



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Republic of Moldova

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

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

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Technical Cooperation Facility CRIS number: ENI/2015/038-136 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument			
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Republic of Moldova The action shall be carried out at the following location: the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova			
3. Programming document	Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to the Republic of Moldova (2014-2017)			
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Complementary support for capacity development and institution building			
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 5 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 5 million			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management – grants (twinning call for proposals) and procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	15110 Public sector policy and administrative management			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

	In Development)			
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

The proposed action for a "Technical Cooperation Facility" aims to provide financial support to capacity development and institution building activities linked to the implementation of the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement (AA) signed on 27 June 2014 and provisionally entered into force on 1 September 2014.

The AA highlights the need for key priority reforms in democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, a functioning market economy and sustainable development. EU assistance is synchronised with the priorities and objectives set out in the AA and it is framed in the Single Support Framework (SSF) 2014-2017 which focuses EU support in the field of public administration reform, agriculture and rural development, police and border management. A complementary provision of the SSF is dedicated to capacity development and institution building activities for the implementation of priority commitments deriving from the EU agreements.

The AA generates commitments in a wide range of areas and, taking into account the current capabilities of the Government of Moldova for the fulfilment of these obligations, important steps are required to advance the reform agenda in five key areas: Environment, Justice, Energy, Transport and Education.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The Republic of Moldova, a landlocked country with borders to Romania and Ukraine, has a resident population of 3.5 million. It is the poorest country in Europe with a GDP per capita of USD 2,233 in 2014. Its territorial administration is highly fragmented with 32 districts (rayon), 66 cities (towns), of which five with municipality status, and with 898 local communities.

Following November 2014 parliamentary elections, a minority government was formed in February 2015, after intense negotiations. The appointment of a new government, composed of PLDM (Liberal-Democratic Party) and PDM (Democratic Party), had temporarily restored fragile stability after a prolonged period of political uncertainty. However, after the resignation of the Prime Minister in June 2015, a new executive was formed in July, including in the majority coalition the Liberal Party. Local elections took place in 2015 and an election of a new President is expected in 2016. The elections of November 2014 have shown there is

a deep polarization in society. The PSRM (Socialist Party) has emerged as the largest party, obtaining a quarter of seats in Parliament.

Some steps were made on the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. In 2014, only two rounds of negotiations in the ‘5+2’ format took place and several rounds were postponed. The overall situation in the security zone remained tense, but stable.

Moldova’s economy faced a difficult situation in 2014 linked to several factors. Economic growth rates reduced from 8.9% in 2013 to 4.6% in 2014. Some projections foresee that the economic growth of Moldova could be negative in 2015.

Serious problems in Moldova’s financial sector pose a risk to stable economic development. Shortcomings in the supervision of the banking and insurance sectors came to the fore at the end of 2014 with two consecutive decisions by the National Bank of Moldova to place three major commercial banks under special administration, representing about 30% of total banking assets.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

Since 2005, European integration has been a consistent, fundamental priority of Moldova's domestic and foreign policy. The Moldovan Government is committed to the principles of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), namely enhanced political association and closer economic integration. These goals are reflected in the Government Activity Programme 2015, Government’s programme “European Integration: Freedom, Democracy, Welfare 2011-2014”, and in the National Development Strategy ("Moldova 2020"), and in the National Action Plan on implementation of the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agreement (AA) 2014-2016 which are both all closely aligned with the objectives and actions contained in the Association Agreement and the Association Agenda.

The AA generates commitments in a wide range of areas with important obligations in the following areas: Environment, Justice, Energy, Transport and Education.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The key stakeholders of the Technical Cooperation Facility will be the concerned ministries, other central executive bodies, and also relevant civil society groups.

This action will be coordinated by the State Chancellery as National Coordinating Unit for EU assistance. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration should be closely associated as coordinating ministry in charge of monitoring the implementation of the AA.

