



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 5

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI East Regional Action Programme 2016 and 2017, Part I

Action Document for EU4Youth programme

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 in sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 concerning calls for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	EU4Youth programme CRIS numbers: ENI/2016/038-772 and ENI/2017/038-795 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine. The action shall be carried out at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eastern Partnership countries;• EU Member States;• Erasmus+ Programme countries: EU Member States, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey.
3. Programming document	Regional East Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme 2014-2017 for the Neighbourhood East
4. Thematic area	Youth
5. Amounts	Total estimated cost: EUR 22 750 000

concerned	<p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 20 000 000, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 10 450 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2016; and - EUR 9 550 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017, subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2017, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths. <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 2 750 000</p>			
6. Aid modality and implementation modalities	<p>Project Modality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Result 1: direct management – call for proposals (by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency – EACEA) - Result 2: direct management – call for proposals - Result 3: direct management - procurement of services 			
7. DAC code	16010 - Social/ welfare services; 16020 - Employment			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance			x
	Aid to environment	x		
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)		x	
	Trade Development	x		
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x		
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	x		
	Combat desertification	x		
	Climate change mitigation	x		
	Climate change adaptation	x		
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Not relevant			

SUMMARY

Youth is one of the main focuses of the **2015 European Neighbourhood Policy Review**: lack of opportunity, particularly for youth, is considered to be one of the roots of instability, vulnerability and radicalisation. Economic development and the prospects for youth, especially with regards to employment opportunities, **employability** and **civic engagement**, are highlighted as a key to stabilise societies in the Neighbourhood. Supporting this target group in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) seems particularly important as all countries are characterised by high unemployment rates of young people and low participation of women in the labour market. This is due *inter alia* to skills mismatch, insufficient key competences¹ and entrepreneurial spirit, not inclusive education and training, and lack of active labour market policies and activation strategies².

In this context, the objective of the EU4Youth (EU4Y) programme is to foster the **active participation** of young people in society and their **employability** in the economy by developing those **skills** that can support them in becoming **leaders** and **entrepreneurs**³. The development of **coherent** and **cross-sectorial youth policies** is of key importance to tackle the challenges facing young generations. Through support to youth workers and youth organisations these entities will gain expertise and capacity to engage in constructive dialogue at national, regional or local level, and support policy development and implementation.

This is of pivotal importance, as the achievement of tangible results will require that the EU4Y programme is **aligned with relevant policy dialogues** supporting reforms and policy actions with impact on young people (e.g. discussions in relevant EaP Platforms and Panels, policy actions supported by ETF, capacity building projects).

The EU4Y programme is made up of three components. *Component 1* will empower young people with key competences and **skills** supporting their **active participation** in democratic life. Citizenship, **entrepreneurship** and **leadership will be the main topics** of capacity building actions targeting youth organisations, youth workers and leaders. The latter will be able to apply for Civil Society Fellowships to enhance their skills on policy development. *Component 2* will aim to increase the educational and training opportunities and improve the employment perspectives for all youth. Particularly, this component will address challenges to youth **entrepreneurship** and **disadvantaged youth** by giving grants to those organisations that propose initiatives in this field and by identifying actions with significant potential for **systemic**

¹ Recommendation [2006/962/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning [Official Journal L 394 of 30.12.2006].

² "Active labour market policies and activation strategies were designed to promote labour market integration by reducing job-finding obstacles, thereby increasing the probability of entering employment successfully by providing, for instance, job-related training that improves skills levels and productivity of jobseekers or through hiring subsidies designed to compensate for lack of work experience and other deficits". Source: ILO, Employment Working Paper No. 16 "*Promoting youth employment through activation strategies*", 2014.

³ More broadly, in developing more autonomy to move their way through the world of work. The definition of entrepreneur is often related to business only, but here we would also include the more general meaning of it. Entrepreneurial spirit, in fact, "is characterized by innovation and risk-taking, and is an essential part of a nation's ability to succeed in an ever changing and increasingly competitive world". Source: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/entrepreneurship.html>

impact⁴. *Component 3* will ensure the effective functioning of the programme by (i) exploring **synergies** among all components, (ii) supporting the steering committee in its **coordination** and **monitoring** functions and (iii) through **communication** and **visibility** activities. In addition, this component will support the alignment of the EU4Y programme with relevant **policy dialogues** and **actions**, thus ensuring the streamlining of youth issues at national and international level, and the sustainability of the EU4Y actions.

Through all actions particular attention will be devoted to **disadvantaged youth**⁵ and to the involvement of **young women**.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Regional context

The EU Summit held in Riga on 21-22 May 2015 identified economic growth and employability, particularly for youth, as one of the top priorities for action. This was also confirmed in the **Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy**⁶ (ENP Review) which established *fostering youth employment and employability as one of its key objectives. The Review considers this issue crucial to stabilise neighbouring countries and to support their economic development*. Investing in youth allows not only to increase the pool of talented young people, but also to cooperate with young men and women from EaP and other countries on core aims of the EaP, such as **democracy and good governance**. It will foster young people's intercultural dialogue and strengthen the **links** between the youth field, the **civil society** and the **labour market**.

The situation in the region is alarming: according to the latest (August 2015) European Training Foundation (ETF) Report on **Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training** (NEETs), the NEET rate (15–24 years) represents a more serious problem in the region overall than in the EU. **Youth unemployment is twice or three times higher than overall unemployment and much higher than the EU average**⁷ in Armenia (37.2%) and Georgia (30.8%)⁸. This is due *inter alia* to **skills mismatch, insufficient foundations skills and entrepreneurial skills and spirit, not inclusive education and training, and lack of active labour market policies** and activation strategies.

