two components.

Youth are increasingly demanding more just, equitable and progressive opportunities and solutions in their societies as well as a space to voice their fears and concerns and it goes for the young female population with their specific concerns.

Inequalities in the participation of women in the economy and the labour market are registered in the whole region, some countries report above 40 % of the female population aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training whilst around 30% in case of males.

Also, the growing educational level of women in the region has often not translated into improved market access.

The action will mainstream gender issues and aim at narrowing the gender gap by: 1) amplifying women youth voices to promote effective and meaningful participation in formulating policy recommendations addressing their concerns and life; 2) supporting the integration of women NEETs into the labour market in the MENA region.

Human Rights

Human rights is a significant objective in the two components of this action. The action will be implemented in respect of a Rights-Based approach, notably a human rights approach, at all levels and stages of its design and implementation, e.g. avoid any unintentional human rights harm, imbalance or negative impact.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that it is a significant objective in the two components.

Democracy

Democracy is a significant objective in the two components of this action. Indeed the global objective of this action is youth empowerment in turn contributing to more transparent and open forms of governance in the MENA region.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Peace and resilience are addressed under this action. Enabling Youth by engaging them in the shaping of the policies affecting them, not least employment, contributes to the peace and resilience of the societies they are living in.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction is not an objective of this action.

Civil society

Engagement with civil society is important for the success of this action. It will be addressed in several ways:

- Component 1 will seek to involve CSOs in exchanging with policy makers, academia, media outlets and broader audience in order to promote effective and meaningful youth participation in formulating youth policies recommendations; implementing local initiatives having an impact in the local communities (innovative youth lead projects);
- Component 2 will seek to involve CSOs in exchanging good practices in terms of effective policy approaches towards NEET, assisting in conceptualising NEET measures as well as (and wherever feasible) playing an active role in the implementation of a pilot Youth Guarantee Scheme.

Other considerations:

Component 1 -YMV II, implemented by the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF):

The mandate of ALF integrates culture of peace, good governance, citizen's participation, human rights, and equality and non-discrimination principles in its activities, which are at the basis of respect and preservation of cultural diversity. The Rights-Based approach is therefore intrinsically applied in the mandate of ALF.

ALF is governed by the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Member States but relying, for its activities, on national networks of civil society organisations. Civil society empowerment and support is therefore a major dimension within ALF's mandate.

Given the importance of women empowerment policies in the region, ALF will also support women rights and gender equality will be streamlined throughout all this component. ALF will also ensure that gender equality is reflected among the activities' participants, in the overall approach to the implementation of the action, its monitoring and evaluation, as well as communication strategy. Gender responsive reporting and the use of sex-disaggregated data will strengthen ALF's commitment to this end.

Component 2 – NEET, implemented by International labour Organisation (ILO):

The work of ILO on this component will address several core elements of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean , including empowering the most vulnerable young people and fostering gender equality, and supporting transitions to the green and digital economies by supporting educational and work transition of Youth. Climate change and digitalisation have started precipitating the educational framework and labour markets in the MENA region and ILO's activities under this component will fully take this into account.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learned

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
For component 1 Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	There is a risk that some of the authorities might not see the added value of involving CSOs in the policy dialogue / public affairs 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.	M	H	The EU’s political dialogue with partner countries includes the requirement to engage with CSOs at national level and to promote a more enabling environment for the work of civil society, in an attempt to counteract any unwillingness on the part of partner countries’ authorities to engage with CSOs.
For component 2 Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	Political instability within some of the partner countries.	M	L	Non-inclusion of countries in crisis under component 2 will not hamper project implementation.
For component 2 Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	Risk of political tension between countries.	M	L/M	Partner countries (component 2) can choose between different levels of partnerships and participation on a demand-driven basis.
For component 2 Category 2 – Risks related to planning, processes and systems	Focus of component 2 covers topics in fields of NEET which could also be covered by EU bilateral programmes or other donor’s programmes. Risk of duplication exists.	M	H	Strong mechanisms of coordination with local stakeholders through the creation of coordination platforms will be put in place to seek complementarity in the intervention and no overlapping with others. EUDs will be involved.

