



This action is funded by the European Union

**ANNEX II**

**Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI South Annual Action Programme 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020**

**Action Document for EU Support to the Council of Europe South Programme IV**

**ANNUAL PROGRAMME**

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	EU Support to the Council of Europe South Programme IV CRIS number: 2020/042-208 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Southern Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel <sup>(1)</sup> , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine <sup>(2)</sup> , Syria <sup>(3)</sup> and Tunisia	
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) 2014-2020, Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020)	
<b>4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.	
<b>5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area</b>	Partnership with People -Support regional institutional cooperation	DEV. Assistance: NO <sup>(4)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on [http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG](http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG).

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

<sup>(3)</sup> On hold – activities suspended in previous phases due to conflict.

<sup>(4)</sup> Official Development Assistance is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

<b>6. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 3,334,000</p> <p>Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 3 million</p> <p>The contribution is for EUR 3 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p> <p>The action is co-financed in joint co-financing by the Council of Europe for an amount of EUR 334,000.</p>			
<b>7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	<p>Project Modality</p> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the Council of Europe</p>			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15150 Democratic Participation and civil society			
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	47000 Other multilateral institutions OR 50000 Other			
<b>9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>
	Aid to environment	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women's and Girl's Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<b>X</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	Not applicable			

**SUMMARY:**

The Southern Neighbourhood region continues to face important challenges at regional level. Despite the unquestioned democratic gains with recent constitutional democratic reforms in certain countries such as Morocco and Tunisia, others still face fragility and instability. The continued Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the ongoing conflict in Syria with more than 5.6 million

refugees having fled to neighbouring countries<sup>5</sup>, the socio-political instability in Libya, and the recent upheavals in Algeria continue to hamper efforts towards regional integration.

As pointed out by the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy, good governance, respect and protection of human rights, as well as an effective, functional and impartial rule of law system are key for the development of sustainable, peaceful and stable democratic societies. In this light, the overall objective of this action is to contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European and international human rights legislative standards.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has a long-standing cooperation relationship with the EU, including European Commission services such as DG NEAR (Neighbourhood and Enlargement), through the implementation of bilateral cooperation programmes, and the successive editions of the South Programme at regional level.

South Programme IV seeks to continue assisting Southern Mediterranean countries in reforming their legislation and reinforcing their democratic governance institutions as well as accompanying reform processes. Additionally, particular attention is given to activities combatting gender-based violence against women and human trafficking. A special focus on regional activities would complement bilateral programmes, together with strengthening regional networks through knowledge exchange, capacity building, peer review, and experience sharing that would positively nurture a sense of regional ownership.

The South Programme IV will concentrate specifically on creating a common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean as well as among countries in the Southern Neighbourhood region itself, based on the accession of Southern partner countries to relevant CoE conventions, in particular the Istanbul Convention dealing with violence against women. It will seek to favour regional application of human rights and rule of law standards, referring specifically to CoE conventions and institutions where these have been agreed with partner countries, as well as relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, building capacity of national institutions. The successive phases of the South Programme have confirmed the relevance and sustainability of the programme in providing institutional support to the region, which has the added value of CoE's standard setting know-how, its independent monitoring process, and the support of independent experts and advisory opinion bodies.

## **1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS**

### **1.1 Context Description**

Southern Neighbourhood countries face important challenges concerning regional integration. Despite the unquestioned democratic gains in certain countries, the heated debates about new social configurations and public affairs are strongly polarising Arab societies. A very young population with little access to decent work and employment<sup>(6)</sup>, the disenfranchisement of

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<sup>(5)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/our-mission\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfund-syria-region/content/our-mission_en) (data consulted on 25th July 2019)

<sup>(6)</sup> The region has some of the world's highest rates of youth unemployment. According to recent data, the most recent youth unemployment rates in the other ENP-South countries ranged from 22.5 % in Morocco (2016) to 35.0 % in Tunisia (2015 data) with the 44.7 % rate in Palestine in 2017. In Jordan, unemployment youth rate stands at 36.1% (2017).

women in private, public and political spheres<sup>(7)</sup> due to gender inequality and gender-based violence, conflict, forced migration and displacement also pose serious challenges to achieving regional stability, security and peace as well as arrest economic development. The continued Israeli/Palestinian conflict, the ongoing conflict in Syria with its international repercussions<sup>(8)</sup>, and the socio-political instability in Libya continue to hamper efforts towards regional integration.