⁴ Such activities should aim at producing effects that go beyond supporting the single applicant and trigger a larger effect with a potential systemic impact and inspire reforms at national level.

⁵ All those young people experiencing personal difficulties/obstacles, limiting/preventing them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles/difficulties may be: mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities; education difficulties (learning difficulties, early-school-leavers, etc.); economic obstacles (low standards of living, low income, etc.); cultural differences (immigrants/refugees/their descendants, national/ethnic minorities, etc.); chronic health problems; social obstacles (discrimination due to gender, age, etc.); limited social skills, anti-social or risky behaviours, precarious situations, (ex-)offenders, (ex-)drug or alcohol abusers, young and/or single parents, orphans; geographical obstacles (people from remote rural areas, small islands or peripheral regions). Reference: *Erasmus+ Programme Guide*.

⁶ Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy - Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, JOIN(2015)50, 18.11.2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/pdf/key-documents/151118_joint-communication_review-of-the-enp_en.pdf

⁷ 22.2% in 2014

⁸ According to the same ETF Report the data on youth unemployment for the other EaP countries are the following: Ukraine 23%, Azerbaijan 13.5%, Belarus 12% and Moldova 9.8%,

Such situation calls for action, since the NEET status can have a long-lasting negative impact, a ‘scarring effect’. In addition, if young people are at higher risks of future unemployment, they are also at higher risk of exclusion, of poverty and of facing health problems⁹.

This is why the 2nd Eastern Partnership Youth Forum, an event organised in Riga on 9-11 February 2015 within the framework of the EU Latvian Presidency and the Eastern Partnership Platform 4 “Contacts between people”, called to step up action on fostering young people's employability and employment, education, volunteering and cross-sectorial youth cooperation. The 230 participants from more than 30 different countries – including young people, youth workers and representatives of the labour market, formal education and research, ministries as well as international institutions – endorsed recommendations on these policy areas and **invited the European Commission to dedicate a programme to young people in Eastern Partnership countries.**

The ENP Review Communication suggested setting-up a specific panel on Youth employment and employability within the Eastern Partnership.

In response to this appeal, the new programme EU4Y should take into account and build on earlier measures implemented to support youth cooperation with the Eastern Partnership countries and explore all synergies with the on-going actions, in particular those under the **Erasmus + Programme** (2014 – 2020). **Erasmus+** provides support in line with the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018), and through international non-formal learning activities between young people and youth workers from the Eastern Partnership Countries and the Erasmus+ Programme countries. In **2015** alone, the Erasmus+ Programme involved close to **22 000 young people and youth workers** from the Eastern Partnership countries and the Erasmus+ Programme countries into joint projects, namely: 'Youth exchanges', 'European voluntary service' projects, 'Mobility of youth workers', 'Meetings between young people and decision makers in the field of youth'.

Stakeholders express a high demand for a dedicated action focusing specifically on the challenges of young population at regional level. Such approach was implemented through the previous **Eastern Partnership Youth Window** (EPYW, 2012-2013) under the **Youth in Action Programme** (2007-2013) and the new action should build on the results achieved and the key lessons learned: the EPYW was most useful in supporting young people's needs in the areas of participation and **active citizenship, intercultural learning and mobility, employability and empowerment**. It had a significant impact on **strengthening civil society** in the EaP countries. The EPYW also contributed to **legitimising youth work and youth policy** as credible and important sectors of civil society. The key lessons and challenges related to the engagement of disadvantaged people, monitoring and communication as well as the regional dimension should be addressed by the new programme (see section 3 below for further details).

⁹ Moving Youth into Employment - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2012)727, 5.12.2012.

1.2 EU Policy Framework

Youth is a **priority** for the EU, which has developed a youth policy at EU level since 2001¹⁰. Its legal basis is Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which provides for encouraging the development of youth exchanges and exchanges of socio-educational instructors, and the participation of young people in the democratic life of Europe.

In November 2009, the European Council adopted the '**Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the Youth Field (2010-2018)**'¹¹, the so-called '**EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018)**'. The latter has two overall objectives: to provide equal opportunities for young people (aged 13-30) in education and in the labour market and to encourage young people to be active citizens and participate in society. The Strategy is the basis for the cooperation between Member States – with an outreach also to regions outside the EU and in particular the European Neighbourhood countries.

A number of actions have been rolled-out over the last years, to promote investing in young people and their future, notably the **Youth Guarantee**¹² and the **European Alliance for Apprenticeship**¹³, both aiming to support young people's successful transition into work. Whilst these are not directly applicable to ENP countries, the objectives they pursue as well as the approaches they promote, can be an inspiration for the Neighbourhood countries.

The ENP provides a framework for closer relations between the EU and its neighbouring countries, which since 2009 has been further developed through the Eastern Partnership, a joint initiative between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Support to youth is identified within the **Regional East Strategy Paper** for the use of European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) funding for the period 2014-2020¹⁴. Youth support falls under support to the civil society and to people-to-people contacts, underlining the need to develop dialogue and exchanges between youth and to strengthen the capacity of youth organisations.

As stated above, youth is one of the main focuses of the **2015 ENP Review**. Lack of opportunity, particularly for youth, is considered to be one of the roots of instability, vulnerability and radicalisation. Social inclusion and participation in decision making, together with economic development and the **prospects** for youth, especially with regards to employment and **employability**, are highlighted as a key to stabilise societies in the Neighbourhood. Therefore, the ENP will mobilise a determined effort to support countries in improving prospects for the local population, in order to help the region becoming a place where young people want to build their future.

¹⁰ European Commission White Paper "A New Impetus for European Youth", COM(2001)681, 21.11.2001.

¹¹ Council Resolution of 27 November 2009, Official Journal of the European Union, C311, 19.12.2009.