For component 2 Category 2 – Risks related to planning, processes and systems	Focus of component 2 covers topics that require coordinated inputs from several services of the EC (DG NEAR, EMPL, and ETF). Risk of segmented approaches and lack of focus if all above institutions are not involved.	L	M	Coordination mechanisms between ILO, DGs NEAR, EMPL as well as ETF will be put in place.
For the two components: Category 3 - Risks related to people and the organisations	Limited capacity of national stakeholders (especially under component 2 as regards to addressing Youth in public policies), local stakeholders and CSOs.	M	L/M	Specific support to be provided to stakeholders to build capacity, develop public policies, build partnerships.

3.5. Lessons Learned:

Component 1 - YMV II, continuation of YMV programme (2018-2021)

This component is anchored in the legacy of the EU funded YMV programme implemented by ALF over the period 2018-2021. YMV itself built upon the outcome of the Young Arab Voices (YAV) programme also implemented by ALF over the period 2011-2016.

An external evaluation of the YMV conducted during the second half of 2021 concluded that the programme was highly relevant and unique in the sense that it presented a platform where Youth could develop their critical thinking, build networks, express themselves and broaden their scope of focus beyond university/education.

The evaluation however highlighted that context -specific approach in consideration of countries' diverse political environments, social dynamics, opportunities and challenges, is a crucial factor to be considered so to make this next phase even more relevant.

ALF, through another EU grant on intercultural dialogue funded under AAP2021 and that will start in 2022 is planning to conduct a detailed topography on public policies impacting on youth engagement in the MENA countries. This topography will in turn enhance the context-specific approach of this component of the AAP 2022 Youth package.

Component 2 - NEET:

Based on decades of providing technical assistance to Member States on supporting action plans for youth employment (by the ILO and other agencies), a number of key lessons can be identified:

1. The approaches need to go beyond the supply side of education and training so that intermediation with the private sector and job creation can be achieved for both young women and men;
2. A strong institutional focal point is required which does not stop with ministries of labour but requires input from ministries of planning and finance especially, but also other key line ministries, training institutions, employment services, youth organisations, businesses associations and social partners;

3. Action plans need to be targeted and appropriate and aligned to available resources. This can be accomplished through rigorous and continual monitoring, diagnostics and assessments.

Based on this experience, ILO will operationalize a **Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)**, a mechanism that is largely used by the Commission in order to provide targeted technical support, knowledge and skills transfer. Its added value lies in its flexibility and tailored-made approach that is crucial for a gradual adjustment to local contexts while ensuring a shared direction of travel for the region.

Therefore component 2 -NEET will work as a TAF based on the demands for support from the authorities of MENA countries. Included in the TAF will be menu of toolkits (for example a “NEET diagnostics toolkit”), guidance material and training services (in collaboration with the ILO’s International Training Centre in Turin).

ILO will make use of existing tools that the countries may already have developed (with or without the financial support of the EU) as it will increase the sustainability and ownership of the results by the authorities as well as avoid overlapping.

The approach in this project is innovative as it is about social inclusion in the labour markets and “leaving no one behind”, key principles which drive forward initiatives like the European Youth Guarantee. The component 2-NEET will draw upon the experience gathered under the MS YGS in order to disseminate recommendations and support the development of integrated approaches, which draw inspiration from the YGS but adapted to the specific context in MENA countries. The formulation of a gender responsive Action Plan for Youth Employment and systematic approach to support NEET youth will be done on a demand-driven basis.

It is also to be noted that an IPA programme is currently supporting the Western Balkans so to establish YGS in the Balkans (IPA funding for the Youth Guarantee). On 14 October 2021, the EC, together with ILO, European Training Foundation (ETF) as well as representatives from the Western Balkans launched the preparation of YG Implementation Plans and a Western Balkans Technical Assistance Facility to support this process.