Sustainable and inclusive growth together with human and economic development anchored in the indivisibility of human rights are still key challenges in the Southern Neighbourhood region. They are also powerful tools to build resilience as well as wide-ranging, inclusive, transparent and responsive public institutions that are accountable to all citizens, women and men, and able to hold their trust.

In addition, the situation of human rights defenders and civil society organisations have worsened in the region, with little room for activism and advocacy as well as the overall circumscription on debates on human rights issues<sup>(9)</sup>.

In this context, good governance, respect and protection of human rights, as well as an effective, functional and impartial rule of law system are key for the development of sustainable, peaceful and stable democratic societies. It is in this framework that the current programme is at play.

## 1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

By the end of 2015, the EU completed its review of the **Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**, with a series of new orientations for future cooperation with the region: promotion of democratic, accountable and good governance, justice reform as well as a shared commitment to the rule of law and human rights as important universal values, which are preconditions for sustainable development and stability. The ENP review strongly supports the implementation of the **United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a framework in which to engage with the ENP partners based on universal values and principles. Democratic governance is central for achieving the SDG 16, specifically dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, the provision of access to justice for all as well as building effective, accountable institutions at all levels. These same tenets drive the new **European Consensus on Development** (May 2017) and are central to the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy** (2016). These three policy frameworks reinforce each other's priorities and actions. They also guide the EU cooperation efforts to:

- Support domestic and regional interventions which are context-specific,
- Build sustainable democratic states resilient to external and internal shocks, and
- Address the drivers of vulnerability, including inequality<sup>(10)</sup>.

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<sup>(7)</sup> According to a recent survey by the World Bank, female Labour Force Participation (LFP) in the MENA region remains the lowest worldwide. It accounted for an average of 21% in 2017, compared to a 50% average in the European Union (and 51% average in the OECD countries).

<sup>(8)</sup> According to Amnesty International, by the end of 2018, 6.6 million people were internally displaced since the start of the crisis in 2011. Makeshift camps have turned into homes for thousands, with poor and dire living standards.

<sup>(9)</sup> An example of this is the 'NGO law', passed by the Egyptian Parliament in May 2017. This law places constraints on the formation of civil society organisations as much as their general activities, both of which are subject to security intervention. However, as of 15 July 2019, the Egyptian Parliament has passed a new NGO law of which no analysis of its provisions from the EU Delegation in Egypt is yet available, so we cannot assess yet its relationship with the 2017 NGO Law, and the impact on civil society organisations and their activities.

<sup>(10)</sup> See the new [European Consensus for Development](#) for further details.

These are also strong pillars of the Council of Europe's comprehensive pan-European mandate, sustained by more than 220 conventions, around 150 of which are open to ratification by non-member States, constituting a significant part of the all-embracing international human rights law corpus. Fundamental rights are enshrined in a powerful CoE legal instrument, **the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**, which offers protection and legally binding frameworks to monitor compliance, protection and fulfilment of human rights, while ensuring their core presence within Europe's multilateral actions, cooperation and development interventions, as well as overall democratic stability. Regarding the latter, an independent, impartial, and fully working judiciary as well as free media, independent from political and economic interests and pressure, are key to justice, the rule of law and for a fair distribution and exercise of power in society as well as serve as accountability mechanisms. Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and associations, healthy and solid democratic institutions, and inclusive and egalitarian societies are building blocks of states, worthy of people's trust as guarantors of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In this light, the Council of Europe's policy towards the Southern Neighbourhood region <sup>(11)</sup> aims to promote political dialogue and cooperation, based on common values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