Given indicative thematic priorities of this action, the following Moldovan stakeholders will play a major role in the action's implementation process:

Area	Stakeholders
Environment	Ministry of Environment Climate change office Moldovan Water Agency (Apele Moldovei) Ministry of Agriculture and food industry
Justice	Ministry of Justice General Prosecutor's Office

Area	Stakeholders
	Ministry of Internal Affairs General Police Inspectorate National Anti-corruption Centre National Integrity Commission Supreme Council of Magistracy Bar Association National Institute of Justice
Energy	Ministry of Economy National Energy Regulatory Agency (ANRE) Energy Efficiency Agency Moldelectrica Educational institutions in the field of Energy
Transport	Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructures State Road Administration Civil Aviation Authority
Education	Ministry of Education VET Agency Quality insurance Agency

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

This action will ensure provision of EU support with regard to policy development and implementation, the implementation of priority commitments deriving from the Association Agreement and capacity building measures in the following priority sectors:

Environment

There is a gap between the high priority accorded to Environment in the EU and its status in the Republic of Moldova. The approximation of national legislation with the EU acquis set out in the EU-Moldova Association Agreement should lead to a strengthening of environmental policies and legislation. Political will is required to elevate environmental issues as a priority on the political agenda.

The development and implementation of environmental policies in Moldova faces a lot of challenges, including weaknesses in the legal and institutional framework, lack of capacities for the elaboration of sound environmental and economic analysis for policy priorities and elaboration of programmes and plans, as well as securing substantive financing sources for implementation of approved environmental programs and projects.

At policy-making level, Environment and Climate Change have not been always incorporated as cross-cutting issue and environment protection does not represent a top priority for the Government. The National Development Strategy Moldova 2020 does not address sufficiently the environmental and climate change matters.

The main goals to be achieved in the sector are the following: 1) Modernisation of the regulatory system for environmental protection in line with approximation provisions of the AA; 2) Strengthening of the national system for climate change mitigation and adaptation; 3) Reinforcement of the institutional, analytical and programming capacities of the Ministry of Environment; 4) Environment policy to be a cross-cutting issue in the policy-making process.

Fight against corruption in the justice sector

The 2014 European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Progress Report indicated that the reform of the prosecution did not advance. The prosecution service needs continuous capacity building and training in order to ensure its full depoliticisation.

The main challenge remains the implementation of the legislation to combat corruption in the justice sector. Other key challenges are: non-enforcement of courts' decisions; limited access to justice, vulnerability of justice in front of political interests.

In line with the objectives of the Association Agreement and Title III "Justice, Freedom and Security", the priority areas for support will be: 1) Combatting and elimination of the corruption within the Justice system; 2) Strengthening the independence, accountability, impartiality, efficiency and transparency of the judicial system; 3) Improvement of the institutional framework to ensure effective access to justice; 4) Strengthening the enforcement of Court decisions; 5) Strengthening the integrity of the justice sector actors; 6) Implementation of legal framework to create a favourable climate for sustainable economic development.

Energy

The Republic of Moldova is a net energy importer, with only about 5% of demand for primary energy being met by domestic sources. Natural gas is the major source of energy in Moldova and the country is for the time being almost 100% dependent on the gas imports from a single gas supplier (JSC "Gazprom"). In the electricity area, Moldova's own power generation capacity only constitutes approximately 25% out of its total consumption. In addition to the problem of uncompetitive supply, outdated electrical generation systems, inefficient district heating systems and poor buildings' insulation further contribute to the poor performance of the sector.

Moldova is a member of the Energy Community since 2010. In 2013, the country adopted a revised energy strategy until 2030. This strategy has three main objectives which are security of energy supply, competition and availability of affordable energy, environmental sustainability and combating climate change. Major efforts are being put these last years in the development of interconnections (electricity and gas) with the EU energy market. A first important step was the recent finalisation of the Iasi (RO)-Ungheni (MD) pipeline.

The main goals to be achieved in the sector are the followings: 1) Reinforcement of energy efficiency and development of renewable energies; 2) Fulfilment of commitments under the Energy Community Treaty; 3) Connection to the EU energy market; 4) Modernisation of energy infrastructures.