The component 2-NEET will also draw upon the experience gathered under this IPA programme, starting with the basics (building awareness and political commitment, work on legal framework, capacity, structure, technical systems) as well as possibly supporting YG schemes in some MENA countries if sufficient interest and progress emerged on their side. The experience of the IPA programme is important in terms of insights on the need for the right technical and institutional capacity. In countries with lower levels of capacity and resources, an incremental and longer-term approach is needed to address these complex challenges.

This project also responds to the *Ministerial Declaration of the Union for the Mediterranean Employment and Labour Ministers from 2019 in Cascais* where the Ministers tasked the UfM Secretariat to launch a **Community of Practice (CoP)** aimed at bringing together relevant practitioners, creating a space of cooperation that promotes actions to increase youth employment, youth employability, building up skills sets and inclusive labour markets for young people in the Southern Mediterranean.

The CoP that is kicking off in 2022 with the assistance of GIZ seeks to create a space of cooperation that in turn allow the component 2-NEET of the AAP2022 Youth package to identify and support the MENA national authorities on a demand driven basis on concrete actions so to improve the effectiveness and inclusiveness of education, training and employment policies as well as labour market services.

This component will be imbedded in the Team Europe Initiative ‘Regional TEI on Jobs through trade and investment - Pillar 2 (vocational training/technical skills)’, with the participation of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Partnering principles are a must in order to make this component a success. Partnering with DGs NEAR and EMPL as well as ETF will therefore apply and ILO as the implementer will systematically seek advice on direction taken and main activities from the three afore mentioned institutions.

Regarding the **sustainability** of the component 2-NEET, it is expected that the tailor-made expertise that will be delivered via the TAF will allow to identify more global package of interventions for the future that could be funded from the NDICI national envelopes for the MENA countries.

3.6. Intervention logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that for the two components, active citizenship of youth is promoted, through its component 1 – YMV II, by empowering the young people of the two shores of the Mediterranean in terms of political participation and civic engagement; through its component II – NEET, by improving access to decent education, training and work for the NEET youth of the MENA region.

Under this framework a set of six outputs and nine outcomes are envisaged in order to reach the above overall objective.

3.7. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @1]	Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result @1]	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	<p>Overall Objective: to promote active citizenship of youth through engagement in the society and labour market with two Intermediate Impacts (IIs):</p> <p>II.1: Youth across the Mediterranean become responsible leaders</p> <p>II.2: Public policies and practices in MENA countries are more responsive to the needs of the NEETs</p>	<p>→ # of young women , % of young men actively leading in public consultations/ debates on policies, strategies/legislation;</p> <p>→ # of transformative projects led by and for the Youth</p> <p>→ GERF 1.12, SDG 8.6.1 “proportion of youth not in education, training and employment”</p> <p>→ # of effective policies on the NEET youth adopted or revised</p>	<p>9.000 young people participating in different kind of trainings activities at end of previous project</p> <p>Arab States: 34.4% total, 52.1% women (2021). North Africa: 29% total, 39% women (2020)</p> <p>Baseline to be determined at inception phase of the project</p>	<p>TV tbd at inception phase of the project</p> <p>TV tbd once baseline is established</p>	<p>ALF reports</p> <p>National surveys Country NEET profiles, ILO reports</p>	Not applicable
Outcome 1.1 related to II.1)	Youth leaders take initiative to shape public policy, influence decision-makers, shape media narratives and outreach civil society with academia	<p>→ # of initiatives formulated and taken by youth (disaggregated by gender and disabilities)</p> <p>→ # of youth actively involved in networks with CSOs and academia (disaggregated by gender and disabilities)</p> <p>→ # of youth with increased leadership and debating skills (disaggregated by gender and disabilities)</p>	<p>14 regional events & 20 national involving stakeholders at end of previous project.</p> <p>0 initiative formulated by youth</p>	<p>TV tbd at inception phase of the project</p> <p>“_”</p>		