All of the above policy frameworks reaffirm the essential role of respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights as well as the central importance of equality between women and men for the EU and its cooperation policy, women and girls being important drivers for sustainable development and peace. Accordingly, the **Joint Staff Working Document on 'Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020' (GAP II)**, endorsed by the European Council in October 2015, stresses the need for the complete realisation of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout EU external actions <sup>(12)</sup>. The GAP II is in strong synergy with all the SDGs, particularly with the SDG 5 that calls to 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls' and the SDG 16, stressing the need to ensure women's and girls' access to justice as well as a fully functional and gender-responsive rule of law system that addresses gender inequalities in both public and private spheres.

Through the Objective 7, '*girls and women free from all forms of violence against them both in the public and in the private sphere*', the GAP II works in parallel with the **Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention and Elimination of Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)**. The Istanbul Convention not only constitutes an instrument to protect women against gender-based violence but also to prevent, prosecute and eliminate it (2011: 7) <sup>(13)</sup>. Importantly, it specifically covers issues relating to public policy, international cooperation and the development of an assistance network for women victims/survivors of this type of violence,

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<sup>(11)</sup> The Council of Europe's policy with regards to neighbourhood and enlargement is designed for partners in North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, and pursues the following three objectives: 1) facilitation of democratic political transition in the countries concerned; 2) promotion of good governance through the protection of human rights and the rule of law; and 3) reinforcement and enlargement of the Council of Europe regional action in combating transborder and global threats.

<sup>(12)</sup> Four pivotal areas outlined in the GAP II: ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity; promoting the social and economic rights /empowerment of women and girls; strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation; and finally, shifting the institutional culture to deliver more effectively on EU commitments.

<sup>(13)</sup> It provides detailed guidance on the attention, services and assistance mechanisms to support victims/survivors of GBVAW, the response of the State to this type of violence, the legal and criminal architecture needed to tackle it effectively, and the specific measures to work with the perpetrators of such violence.

as well as providing support and guidance to organisations and law enforcement agencies to eradicate it (2011: 7).

For the scope of this action, the Istanbul Convention, the GAP II, and other key international and regional human rights instruments (i.e. the **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, the **Beijing Platform for Action**, and the **EU *acquis on gender equality***) are the legislative tools for developing interventions in the specific field of gender-based violence against women and girls (GBVAWG) in the Southern Mediterranean region as well as for building inclusive, transparent and egalitarian good governance systems.

Finally, as the Southern Neighbourhood represents an important gateway for Europe and the transition space between continents along the South/North divide, the **South Programme IV** will also address serious violations of human rights, such as forced labour, human trafficking and irregular migration, which further jeopardise national and regional stability and peace in the region as well as are the sustenance for organised crime. In this respect, the Council of Europe **Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings** represents the most comprehensive anti-trafficking instrument in the European Union. Targeted work in this area has powerful synergies with the Istanbul Convention and the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, representing an important breakthrough and a strategic area for action from a human rights and good governance perspective <sup>(14)</sup>.

### 1.3. Stakeholder analysis

All actions under this programme are geared to be beneficial for **citizens in the Southern Neighbourhood countries**. In this respect, civil society will be involved in specific activities as a target group, and civil society organisations and women's rights organisations will be engaged for effective participation, whenever relevant. Women victims/survivors of gender-based violence are also direct beneficiaries of this action.

**In creating a common legal space and strengthening human rights stakeholders are:** governmental bodies at all levels, notably Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Interior; Ministries responsible for public administration; Parliaments; public structures with specific responsibilities in relevant areas (i.e. anti-corruption bodies, gender equality national machineries); the judiciary, judicial professions and judiciary supervisory bodies.