¹² Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01)

¹³ Launched in July 2013 with a [joint declaration](#) by the European Social Partners (ETUC, BusinessEurope, UEAPME and CEEP), the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the EU; see also Council Declaration, 18 Oct. 2013

¹⁴ Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)5200 of 28.7.2014 adopting a Strategy Paper 2014-2020 and Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2017 for Regional East.

The 2015 ENP Review also recognises the importance of the link between advancing support for youth and increased civic engagement. Supporting **professionalization** and **leadership** in the EaP **youth activism** is seen as a stepping stone *per se* and is crucial for the sustainability of capacity building development targeting civil society. Therefore the EU committed to establishing **Civil Society Fellowships** engaging young men and women.

1.3 Stakeholder analysis

Key stakeholders include *inter alia*:

- Public or private organisations and civil society organisations for which youth is a primary target group or which activities address key challenges of young people: youth workers, youth centres, advice centres for youth, youth councils on national and sub-national level, youth organisations or youth-led organisations, charity organisations, businesses, business associations, social partners, training providers, employment services, professional organisations and trade unions; other organisations focussing on sports and cultural activities.
- Schools and educational institutions, out-of-school educational establishments, Vocational education and training (VET) centres;
- Relevant national, regional and local authorities.

Key target groups include *inter alia*:

- Young men and particularly young women;
- Low achievers, early school leavers, young not in education, employment and training (NEETs);
- Disadvantaged youth;
- Young leaders and entrepreneurs;
- Youth organisation and youth workers.

The information available points out that those institutions dealing with youth issues often have insufficient capacity and know-how to develop appropriate responses or to engage with other actors. That predominantly applies to youth organisations but also to public authorities (e.g. employment services, local authorities) which often lack experience to put in place youth-specific measures. Moreover, actions developed to target youth are of very fragmented nature and it takes a cross-sectorial approach which is indispensable to achieve results in such complex area.

1.4 Priority areas for support

Building on the above information, the new EU4Y programme should aim to provide support in the following three key areas:

- 1) Support to young people **employability** and **active participation** in society:

- Empower youth with skills supporting their active participation in economy, society and developing their entrepreneurial potential in its broader sense¹⁵;
- Increase youth organisations' expertise and capability to become important actors in policy developments on national, regional and local level in particular regarding youth issues;
- Create a generation of young leaders capable to develop constructive relations with public and private bodies; advance the interest of their local communities and act as responsible future leaders;
- Promote **entrepreneurship education** and **social entrepreneurship** among young people;
- Support skills development through non-formal training and practical experiences.
- Develop skills matching labour market needs.

2) Strengthening youth **employment** opportunities:

- Support creative young people in maturing their **entrepreneurial ideas** and equipping them with skills to look for appropriate implementation schemes and funding;
- Encourage broader **policy dialogue and actions** to promote cross-sectorial approaches for youth and streamlining youth at national level. A particular focus will be devoted to youth employment issues;
- Include the private sector to foster the creation of jobs and potential investment strategies.
- Support to national policies for an improved regulatory framework, inclusive and favourable environment.

3) Reach-out to **disadvantaged youth**¹⁶:

- Address the main **challenges** for disadvantaged young people (e.g. increasing their educational, training and/or employment opportunities) by awarding funds to the development of ideas potentially having a systemic impact in this area;
- **Streamline** support to disadvantaged youth in all the actions of the EU4Y;
- Promote the inclusion of **young women** in all the proposed activities, with the final objective of achieving gender balance.

4) Ensure **inter-relation** and **mutual support** among all the activities of the EU4Y programme and beyond:

- Ensure synergies with existing policies addressing youth¹⁷;
- Ensure **coordination** among the EU4Y components, and support **monitoring** and **visibility** for the entire programme;

¹⁵ See footnote 23.

¹⁶ See definition in footnote 5.

¹⁷ See 1.2 - *EU Policy Framework*

- Explore links and additional opportunities with **other projects** and initiatives, in particular those financed by the EU.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level	Mitigating measures
<p>Regional instability. Recent events have shown that there is a potential for instability in the EaP region, including in external relations involving partner countries. An escalation of such trends in one or more partner countries can have an impact on the delivery of the programme.</p>	Medium/High	Throughout the implementation of the programme, the political situation will be regularly monitored , in order to be able to adapt efforts to changing circumstances.
<p>The level of commitment is low among the EaP national and local institutions. This may lead to low participation from the EaP institutions in the activities promoted by this action.</p>	Low/Medium	Youth employment and employability is high on the agenda of most EaP countries. Through the various capacity building activities, the implementing partners will ensure the participation of as many public officials as possible, also through the direct involvement of the EU Delegations.
<p>Difficulties in reaching key target groups. Particularly in the case of certain disadvantaged groups, a considerable degree of isolation from mainstream social engagement can be seen, and this affects the information flow to these young people and their ability to make their voices heard. In this sense, the risk is that the programme will not be able to involve these key beneficiaries into its activities.</p>	High	The programme focuses specifically on engaging with disadvantaged youth and on promoting local/regional partnerships involving key stakeholders who have experience in targeting these issues in all its activities. A whole component of this action is dedicated to these beneficiaries.
<p>Uneven participation across the region and within countries. Variations in the capacity and commitment of authorities and civil society organisations across the region may lead to an uneven pattern of participation.</p>	Medium	All the actions will have the aim to support young people coming from disadvantaged background. That includes capacity building actions of organisations located in these areas which should support more engagement within the given country. Furthermore, the