Outcome related to II.1) 1.2	Youth implement transformative initiatives	→ # of transformative initiative projects implemented by Youth and having an impact on local communities or with a regional perspective	0 transformative project (new outcome)	TV tbd at inception phase of the project		
Outcome related to II.1) 1.3	Youth leaders coordinate, monitor and identify good practices with peers across the Mediterranean	→ # of validated good practices → # of validated solutions with a view to promote mutual learning, cooperation, synergies and complementarities at regional level	0 (new) 0 (new)	TV tbd at inception phase of the project		
Outcome related to II.2) 2.1	Stakeholders in the MENA countries* contribute to the design of innovative/more effective policy approaches on education, training and employment targeting the NEET youth (aged 15-29) * Ministries of Labour, Education and Youth, Public Employment Services, Private Employment Services, Vocational Training Institutes, Youth Organizations, NGOs, employers and employees representatives, private sector associations.	→ # of policy coordination mechanisms / fora involving relevant MENA stakeholders → # of diagnostics conducted including data on NEET as well analysis of reasons behind inactivity with disaggregation by gender → # of integrated policy proposals (including financing needs) designed	Baseline to be established at inception phase of the project	TV tbd once baseline is established	Official publications and other sources from the Government; Project reports and monitoring tools.	Policy approaches on education, training and employment targeting the NEET youth are a priority for the countries. MENA stakeholders agree to enhance the design of their policies and work together
Outcome related to II.2) 2.2	Stakeholders in the MENA countries coordinate, monitor and evaluate more in depth the impact of their current policies targeting the NEET youth	→ # of departments within MENA public authorities that regularly evaluate public policies targeting the NEET youth → # of monitoring and evaluation surveys conducted on public policies targeting the NEET youth	Baseline to be established at inception phase of the project	TV tbd once baseline is established	Annual monitoring reports Annual evaluation reports Project reports and monitoring tools	MENA stakeholders agree to enhance their M&E systems and work together
Outcome related to II.2) 2.3	Some local actors commit to pilot a local Youth Guarantee Scheme (YGS)	→ # of plans / roadmaps for country/ local YGS that have been initiated at national/local level	Baseline to be established at		Official publications and other	Some of the MENA stakeholders are

	customised to their NEET youth's profiles and needs on their territories	→ Status of a pilot nation/ local YGS	inception phase of the project 0	TV tbd once baseline is established	sources from the Government Project reports and monitoring tools	committed to formulate YGS
Output 1.1.1 Related to Outcome 1.1	Youth skills are enhanced for debate and problem solving	→ # of debate spaces organised with policy makers and authorities, debate tournaments, training programmes that are organised where Youth can develop their skills	Baseline from end of previous project tbd at inception phase	TV tbd at inception phase of the project		Youth beneficiaries are committing themselves actively throughout all activities
Output 1.1.2 Related to outcome 1.1	Decision-making skills of selected young leaders are improved	→ # of sessions of ALF National Networks where Youth can debate and solve problems → # of sessions of institutional bodies of the Anna Lindh Foundation where youth can participate → Status of implementation of a Youth Council strengthening their decision-making	14 policy dialogue events organised at end of previous project 0	TV tbd at inception phase of the project 1		“_”
Output 1.2.1 Related to outcome 1.2	Youth have the means / resources to develop transformative initiatives	→ # of grant schemes launched and grants implemented in order that local youth organisations implement local transformative initiatives	0 (new)	TV tbd at inception phase of the project		“_”
Output 1.3.1 Related to outcome 1.3	Youth leaders' capacities strengthened to cooperate with peers across the Mediterranean	→ # of fora conducted for exchanging good practices and promoting mutual learning, cooperation, synergies and complementarities at regional level → # of guidelines developed to promote cooperation → # of training programmes developed and implemented targeting Youth	0 fora (new) 0 (new) 0 trainings (new)	TV tbd at inception phase of the project		“_”