**In combatting gender based violence against women stakeholders are:** Ministries of Women, Gender Equality National Machineries, state agencies, including the judiciary, public prosecutors and law enforcement agencies, local and regional authorities as well as non-governmental organisations and other organisations and entities active in protecting and supporting victims and witnesses of all forms of violence covered by the scope of the Istanbul Convention.

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<sup>(14)</sup> Given the categorisation of human trafficking as transnational organised crime, the gross violations of human rights as a result, and the flow of global and human capital it generates, the Convention echoes other treaties and declarations of international human rights law such as the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**, the **UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)**, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)**, the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)**, the **UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime (2000)**, and the **Palermo Protocol (2000)**.

## 1.4. Problem analysis/priority areas for support

**Main issues relating to sustainable development, stability and peace in the Southern Neighbourhood region** <sup>(15)</sup> relate to numerous factors, ranging from the still side-effects of the 2008 global economic crisis, the post-Arab Spring political swerve, shrinking political freedoms and the space for civil society, to ongoing conflicts and democratic challenges (i.e. slow economic and human development, unregulated migration, human trafficking, disenfranchised populations, high rates of unemployment among women, youth, and middle class high-skilled professionals, etc.).

This programme will contribute **to support the Southern Neighbourhood to enhance and achieve socio-political stability in its development of a common legal space at regional level that would ensure sustainable peace and promote resilient societies**. In this respect, and in line with the **ENP**, the **EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy**, and the **EU-CoE Statement of Intent** (2014) <sup>(16)</sup>, the South Programme, launched in 2012 after the Arab Spring, is one of the main joint strategic initiatives between the EU and the CoE to support democratic reforms in the Southern Neighbourhood, of which Arab countries have greatly benefitted. Regarding the South Programme IV, in line with the work initiated under previous phases, it is suggested to target democratic governance, respect for the rule of law, and human rights **as priorities**. The South Programme IV will focus particularly on:

- Pursuing the progressive creation of a common legal space between the Southern Mediterranean and Europe;
- Strengthening human rights international standards and their ratification among Southern Neighbourhood partner countries;
- Combating violence against women in the region;
- Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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<sup>15</sup> See the **Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (2014-2020)** for further details.

<sup>16</sup> The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) further developed its relations with representatives from Parliaments of Southern Mediterranean beneficiaries, notably through the PACE PfD status. This status allows parliamentary delegations from beneficiaries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean and the Middle East (but also from Central Asia) to take part in the PACE's activities in return for commitments to pursue the values upheld by the Council of Europe, hold free and fair elections, and work towards abolishing the death penalty, among other things. Morocco has benefited from this status since June 2011, Palestine\* since October 2011, and Jordan since January 2016.

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Sector focus of the South Programme IV covers priority topics for EU cooperation (democratic governance, rule of law, human rights). These areas could also be covered by bilateral actions, from different angles. Thus, a risk of duplication exists.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The South Programme IV will have a strong regional focus; bilateral interventions will be complementary to regional ones and <i>will avoid duplication</i> with bilateral actions.</li> <li>▪ Strong mechanisms of coordination and information sharing between the CoE and EU Delegations, both at the level of HQ and in the field, will be ensured.</li> <li>▪ The programme will be structured along thematic pillars.</li> </ul>
Difficult geo-political environment, acute and chronic conflicts, and lack of regional integration	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There will be a strong monitoring to assess the political and security risks in each country, and proceed with possible changes in the intervention as well as the level of involvement in each country.</li> <li>▪ A flexible methodological approach will enable a high adaptability to changing socio-political realities across the Southern Neighbourhood geography.</li> </ul>
Political limitations on final endorsement and ratification of CoE Conventions, mostly in the field of Human Rights; Limited transposition of CoE conventions in level legislation at country level; Lack of political willingness to finalise ratification of the main human rights conventions to the council of Europe	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The South Programme IV will strengthen 'accompaniment' mechanisms to ensure ratification of CoE conventions.</li> <li>▪ Strong follow-up to ensure transposition of CoE's international standards into national legislation, and fulfilment of commitments.</li> </ul>
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<p>Complementarity with ongoing national programmes will be sought in order to avoid duplication.</p> <p>There will be political willingness from national counterparts to move forward the human rights agenda.</p> <p>Regional priorities and action plans will be defined jointly in order to avoid fragmented approaches.</p>		