<p>Shrinking space for civil society operation in some of the EaP countries, in particular Azerbaijan.</p>	<p>Medium/High</p>	<p>implementing partners, with the overall monitoring and coordination (component 4 of the action) and through the active involvement of the EU Delegations, will ensure equal access and opportunities to all participants in ensuring also that the capacity of NGOs and their associated needs for capacity-building are effectively addressed. That should also take into account the participation levels of the different countries. This should be also addressed through the fact that reporting on the activities to the steering committee as well as to the higher political fora (e.g. corresponding Panel) will include information regarding engagement of all the regions and localities.</p> <p>A tailor-made approach will be sought together with the EACEA when it comes to the implementation of the Civil Society Fellowships, according to the situation on the ground in the various EaP countries.</p>
<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is some degree of political stability in the region; ➤ Public authorities consider that investing in youth employment and employability is a strategic priority, that youth involvement in policy-making brings an added-value, especially in those policy areas in which young people are directly concerned; ➤ Key stakeholders, notably private sector, can be mobilised if interested in partnerships; ➤ Youth organisations are interested in engaging in policy dialogue and/or in youth projects and initiatives; ➤ It is possible to reach out to disadvantaged youth and enable them to take part in the activities of the action; 		

- Public institutions are willing to engage in discussions to implement projects with potential systemic impact.

The action will be closely monitored in all its phases, not only through the steering committee supported by component 3 in its monitoring and coordination functions – but also by exploring linkages with discussions in relevant Eastern Partnership Platforms and Panels.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 *Lessons learnt*

This programme builds on the **Eastern Partnership Youth Window (EPYW)** under the **Youth in Action Programme** (2007-2013) which offered non-formal learning opportunities to young people enhancing their skills, competences and active participation in society, through European Voluntary Service, Youth exchanges and training and networking.

Out of the EPYW's total budget – EUR 31.5 million over the period 2012-2013 – allocated from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), EUR 19 million were managed and implemented at national level by the Youth in Action National Agencies (NAs), while the remaining third (EUR 12.5 millions) were managed and implemented at central level by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

In terms of **results achieved**, NAs funded 1 183 projects, while the EACEA granted 465 projects submitted by youth organisations from EaP countries. The **1 648** projects involved about **37 000 young people and youth workers**. An important number of young people were involved in several projects¹⁸:

- **56%** at national level, with **48.76%** participation of young women.
- **44%** at central level, with **47.87%** participation of young women.

The demand under the EPYW was high: all funds were used, demonstrating high interest and demand at all levels (NAs/EACEA).

The results and recommendations of the **evaluation of the EPYW** pointed out that the programme has addressed some of its planned objectives. The EPYW was most useful *inter alia* in: supporting young people's needs in the areas of participation and active citizenship, intercultural learning and mobility, employability and empowerment; strengthening civil society; and legitimising youth work and youth policy as credible and important sectors of civil society.

¹⁸ According to the evaluation Final Report: "In total 37,247 young people and youth workers participated in all activities (...). According to the information gathered through the online survey, it can be assumed that around one third (35%) EPYW project participants have participated only in one project (EVS or Youth Exchange or Training & Networking) while the other two thirds (65%) have participated in two and more (some up to 11) projects during the life time of the programme. In average each individual contributing as a "participant" in the survey (713) has participated in 3-4 projects. This suggests that the actual number of young people and youth workers who participated in EPYW funded projects is between 9 000 and 12 000".

The **centralised** method of implementation has been clearly indicated by the beneficiaries as the preferred one (also for future co-operation).

Some **challenges** were also identified:

- 1) The number of **disadvantaged young people** directly reached was **lower** than expected.
- 2) **Regional co-operation** was **not perceived** by beneficiaries as an important priority.
- 3) **Monitoring, communication, visibility** and **coordination** with other EU or non EU programmes targeting youth have not been carried out in the best way.
- 4) The EPYW's short-term character affected the **sustainability** of result.

Apart from the evaluation of the EPYW, this Action builds also on key recommendations for the EU Member States resulting from the **2nd Eastern Partnership Youth Forum**. These call for the promotion of the local and regional dimensions of youth activities, by focusing the assistance on disadvantaged youth from the EaP region, and by setting up a mechanism for closer monitoring of the impact of these activities.

In addition, the final conference of the **Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit** technical assistance (2012-2015) took place in November 2015 and presented the main findings of the EaP Youth Policy Report, which provided the state of play regarding youth policy in each EaP country, also identifying recommendations for future progress in the design, implementation and monitoring of youth policy.

It is also worth mentioning that the **Small Business Act 2016** assessment in the EaP concluded that more developed support for youth entrepreneurship through education and training, as well as non-formal mentoring by the business community will be essential in building a more entrepreneurial economy. Entrepreneurship training for young entrepreneurs (men and women) must be dove-tailed with access to finance requiring a more joined-up policy conversation between education, business and the banking communities.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The actions in the field of youth in the EaP are many and a mapping of all current initiatives in this sector would be necessary. According to current information, co-ordination and co-operation with the below programmes and institutions will be particularly important with parallel insurance of proper information and follow-up on policy level.

Erasmus + Programme (2014-2020)

Complementarity with the current **Erasmus+ Programme**¹⁹ will be sought. The Erasmus+ Programme is the EU programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of EUR 14.7 billion provide opportunities for more than 4 million European to study, train, volunteer and gain experience abroad. 10% of the budget is allocated to youth non-formal learning activities. This includes also youth cooperation with partner countries neighbouring the

¹⁹ E+ is the result of the integration of the Erasmus+ Programme (2014 – 2020) with the following European programmes during the period 2007-2013: the Lifelong Learning Programme, the Youth in Action Programme, the Erasmus Mundus Programme, Tempus, Alfa, Edulink, and programmes of cooperation with industrialised countries in the field of higher education.