Output 2.1.1 Related to outcome 2.1	Designated Focal points in the MENA countries on policy approaches towards NEET youth are supported on a demand driven basis	→ # of focal point agencies/departments supported to implement priorities identified	No focal point at this stage	One per country	Reports from contractor (flash report, 6 months reports, yearly reports)	Focal Points supported remain at their post
Output 2.1.2 Related to outcome 2.1	Country NEET profiles are established / updated in the MENA countries	→ # of country NEET profiles analysed and validated	No fully articulated country NEET profile at this stage	One per country	NET country profile reports	Reliable data can be collected to establish the Country NEET profiles
Output 2.1.3 Related to outcome 2.1	National and local authorities of the MENA countries acquire competences to effectively contribute to education, training, labour market analysis, diagnostic and program design focusing on the NEET youth (with a focus on digital and green pathways)	→ # of dialogues held on policy approaches to NEET youth → # of training programmes developed and implemented → # of technical guidelines to support capacity of stakeholders to develop policy responses targeting NEET youth → # of co-created integrated package of support proposed by governments and validated with participation of social partners, youth and development partners → # of country policies/budgets/ financing frameworks analysed and validated	Baseline to be established at inception phase of the project	TV tbd at inception phase of the project	Reports from contractor (flash report, 6 months reports, yearly reports)	Training participants have the authority and freedom to apply the new skills and knowledge acquired
Output 2.2.1 Related to outcome 2.2	Coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established involving all MENA stakeholders (and focal points designated in the MENA countries)	→ # of guidelines on monitoring and evaluation developed and disseminated → # of related training programmes for MENA stakeholders developed and implemented	Baseline to be established at inception phase of the project	TV tbd at inception phase of the project	Reports from contractor (flash report, 6 months reports, yearly reports)	“-”
Output 2.3.1 Related to outcome 2.3	Some local actors in a given territory are capacitated to conceptualise / develop a pilot YGS for NEET youth	→ # of co-created integrated plans for rolling out YGS → # (if and where feasible) of local pilot YGS fully conceptualised	0 0	TV tbd at inception phase of the project” TV tbd at inception phase of the project	National plans for YGS Full concept report for Pilot local YGS Reports from contractor	Some of the MENA stakeholders are committed to formulate YGS; conceptualise an implement a pilot YGS

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4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision.

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

4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹³.

4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Component 1-YMV II: grant to the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF)

(a) Purpose of the grant

The objective of this grant is to empower young women and men in their capacity to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate. Expected results are increased number of young people have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities; their voices are being integrated into policy dialogue at national and regional level creating an enhanced culture for public debate.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

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

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 195(f) of the EU General Budget Financial Regulation (FR), 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 Anna Lindh Foundation which was created in 2004, following an initiative by President Prodi, and has the mandate of promoting inter-cultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region. To help fulfil its mandate it manages a network of almost 4,000 civil society organisations of the 42 countries members of the Union for the Mediterranean. The Anna Lindh Foundation has an added value stemming from its unique nature as intergovernmental organisation and as a network of networks. As such, the Foundation is a platform for both governments and civil society organisations. In this sense, their management structure makes possible to the Foundation to play a key role as an intermediate structure between governments and civil society. Some bridging activities between these two levels take place to ensure dialogue and reinforce the role of civil society as interlocutor to government institutions. The Foundation organises actions in the

¹³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

fields of peace and co-existence; culture and arts, education and youth; values, religion and spirituality; cities and migration; empowerment of women; role of media.

In addition, it is the first institution co-created by the EU and the Southern Partner Countries. DG NEAR is systematically participating in the ALF Board of Governors meetings as an observer (circa 3/4 meetings per year).

Finally, in line with the key policy area of Human development, good governance and the rule of law of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean, the ALF has approved in 2022 its Multiannual Work Programme 2022-2025 which emphasizes the empowerment, participation and involvement of young people as agents of change.