### 3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

#### 3.1 Lessons learnt

The South Programme has progressively moved from functioning as a sort of 'good governance' incubator in the region (the South Programme I and II), with targeted actions mostly on Morocco and Tunisia, to a more comprehensive regional intervention, including countries such as Jordan, Algeria and Libya. Beyond the need to further consolidate achieved results, the South Programme has reached a mature phase, with increasing and more targeted demands from partner beneficiaries and a stronger need to share experience and knowledge, as a region, on challenges to sustainable development at all levels (social, economic, geopolitical).

In fact, the **independent evaluation of the South Programme II** confirmed the relevance of this programme, its added value, and the buy-in from stakeholders. **Importantly, it also recommended to enhance its intra-regional character** to ensure a better balance among programme beneficiaries and experience sharing. Therefore, the South Programme IV will powerfully enhance its regional dimension through collaboration with the **Union for the Mediterranean** on defining and developing a regional agenda on the specific objectives of the programme. The intra-regional dimension will also enhance collective experience sharing, knowledge transfer, as well as building on good practices.

Joint action on **gender-based violence against women** within the framework of the Istanbul Convention, with the ultimate goal of its eventual adoption and ratification, will be key. Specific bilateral actions will be necessary to ensure the sustainability of the results and initiate actions in new areas of relevance for beneficiaries in the region, without jeopardising regional efforts and demands.

As **recommended** by the independent evaluation, the South Programme IV will engage in a **stronger coordination between the EU and the CoE** for the sake of amplifying the impact of the action. In so doing, the programme will ensure broad consultation, close cooperation and a regular dialogue with EU Delegations (EUDs), especially with Heads of Delegation and/or Heads of Co-operation of EUDs. **Another important recommendation** refers to **EU-CoE policy/political dialogues with partner countries**, which are to be a strong part of the South Programme IV cooperation agenda in order to design a shared intraregional plan of action. This would enable a better identification and narrowing of objectives, with realistic mid-term targets and a stronger follow-up. Also, steady and effective feedback, consultation, and communication with all participating parties must be ensured during the project design and implementation.

With regards to its methodology, the South Programme guarantees the flexibility (thematic and geographical) needed to engage Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries in work initiated under their own cooperation agreements and adapt its intervention to the level of progress in country-specific areas of reform. This approach has also been instrumental in steering work towards new areas of action identified with beneficiaries on an *ad hoc* basis, such as the work of the **European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice**, which has been key in raising awareness of international and European standards in the judiciary as well as in operationalising pilot courts <sup>(17)</sup>. Most importantly, the effectiveness of the work of the

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<sup>(17)</sup> For example, under the South Programme III, Morocco requested for the first time to take part in the CEPEJ Evaluation of the judicial systems (2016-2018 cycle), which resulted in the collection and publication of relevant judicial data allowing for a better understanding of their judicial systems and the evaluation of their functioning. In addition, a fact-finding mission on the Council of State of Egypt has been organised in May 2019 at the request of

**Venice Commission** will be strengthened under the South Programme IV. The latter provided its expertise within the **Libyan** transitional context, where a Venice commission expert was also deployed in 2018 in order to assess draft electoral legislation.

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

The South Programme IV will continue reinforcing synergies with actors active in the region like the **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**, the **European Endowment for Democracy (EED)**, and the **League of Arab States (LAS)**, with whom the CoE had already cooperated under the South Programme II. Open communication and coordination will also be fluent and up-to-date with other international partners such as the **United Nations (UN)** agencies, the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, and **EU Member States' development agencies**.