EU, including EaP countries. Erasmus+ National Agencies are entitled to use up to 25% of funds allocated to Erasmus+ Key Action 1 “Mobility projects for young people and youth workers” for projects involving cooperation with partner countries neighbouring the EU, including EaP countries.

Directorate-General Education and Culture of the European Commission (DG Education and Culture) ensures good tracking of resources used under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (Heading IV) in order to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of results.

Co-operation with Erasmus + bodies focusing on monitoring, such as EACEA and the SALTO Youth Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre (SALTO EECA)²⁰, will be of particular importance. The SALTO EECA's information, support and training activities in the EaP region have played an important role in ensuring the quality of youth projects implemented in the region. These activities came in addition to the information sessions organised and run in each EaP country by the EACEA as a means of promoting the previous Eastern Partnership Youth Window.

European Training Foundation

The **European Training Foundation** (ETF) is an EU agency that helps transition and developing countries to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems, and in the context of the EU's external relations policy.

The expertise of ETF in facilitating the reform of vocational education and training and employment systems in partner countries could be extremely useful within the scope of the EU4Y. This is why the Commission will propose in its Opinion on the ETF Programming Document (2017-2020) to include activities to support development of cross-sectoral youth policies focusing on youth employment. To ensure alignment between the programme and ETF actions ETF will be invited to take part to the EU4Y steering committee.

Council of Europe

Coordination will also be ensured with the **Council of Europe** (CoE). As a partner of the Commission in the field of youth in the **EU-CoE youth partnership**, the CoE has organised several seminars on youth participation and well-being and on youth policy in Eastern Europe and Caucasus (2008-2014). The EU-CoE Youth Partnership also offers youth policy training courses on the basis of a youth policy manual. Whilst the CoE will not organise activities in the EaP countries in 2016, participants from the region will be invited to take part in the CoE activities²¹. Beyond the EU-CoE youth partnership, the CoE Youth Department will also organise

²⁰ SALTO EECA currently located within the Polish National Agency Foundation for Development of Education System (FDES) which also deals with the eTwinning National Support Service (NSS), within the eTwinning Plus Programme.

²¹ Symposium “Unequal Europe” to discuss inequalities in education and training systems, in the labour market, in access to rights and social benefits; 6th workshop on the history of youth work on the history of political participation and youth work.

a broad number of activities with participants from the EaP countries, with the support of the CoE European Youth Foundation²², amongst others.

Moreover, the CoE signed a new **framework agreement** with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of **Ukraine** for the period 2014-2015. The agreement focuses on trainings in the fields of youth policy development and capacity-building, human rights, education and youth participation. It also calls for support to confidence-building and conflict-transformation measures. The programme has run since 2012 and has been funded mostly through voluntary contributions. As a follow-up to the agreed 2014-2015 action plan, the European Youth Foundation also opened a special call for pilot projects in Ukraine. The Framework Programme on Co-operation in the field of Youth Policy is part of the CoE Action Plan on Ukraine.

International organisations

Coordination with other international organisations - in particular the **United Nations** (UN) (i.e. the UN Youth Envoy), the **International Labour Organisation** (ILO), the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) and the **World Bank** (WB) – shall be sought. This will include inviting relevant representatives to events, and sharing relevant information with them to promote greater synergies.

At project level, inspiration will be sought from similar initiatives. Of particular interest is the UNDP-EU project in Armenia implemented by Kolba Innovation Lab and called “**Inno4Dev** – Innovation for Development”. The project entails a “social venture incubator”, aiming at reducing the distance between citizens and authorities, and to increase citizens’ engagement on common social challenges. The overall purpose of this project is to turn citizens into solvers of development problems and its modalities are easily adaptable to other contexts.

Another example of initiative in the field of youth where possible synergies can be sought is the ongoing project "EU-OECD Youth Inclusion"²³ funded by DEVCO and implemented in Moldova. It aims at better responding to the needs and aspirations of young people through evidence-based policies and strengthening their involvement in national development processes. This project will analyse the indicators to measure youth well-being deficits. A global methodology and toolkit will be developed to assist countries in implementing and strengthening youth inclusion strategies

Linkages with political dialogue

Last but not least, the implementation of this programme and all its actions at project level shall be complemented by **policy dialogue** at Platforms and Panels level. The EaP **Platform 4**

²² "The European Youth Foundation [...] is an establishment of the Council of Europe [aiming] to promote youth co-operation in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities as serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation between the people of Europe and of the world, in a spirit of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms" (Article 1 of the Statutes of the European Youth Foundation).

²³ DCI-HUM/2013/317-506, website: <http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/youth-inclusion-project-2014-2017.htm>

"People-to-people contacts" and **Platform 2** "Economic integration & convergence with EU policies" are particularly relevant for monitoring the results of this programme and its actions. The Directorate General for Education and Culture chairs Platform 4, which regularly brings together senior officials in charge of education, training, research, youth and culture policies, as well as other actors from civil society. On 15 June 2015, youth was the main topic of Platform 4.

Platform 2 is chaired by the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and discusses topics important from the employment related aspects of this programme. The foreseen Panel on Youth Employment and Employability, currently under discussion, would further support this action and complementarity would have to be sought.

Furthermore, the action should feed into the **EaP Youth Forum** and other relevant events.

3.3 *Cross-cutting issues*

The EU4Y will contribute to the goal of **good governance**, through the inclusion of a broad range of societal stakeholders in the activities of the projects and the promotion of active participation among young people in community-based projects. This action will bring also a significant number of young people closer to youth-related policy making processes at local, regional and national level.

This programme will also foster respect for **cultural diversity** and **intercultural learning**. Facilitating joint activities of young people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds will also be addressed.