4.3.2. Indirect Management with a pillar-assessed entity¹⁴

Component 2 –NEET:

This component may be implemented in indirect management with the International organisation of Labour (ILO).

This implementation is justified because the technical assistance required for the delivery of this component falls within the areas of core expertise of the ILO, the UN specialised agency setting standards for the world of work and global lead on youth employment.

The ILO has also extensive experience of collaborating with the Commission on implementing youth guarantees and associated policies. Through the European Commission/ILO Joint Action on the Youth Guarantee, the ILO assisted EU Member States in enhancing institutional capacities for the implementation of the youth guarantee, including monitoring. Direct support was provided to Latvia, Portugal, and Spain, as well as Greece and Cyprus. The ILO also provided technical assistance to North Macedonia during the design of the Youth Guarantee in that country, as well as the implementation and evaluation of the pilot programme. The ILO is now partnering with the EC on the newly launched and wider Technical Facility for the Western Balkans which will support the institutions responsible for youth employment policy in introducing a youth guarantee.

The entity would carry out budget-implementation tasks necessary to achieve the results outlined in the description of the action.

In case the envisaged entities would need to be replaced, this action may be implemented in indirect management with another pillar-assessed international organisation or with EU Member States' agencies and consortia thereof. The entrusted entities will be selected after negotiations resulting from a call for manifestation of interest (which will not fall under direct management).

4.4. 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 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other

¹⁴The signature of a contribution agreement with the chosen entity is subject to the completion of the necessary pillar assessment.

duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Component 1-YMV: Grant (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	4 000 000
Component 2-NEET: Indirect management with ILO – cf. section 4.3.2	3 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another decision
Communication and visibility – cf. section 6	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.
Totals	7 000 000

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Steering Committees shall be established for each component within the action that will be attended by DG NEAR.

The Union for the Mediterranean, DG EMPL and ETF will be part as well of the steering committee for the component 2.

As the two components will cross fertilize per nature, it is also foreseen to organised an overall steering structure in order to take stock of progress reached under the two comments and looking at next milestones (DG NEAR, DG EMPL and ETF, EUDs will be invited, ALF, ILO).

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, each implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of

achievement of its Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Component 1-YMV II:

The main mechanism of monitoring the performance of the action of ALF will be the “mid-year progress reports” and “annual progress reports”. These reports, accompanied by the correspondent audits, account for the actual progress made and the level of implementation against the relevant yearly ALF work-programmes, and related budgets as approved by the ALF Board of Governors (BoG). DG NEAR will systematically participate in the BoG meetings as an observer.

Monthly Flash Reports will also be provided on implemented, upcoming activities, difficulties encountered and measures taken to mitigate.

Component 2-NEET:

The main mechanism of monitoring the performance of the action of ILO will be the “mid-year progress reports” and the “annual progress reports” produced by ILO. ILO will develop an effective monitoring and evaluation system to better communicate on the impact of the work conducted under this component. A web-based report system where information can be gathered will also serve this purpose. ILO will develop an overarching system in order to swiftly mobilize ad-hoc expertise that is required under the component (TAF) as well as numerous local stakeholders on field.

Monthly Flash Reports will also be provided on implemented, upcoming activities, difficulties encountered and measures taken to mitigate.

5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, mid-term and ex-post evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

Evaluations will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision) taking into account in particular the complexity and the various topics covered by the action.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners at least two months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation exercise and 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 following the best practice of evaluation dissemination¹⁵. 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.

¹⁵ See best practice of evaluation dissemination

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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 audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external actions have the contractual obligation to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the “Communicating and raising EU visibility – Guidance for external actions – July 2022” document¹⁶.

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

For communication on Team Europe Initiatives, the EU and its Member States can rely on the specific guidance on the Team Europe visual identity.

¹⁶ Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for external actions (europa.eu)