Transport

In 2013, a new Transport and Logistics Strategy was approved for the period 2013-2020 defining objectives for the road, rail, aviation, maritime and inland waterway sectors. Thanks to the support of International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and the EU, major investments have already been made in the rehabilitation of roads whereas some new investments are expected for the railway sector. In the aviation sector, the country is currently working on the implementation of the EU-Moldova Common Aviation Area Agreement.

Modernisation of the Transport sector will help to better connect the Republic of Moldova to the EU. It is an important instrument to promote Moldova's export potential and help

Moldova reap the benefits of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) with the EU market. Improvement of efficiency, safety and security of the transport systems will increase the living standards of the Moldovan population.

In line with the Moldovan Transport and Logistics Strategy and the provisions on Transport of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, the main goals to be achieved in the sector are the following: 1) Implementation of the EU-Moldova Common Aviation Area Agreement; 2) Rehabilitation of transport infrastructures; 3) Reinforcement of efficiency, safety and security of transport systems; 4) Reinforcement of intermodality and interoperability of transport systems; 5) Reinforcement of transport links between the EU and the Republic of Moldova.

Education

The reform of the Education sector remains high in the governmental agenda. Moldova is continuing its educational reform, and has approved a new Educational Code and its 2014-2020 education development strategy ('Education 2020'). The school's network is being restructured with the World Bank's support. An EU funded budget support programme on reforming the vocational, education and training system was approved in 2013.

Modernisation of the higher education sector is supported through the Erasmus+ programme. Quality assurance has already been addressed through Tempus projects and support in this field should build on recent developments in this field taking into account the revised version of the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" – the reference document for internal and external quality assurance systems in higher education - adopted at the Yerevan Bologna Ministerial Conference in May 2015 and the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

The key challenges in the sector are the following: 1) Modernisation of the education system of Moldova in line with the Bologna principles and EU best practices; 2) Efficient functioning of the Moldovan National Agency for Quality Assurance; 3) Reinforcement of links between research and higher education, VET education and private sector (employers); 4) Reinforcement of the quality of the education structures, content and methods.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Geopolitical tensions and poor economic performance hamper political stability and Governments actions	M	Intensified policy dialogue with the Government and local stakeholders following (and within) the framework of the Association Agreement
Policy coordination is ineffective for ensuring compliance with EU Acquis approximation process	H	Support to the Government in ensuring policy coordination and proper understanding of the requirements coming from Association Agreement
Slow progress of extension of legislation and rules; resistance to implementing anti-corruption measures	H	Reinforced dialogue with the Government based on extended performance monitoring

Assumptions

- The Moldovan Government remains committed and able to allocate sufficient resources to support implementation of the AA reforms and strategies.
- The constituent parts of Moldova's establishment: Parliament, Government, and Judiciary remain committed to reform the justice sector as a whole, and within the timeframe envisaged.
- There is willingness on the part of Civil Society Organisations to participate in the policy dialogue and to become involved in the delivery of public services to citizens.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Reviews of on-going and former programmes to assist the Moldovan Government funded by the EU as well as by other donors have led to the following general conclusions:

- The need to programme assistance within the framework of a clear sector reform strategy ensuring the ownership of the Government of Moldova;
- The importance of mainstreaming cross-cutting issues, notably rights based approach, gender and environment and climate change in key policy areas;
- The need for the Government of Moldova to provide continuous monitoring of the project activities that generate regular and timely information, necessary and sufficient for result based management.

The range of policy areas included in the EU-Moldova Association Agreement is broader than the three sectors of concentration included in the Single Support Framework (2014-2017). The lack of sufficient resources in several Governments' institutions justifies the additional support to five priority areas aimed at addressing additional needs for approximation and institution building that are not already covered under the sectors of concentration of the SSF.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The complementarity with other actions will be ensured within the context of the preparation of the relevant projects in the context of the current action.

Synergies and donor coordination should be ensured by the coordinating structure (State Chancellery) as well by the relevant Sector Coordination Council including one leading development partner.

The below table summarises the current setting of the SCC in each priority area of this action.