Gender is identified as a priority and **key cross-cutting theme**. Young women in the region face negative gender stereotypes on how they should be and which roles they should play in society. At the same time, young men face masculine stereotypes that have a negative impact on, for example, their level of education. The EU4Y will address such priorities through i) actions targeting young women directly and by identifying young women as one of the target groups; ii) aiming at gender balance at the level of participants to the various EU4Y actions.

Disadvantaged youth²⁴, will be addressed in all the actions of the programme, as well as specifically under component 2.

Environmental sustainability, including **climate change mitigation**, may be included as a theme in community-based activities under the Grant component.

4 **DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

4.1 *Objectives/results*

The objective of the EU4Youth programme is to foster the **employability** and the **active participation** of young people in society and economy, by developing **skills** needed in the labour market and by supporting them in becoming **leaders** and **entrepreneurs**, by facilitating transition and the search for new professional opportunities. Advancing **cross-sectorial youth**

²⁴ See definition in footnote 4.

policies will be supported through better capacity of youth organisations to engage in policy development and to build constructive relations with public and private bodies. Furthermore, the action will aim to support efforts for the development of broad partnerships bringing together relevant authorities, with other key stakeholders, like businesses, social partners, vocational education and training (VET) providers, employment services, youth representatives. Particular attention will be devoted to **disadvantaged youth** – and to the inclusion of **women**. More specifically:

Component 1 – This component will empower young people with key **competences** and **skills** supporting their **active participation** in democratic life and the labour market. Capacity building activities will focus on skills and competencies crucial for developing entrepreneurial potential, leadership and active participation in social and economic life.

Component 2 – This component will aim to increase educational opportunities and employment perspectives for all youth. Particularly, challenges faced by **disadvantaged youth** and in the field of **entrepreneurship** will be addressed by a grant scheme for those organisations active in these areas, aiming to identify actions with significant potential for **systemic impact**²⁵.

Component 3 – This component will ensure the effective overall functioning, coordination and visibility of the programme. In addition, it will support the alignment of the EU4Y with relevant **policy dialogues** and **actions**.

4.2 Main Activities

The activities will be structured into **3 components**:

1. EU4Y Capacity building

- a. Civil Society Fellowships – EACEA
- b. Partnerships for Entrepreneurship – EACEA

2. EU4Y Grant scheme

- a. Grant scheme for policy development with a focus on youth entrepreneurship and disadvantaged youth

3. EU4Y Coordination

- a. Monitoring – Coordination - Visibility
- b. Alumni Network for "Fellows"
- c. Support EU4Y alignment with other policy dialogue/actions
- d. Synergies with other programmes

²⁵ Such activities should aim at producing effects that go beyond supporting the single applicant and trigger a larger effect with a potential systemic impact and inspire reforms at national level.

Component 1: EU4Y Capacity building

Result 1: Youth organisations are more capable to build the capacity of youth in key **competences**²⁶ and **skills** – such as those related to **citizenship, entrepreneurship and leadership** – needed to support their **active participation** in democratic life and to increase their **employability**.

To achieve Result 1 capacity building actions targeting youth organisations, youth workers and leaders will be organised by EACEA. Eligible applicants, among others, will be youth organisations, civil society organisations and/or private companies, including social enterprises and consortia of such organisations. These Capacity building activities will entail:

- The *Civil Society Fellowships for youth* – Through inclusive and participatory capacity building projects (calls for proposals), youth organisations and youth workers will be enabled to deploy their potential in becoming active participants in **policy-development** and **policy making**, in particular regarding youth issues. Their skills will be enhanced to build constructive relations with a variety of partners, including public bodies and civil society organisations. Promising **young leaders** (the Fellows) will be selected from those organisations that took part in the capacity building, and will have the chance to enhance their skills and competences in the field of **policy development**, through mobility activities and working in hosting organisations in the EU, taking part in, inter alia, **mentorship schemes** and **job shadowing**, and carrying out **small policy engagement projects** upon return to their sending organisation.
- The *Partnerships for Entrepreneurship* – This activity (calls for proposals) will support actions that aim at promoting **entrepreneurship education**²⁷ and **social entrepreneurship** among young people through transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships between organisations working in the mentioned areas, including business. Priority will be given to proposals that give practical solutions to social challenges present in the communities of origin and exploit the economic potential of the region. The involvement of the private sector will be considered also important.

²⁶ Source: *Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning [Official Journal L 394 of 30.12.2006]* The recommendation states that: "Key competences in the shape of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to each context are fundamental for each individual in a knowledge-based society. They provide added value for the labour market, social cohesion and active citizenship by offering flexibility and adaptability, satisfaction and motivation".

²⁷ Entrepreneurship does not only entail the business dimension, but is also being developed as a way of developing skills such as risk-taking and problem solving that facilitate achievement of life goals and in education.

A link to the activities in the areas of entrepreneurship and disadvantaged youth within Component 2 of this action will be envisaged.

Component 2: EU4Y Grant scheme

Result 2: Challenges faced by **disadvantaged youth** and by all youth in the field of **entrepreneurship** are addressed.

Calls for proposals will be set up to:

- Increase the educational and training opportunities and improve the employment perspectives of **vulnerable and disadvantaged²⁸ young people**. Particular attention should be paid to young people living in rural or deprived urban areas, as well as to those coming from families with disadvantaged socio-economic background. As quality education is a foundation for better social and employment prospects, this action will also support leaders in the education field who are dedicated to offer quality education to all young people including those from most disadvantaged families and areas.
- **Support creative young people in maturing their entrepreneurial ideas** and equipping them with skills to look for appropriate implementation schemes and funding²⁹. Entrepreneurship education is essential not only to provide the skills and knowledge that are central to developing an entrepreneurial culture, but also to shape the mind-sets of young people. According to the Key Competence Framework³⁰, the entrepreneurship key competence refers to an individual's ability to turn ideas into action. It includes creativity, innovation and risk taking, as well as the ability to plan and manage projects in order to achieve objectives³¹. Particular attention should be paid to those economic sectors with higher appeal on youth – i.e. innovation and IT, creative industries, green economy, etc. – and to social entrepreneurship. The involvement of the Private sector is key for the success of this initiative.