Complementarity of actions will also be strengthened with programmes financed under EU thematic instruments, such as the Instrument Contributing to Stabilisation and Peace and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Finally, further synergies will be developed with the **Regional Campaign on Zero Tolerance for Violence against Women (2019-2021)**, implemented by the Euro-Med Feminist Initiative (EfI) and managed by NEAR B2.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

**Overall Objective:** To contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European and other international standards;

In particular, the South Programme IV seeks to assist Southern Mediterranean countries in reforming their legislation as well as reinforcing their democratic governance institutions and accompany other reform processes.

**Specific Objectives** are:

**Specific Objective 1:** **Progressive creation of a common legal space**, by supporting constitutional and legislative reform processes in line with European standards as well as promoting key Council of Europe conventions and partial agreements;

The expertise of several CoE bodies, including the **Venice Commission**, should continue to support constitutional and legislative reform processes in countries in the region through the support to constitutional reviews, drafting of organic laws, and other legislative frameworks. This also covers the implementation of constitutional and legislative provisions, including setting-up of democratic human rights/governance instances (e.g. National Prevention Mechanisms against Torture and independent electoral bodies). The role of parliamentary bodies will be stressed throughout this specific objective of the programme.

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the Egyptian Council of State in order to prepare an evaluation of the overall functioning of this high Court for improving working methods and reduce court delays.

**Expected Output 1:** Progress towards endorsement and ratification of relevant CoE conventions;

**Expected Output 2:** Progressive transposition of CoE standards (comprising the jurisprudence of the ECtHR) at national level, in areas agreed by beneficiaries;

**Expected Output 3:** Regular participation of partner countries in relevant CoE intergovernmental structures and networks (i.e. GRECO <sup>(18)</sup>) to promote the acquisition of official status (observer or member) as appropriate;

**Expected Output 4:** Application of monitoring processes in Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries, especially Tunisia and Morocco, once they become Contracting Parties to relevant CoE conventions and partial agreements, as non-member States of the Council of Europe.

### **Indicative Activities:**

- Assessment of the existing legal and institutional framework in areas agreed with beneficiary countries;
- Capacity building and regional workshops under the mandate of the **Venice Commission**, for example on relevant Council of Europe standards; and jurisprudence of the ECtHR
- Specific training at ministry level on, for example, good electoral practices, good governance and accountability mechanisms;
- Specific pilot visits to the European Court of Human Rights and trainings;
- Training on the specific methodologies of the CoE European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ);
- Regional exchanges on best practices and lessons learned on the CEPEJ methodologies; including on the measurement of the performance of justice systems.
- Participation of national authorities to the CEPEJ thematic groups in Strasbourg under the regional program and monitoring of the follow-up at national level;
- Regional capacity building on the role and place of independent bodies, which is a relatively recent reality in the legal and institutional framework of the countries of the region.

### **Specific Objective 2: Strengthening human rights international standards in the Southern Neighbourhood region**

**Expected Output 1:** Awareness-raising and reinforcement of relevant stakeholders' know-how on European and other international standards relating to human rights;

**Expected Output 2:** Knowledge and skills-transfer on European and other international human rights standards, focusing on CoE conventions, with a view to enhancing national and intra-regional capacities;

### **Indicative Activities:**

- Sensitisation and initiation workshops on human rights, standards including the CoE European Convention on Human Rights; and the modernised Convention 108, including its Amending Protocol once applicable.

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<sup>(18)</sup> Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption

- Organisation of **HELP** <sup>(19)</sup> courses for new target audiences and follow-up sessions for attendees;
- Organisation of regional HELP exchanges involving staff from different ministries;
- Specific regional capacity building on CoE standards, including the methodologies used by relevant expert groups (i.e. **GRETA** <sup>(20)</sup>), to regularly assess and respond to shared challenges regarding human rights violations.