Moldovan institution	Sector	Coordinating Development Partner
Ministry of Environment	Environment, water and sanitation	Swiss Development Cooperation
Ministry of Justice	Justice	European Union
Ministry of Economy	Energy	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure	Transport and road infrastructures	World Bank

Ministry of Education	Education	World Bank European Union
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The EU Delegation is active in all donor groups and is supporting the development of aid coordination as a whole. Current donor funded projects in the proposed sectors are:

- Environment - Swiss Development Cooperation and Austrian Development Agency are the main donors in the field of Water Management after the end of the EU budget support programme ended in 2014. The EU High Level Policy Advisory Mission has provided strategic support to the Ministry of Environment in overall regulatory approximation to EU Acquis until June 2015.
- Justice - Technical assistance projects and a budget support programme funded by the EU and supporting the Moldovan authorities to implement the Justice Sector Reform are covering: the Ministry of Justice, General Prosecutor's Office, Superior Council of Magistracy, Supreme Court of Justice, Probation Service, Penitentiaries Department and the Union of Bailiffs. The wide scope of the reform process and the resistances encountered within some institutions require intensifying this technical support especially in fighting against corruption in the justice sector.
- Energy - The ongoing EU budget support operation to reform the energy sector and the accompanying technical Assistance have led to concrete legislative and institutional reforms in the sector. This assistance programme will come to an end in early 2016 and further support is needed in this particular area. Other main donors active in the energy sector are SIDA and World Bank.
- Transport - The EU Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) is being widely used to support investments in this sector in Moldova. The main actions in this sector – benefitting of EU grants contributions are implemented through the support of International Financial Institutions (mainly EBRD, EIB and World Bank).
- Education – The European Union is the main donor in the Vocational Educational Training domain through an ongoing budget support operation running till 2017 also including a technical assistance component. The European Union supports as well mobility, academic cooperation and higher education modernisation through the Erasmus+ programme. The eTwinning online cooperation between schools is also open to Moldova. The World Bank is active in the field of optimising the school's network. Smaller scale interventions in this area are supported by other donors.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Issues such as gender, environment, good governance (decentralization, efficient administration that is accountable and oriented towards serving the people), human rights, the rule of law, democracy, development of the role of civil society and children rights cut across government departments and levels of government. Such crosscutting issues have grown in prominence lately, and there is increasing awareness of the need to develop new systems and procedures to integrate and mainstream respective matters.

The present action has a positive impact on promoting crosscutting issues such as: environment and climate change and rights based approach (including Gender mainstreaming).

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The overall objective of this action is to increase the capacities of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and of key national institutions to implement the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agenda in five priority areas: environment, justice, energy, transport and education.

The specific objectives (SO) of this component are:

1. To contribute to the integration of environment and climate change into policy making as well as ensuring implementation following EU best practices.
2. To support the improvement of the overall efficiency in the prevention and fight against corruption in the justice sector and to increase the efficiency of the judiciary and other agencies in the justice chain.
3. To promote the fulfilment of Moldova's commitments under the Energy Community Treaty and to contribute to the reinforcement of energy security, energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies.
4. To contribute to the reform of the transport sector in line with the transport chapter of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement.
5. To contribute to the upgrade of the education system in Moldova in line with EU and Bologna process best practices and quality education principles.

4.2 Main activities

The main activities to be performed include:

Under SO 1

- Capacity building and legal approximation in the environmental and climate change sectors.
- Raising awareness for mainstreaming environment and climate change issues in the policy making process.

Under SO 2

- Support to the implementation of an efficient disciplinary mechanism for each justice system related professions.
- Support to the implementation of the anti-corruption package of laws, including the integrity testing, illicit enrichment and expended confiscation.
- Capacity building of justice sector actors, with special emphasis on the National Institute of Justice in order to ensure initial and continuous professional education of judges.

Under SO 3

- Capacity building and technical assistance to support Moldova in the fulfilment of its commitments under the Energy Community Treaty.
- Capacity building and technical assistance to promote Energy Efficiency and development of Renewable Energy.
- Technical assistance to support interconnections with the EU Energy market.

Under SO 4

- Technical assistance and capacity building to support legal approximation and policy development for fulfilment of the commitments undertaken in the transport sector.

Under SO 5

- Capacity building and technical assistance to support the reform agenda in the education sector.