Such activities should aim at producing effects that go beyond supporting the single applicant and trigger a larger effect with a potential systemic impact and inspire reforms at national level. When relevant, creating the necessary links between the education and training system, the labour market and society at large in the partner countries will be supported.

Component 3: EU4Y Coordination

²⁸ See definition in footnote 6.

²⁹ With the roll-out of the DCFTA Facility in some partner countries and economically-driven actions in others, this action will be also important to support potential young entrepreneurs to develop their ideas into concrete projects and business endeavours which in turn should help them to apply for resources on commercial markets and through other EU-financed initiatives, with partial focus on those supporting municipal economic development.

³⁰ Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning [Official Journal L 394 of 30.12.2006].

³¹ Entrepreneurship Education at School in Europe. National Strategies, Curricula and Learning Outcomes. Eurydice, March 2012.

Result 3: effective functioning of the programme is ensured by (i) exploring **synergies** among all components, (ii) supporting the steering committee in its **coordination** and **monitoring** functions and (iii) through **communication** and **visibility** activities. In addition, the alignment of the EU4Y programme with relevant **policy dialogues** and **actions** (e.g. with the discussions in the relevant EaP Platforms and Panels, with the activities supported by ETF etc.) is supported, thus ensuring the streamlining of youth issues at national level, and the sustainability of the EU4Y actions.

To achieve Result 3 the following activities are envisaged:

- Explore **synergies** among all the components of the action, as well as with **other key programmes**, donors and organisations, with joint information when relevant;
- Support the steering committee in its **coordination** and **monitoring** activities for all the components (where possible and in respect of the legal status of EU Agencies);
- Carrying out **communication** and **visibility** activities³²;
- Provide **structured information** for all relevant meetings within the EaP, including Platforms and Panels.
- Ensure the alignment of the EU4Y programme with relevant policy dialogues and actions through, *inter alia*, preparation of appropriate **information** for different target groups and audiences, organisation of capacity building events or other suitable activities (when relevant).

Horizontal support to encourage broader policy dialogue on youth issues

The aim of this horizontal support is to link all the actions under components 1 and 2 to broader **policy dialogue towards cross-sectorial policies** with focus on **youth employment** issues. This would not only ensure that youth related issues are **mainstreamed** into the relevant policies, but also consistently contribute to the **sustainability** of the actions performed under the EU4Y programme.

Beside the activities within this action, the European Commission will propose in its *Opinion on the ETF Programming Document (2017-2020)* to include activities for the promotion and development of youth partnerships for employment in the new work programme.

4.3 Intervention logic

Intervention logic for component 1

Component 1 serves the general objective of the action by empowering young people with key competences and **skills** supporting their **active participation in democratic life, citizenship, entrepreneurship and leadership**, through capacity building actions targeting youth organisations, youth workers and leaders with embedded Civil Society Fellowships.

³² In line with the provisions of 5.10 - *Communication and visibility*.

Intervention logic for Component 2:

Component 2 serves the general objective of the action by increasing educational and employment opportunities for all youth, particularly addressing challenges facing youth **entrepreneurship** and **disadvantaged youth** via assisting policy development in these areas through the identification of actions with significant potential for **systemic impact**.

Intervention logic for Component 3:

Component 3 serves the general objective of the action by ensuring the **effective functioning** of the programme as well as the alignment of the EU4Y programme with relevant **policy dialogues, actions** and **programmes**. Furthermore it will create **synergies** with other relevant programmes for mutual reinforcement and to avoid duplications.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

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

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

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 – Component 1 – calls for proposals (direct management)

Component 1 will be implemented under direct management mode and the implementing body will be the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). This direct management is in accordance with Article 58(1)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

This implementation method is justified because EACEA is responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Key Action 2 – Capacity Building in the field of youth and this Component will be implemented as a Window of the Erasmus+ Programme. This will provide for the fastest and most effective response, given that it combines already tested mobility and non-formal learning activities by being integrated into an already existing programme, with established sustainable structures. This includes notably EACEA's experience in this field.

The EACEA will be responsible for the management of this Component under the same implementation methods as the foreseen under the Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (Erasmus+

Programme Guide), under the supervision of relevant Directorate-Generals of the Commission. As contracting authority, the EACEA will be responsible for the selection/evaluation/award procedure.

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

As defined in section 4 above.

(b) Eligibility conditions

As defined in section 4 above.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

As defined in section 4 above.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is up to 95%.

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

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

1st half of 2017.

5.3.2 – Component 2 – call for proposals (direct management)

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

As defined in section 4 above.

(b) Eligibility conditions

As defined in section 4 above.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

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

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

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is up to 95%.

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

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call
1st half of 2017.

5.3.3 – Component 3 - procurement (direct management)

Subject	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Component 3	Services	1	4 th quarter of 2016

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for 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.

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

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
5.3.1 – Component 1 – Call for proposals by EACEA (direct management)	9 million ³³
5.3.2 – Component 2 – Call for proposals (direct management)	8.5 million
5.3.3 – Component 3 – procurement of services (direct management)	2.5 million ³⁴
Totals	20 million

³³ The repartition of funds within this Component will indicatively be: 60% for the "Civil Society Fellowships for youth"; 40% for the "Partnerships for entrepreneurship". Additionally, a limited amount will be used by EACEA for the visibility of the calls for proposals, the production and distribution info material on the initiatives.