4.3 Intervention logic

This action is aimed at creating the necessary conditions for effective implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, particularly, through targeted policy advice and assistance in legal approximation and policy development process in the priority areas of environment, prevention and fight against corruption in the justice sector, energy, transport and education. The action will also include a provision of capacity building measures to relevant national authorities.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is 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 implemented, is 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

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

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grants: indicatively 2 calls for proposals in the framework of the Twinning programme (direct management)

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

The Twinning calls for proposals modality will be used for implementing some of the actions under the specific objectives of this action.

The main expected results are:

- Progress on the EU-Moldova Association Agreement commitments and overall reform process is achieved by closer EU-Moldova cooperation;
- Improved capacity of the Moldovan public authorities for policy making in line with the national reform agenda and the priorities of the approximation process with the EU;
- Selected public authorities have the capacity to implement the undertaken commitments under the EU-Moldova agreements.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In line with Article 4(10) (b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, participation in Twinning calls for proposals is limited to public administrations of the EU Member States, being understood as central or regional authorities of a Member State as well as their bodies and administrative structures and private law bodies entrusted with a public service mission under their control provided they act for the account and under the responsibility of that Member State.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criterion is the operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are the technical expertise of the applicant, and the relevance, methodology and sustainability of the proposed action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The rate of co-financing for Twinning grant contracts is 100%¹.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

The first call for proposal under this Programme is expected to be launched in the second trimester of 2016. It is expected that the remaining calls for proposals will be launched by the end of 2017.

(f) Use of lump sums/flat rates/unit costs

Twinning contracts include a system of unit costs and flat rate financing, defined in the Twinning Manual, for the reimbursement of the public sector expertise provided by the selected Member States administrations. The use of this system of unit costs and flat rate financing, which exceeds the amount of EUR 60 000 per beneficiary of a Twinning contract, is subject to the adoption of a separate, horizontal Commission decision.

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

Subject	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Capacity building and technical assistance to any of the targeted sectors: environment, justice, energy, education and transport	Services	3	Second and third trimester 2016
Evaluation/audit	Services	2	Second trimester 2019

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

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

¹ As provided for in the Twinning Manual

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution (amount in in EUR)
5.3.1 Twinning calls for proposals (direct management)	1 850 000	N/A
5.3.2. Procurement concerning environment, justice, energy, transport and education (direct management)	3 000 000	N/A
5.8., 5.9. Evaluation and audit	150 000	N/A
TOTAL	5 000 000	N/A

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The State Chancellery is the coordinating institution responsible for external assistance and will contribute to the programming of the activities to be performed as well as to the monitoring and evaluation of the resulting projects.

The Steering Committees of all projects resulting from this action will include representatives from State Chancellery as well as representatives from the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration as national coordinator responsible for monitoring the implementation of EU-Moldova Association Agreement.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account the need to assess the long-term sustainability of the envisaged reforms.

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

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

Indicatively, one contract for evaluation services shall be concluded under framework contract indicatively in the second trimester of 2019.

5.9 Audit

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

Indicatively, one contract for audit services shall be tendered under a framework contract in the second trimester of 2019.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures for each individual action which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget of each individual action.

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

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

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

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

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Increased capacities of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and of key national institutions to implement the EU-Moldova Association Agenda in five priority sectors	To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this technical cooperation facility.				To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this technical cooperation facility.
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	SO 1: To contribute to the integration of environment and climate change into policy making as well as ensuring implementation following EU best practices. SO 2: To support the improvement of the overall efficiency in the prevention and fight against corruption in the justice sector and to increase the efficiency of the judiciary and other agencies in the justice chain. SO 3: To promote the fulfilment of Moldova's commitments under the Energy Community Treaty and to contribute to the reinforcement of energy security, energy efficiency and the development of renewable energies.	To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this technical cooperation facility.				
	SO 4: To contribute to the reform of the transport sector in line with the transport chapter of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement. SO 5: To contribute to the upgrade of the education system in Moldova in line with EU and Bologna process best practices and quality education principles.					
Outputs	To be completed at a later stage for each individual action financed under this Technical Cooperation Facility.					