³⁴ Funds unspent for the Service Contract will be allocated to the Calls for Proposals in point 5.3.2.

5.6 *Organisational set-up and responsibilities*

A project steering committee will be created, bringing together the representatives from the **implementing authorities**, representatives of relevant **European Commission** services (DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations and DG Education and Culture) and representatives of EACEA and of ETF. The projects will be implemented in close cooperation with the **EU Delegations** in the Eastern Partnership countries. Results achieved will be presented at the EaP Platforms meetings.

Among the European Commission Services involved in this action, the role of DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations is crucial, as initiator and final monitoring body. DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations will chair the steering committee and address directly to the implementing partners all issues and concerns pertaining to the activities within this action, in line with the Commission priorities and policies. In close coordination with other concerned Commission services ("line DGs"), it will make sure that the outcomes of all activities within this action will be presented at the relevant EaP Platforms and Panels to enhance the multilateral policy dialogue on youth.

The steering committee shall:

- Provide an opinion on the annual work programme of the action;
- Discuss action objectives, related activities and expected results and the most beneficial ways for implementing the action;
- Discuss progress with the delivery of the action's substantive products and its impact;
- Discuss issues that impede action implementation and suggest how they might be alleviated;
- Share information on the other cross-cutting Commission-funded programmes in the region as well as information on participating countries' efforts to reform their policies in line with policy recommendation provided within the action;
- Discuss how donor and stakeholder coordination more generally be best achieved.

The annual work programmes will be formally presented by the implementing entities and formally approved by the European Commission, taking into account the discussions taking place at the annual meeting.

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. This system will be coordinated and supervised by the contractor that will be awarded with component 3, except for those activities implemented by EACEA. The Executive Agency will be responsible to monitor on the activities under its own responsibility in component 1 of this action.

Regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports will be produced. 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) where appropriate. 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 reports, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

For this action, an **annual report** and a **bi-monthly newsletter** are foreseen.

The EACEA, in cooperation with DG Education and Culture may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through external consultants recruited directly for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the European Commission for implementing such reviews).

For **component 1** performance monitoring will be supervised by DG Education and Culture and by EACEA.

For **component 2** performance monitoring will be supervised by the contractor that will be awarded with the service contract under component 3.

Globally, this will enable EACEA and the contractor to monitor activities and performance, as well as to offer guidance to beneficiary organisations.

Performance indicators will relate to, inter alia:

- The **impact** of the programme on young people and youth workers' personal and skills development through personal interviews or questionnaires on a sample of participants;
- The **number of projects** and **project participants supported by the programme**, with a focus on matching the following priorities: projects demonstrating a clear commitment to provide support to **disadvantaged youth** (indicatively minimum **30%**) and projects committed to **gender equality** (the overall participation of young men and women should indicatively be **50% and 50%**);

Monitoring measures of the flow of participants from the 33 Erasmus+ Programme countries and from EaP countries will be conducted on a regular basis and, if necessary, measures will be taken by the European Commission in order to ensure sufficient opportunities for participants from the EaP countries.

5.8 Evaluation

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

The evaluation will be carried out to ensure that the proposed set up responds to the needs of the youth in EaP countries. A gender analysis should also be included.

The European 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 EaP countries and other key stakeholders where relevant. The implementing partners and the European 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 European 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(s) shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU are 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 contractors and grant beneficiaries. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in procurement and grant contracts.

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.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations will have to be followed.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU interventions. Visibility actions should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of the funds.

It is the responsibility of the contractor and grant beneficiaries to keep the EU Delegations fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

Visibility and communication actions will be reported to the monitoring committee and the sectorial monitoring committees.

6 APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)

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

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Foster young people active participation in democratic life and in the labour market					
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support participation of youth in society - Support employability of youth - Support entrepreneurial skills of youth - Support young leaders - Support disadvantaged youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved knowledge of participating organisations on active citizenship. - Improved knowledge of participating organisations on active entrepreneurship. - Increased youth organisations' capability to promote young leaders - Improved leadership skills acquired through the "Fellowships" - Youth participating in the activities are more aware of employment perspectives - Disadvantaged youth are more involved in society 	Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant indicators' baseline will follow accordingly.	Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant indicators' baseline will follow accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fact-sheets for every component's activity. - Interim reports from implementing partners. - Visit to EaP implementation sites. - Reports from the EU Delegations. - Attendance lists for each component's activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stability of the region. - Beneficiaries' and stakeholders' Active participation in all project activities.

Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young leaders' skills on policy advocacy are enhanced. - Entrepreneurship education and social entrepreneurship education is conveyed to participating organisations. - Disadvantaged youth's educational opportunities are enhanced - Employment perspectives for youth are clearer - Employability skills for young people are enhanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nr. of young leaders trained. - Nr. of fellowships established per country. - Nr of mentorship schemes per country - Nr of job shadowing per country - Nr of small policy engagement projects per country - Nr of new entrepreneurial projects designed - Nr of multilateral partnerships between organisations in the field of social entrepreneurship - Nr of multilateral partnerships between organisations in the field of entrepreneurship³⁵. 	<p>Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant indicators' baseline will follow accordingly.</p>	<p>Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant indicators' baseline will follow accordingly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fact-sheets for every component's activity. - Interim reports from implementing partners. - Visit to EaP implementation sites. - Reports from the EU Delegations. - Attendance lists for each component's activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth organisations are interested in engaging in policy dialogue. - Disadvantaged youth are interested in taking part in the action. - Private sector is interested in participating in the action.
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³⁵ Specific gender and vulnerable groups indicators with minimum participatory threshold will be established when designing the single activities.