**Specific Objective 3: Combatting violence against women in the region**, by joining efforts among beneficiaries in reviewing their legal and policy frameworks, pursuing a shared agenda, and through capacity building on the Istanbul Convention

**Expected Output 1:** Further promotion of the Istanbul Convention at regional level;

**Expected Output 2:** Enhanced understanding and capacity building on the Istanbul Convention and its provisions;

**Expected Output 3:** Development of gender-sensitive practices towards legal provisions that currently discriminate against women and girls;

**Expected Output 4:** Close follow-up of accession processes to the Istanbul Convention;

**Expected Output 5:** Enhanced level of regional cooperation on GBVAW conducive to a regional action plan, in line with the **Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial declaration following the 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society**.

**Indicative Activities:**

- Sensitisation and promotion of the Istanbul Convention in new geographies within the Southern Neighbourhood region (i.e. Algeria, Libya, Palestine);
- Regional sensitisation on the Istanbul Convention provisions relating to early warning mechanisms and actions on supporting women victims/survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (i.e. need for shelters, free legal support, gender-responsive police);
- Capacity building for (old and new) target groups involved in legal implementation, such as prosecutors and judges, on the Istanbul Convention pillars and provisions;
- Awareness-rising activities in national bodies on the impact of GBVAW in their specific field/work and in the society at large (i.e. impact on budget, health sector, education etc.);
- Organisation of a regional network to reflect on existing discriminatory institutional instances, policies and legislation, which are conducive to gender discrimination and GBVAW or remain blind to GBVAW at institutional levels;
- EU-CoE-Southern Neighbourhood expert seminars on the nexus between gender equality, gender-based violence against women, and the rule of law;
- Devising a locally owned roadmap that would represent the foundations of a future regional action plan on the elimination of GBVAW;
- Engaging with regional institutions such as the **Union for the Mediterranean** and the **League of Arab States**, to work on GBVAW and advance a regionally set agenda.

**Specific Objective 4: Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks** to reinforce democratic governance and independent instances'

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<sup>(19)</sup> European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals.

<sup>(20)</sup> Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

capacity to interact both between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean and within the Southern Mediterranean region

**Expected Output 1:** Expansion and creation of networks focused on specific objectives 1, 2, and 3;

**Expected Output 2:** Exchange of experience and best practice between Europe and the Southern Neighbourhood region, including countries benefiting from CoE cooperation projects.

### **Indicative Activities:**

- Strengthening existing regional networks on action areas relating to the **rule of law** (e.g. constitutional reform, access to justice) within the auspices of the **Venice Commission** and other CoE instances;
- Regional and intra-regional workshops (with EU and Southern Neighbourhood experts) to enhance shared learning and capacity building on existing European standards with regard to democratic good governance (e.g. fight against corruption), GBVAW, human rights challenges;
- Regional focus groups to identify common challenges and shared interests in standardising practices with regard to the specific objectives of this action (e.g. shared legal space, human rights, GBVAWG);
- Organisation of regional steering committees and 'task forces' led by different partner countries to design a roadmap on topics collectively decided by them.

The regional initiatives will provide an unparalleled opportunity for Southern Mediterranean partners to come together, at the political and technical level, to discuss common issues, share strategies and explore areas for cooperation. Ad hoc bilateral interventions in countries of the region will be also considered if preliminary needs are identified when initiating cooperation, and in the identification phase.

## **4.2 Intervention Logic**

The Programme will provide support and advice to Southern Mediterranean beneficiaries in reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Building on the experience and achievements of the South Programmes I, II and III, it will aim at strengthening and consolidating the regional (and intra-regional) dimension. The South Programme IV will take a stronger regional stance on the scope of the action, with bilateral interventions deriving from and contributing to defining a shared regional agenda, collectively shaped by and among beneficiaries.

As under previous phases, the South Programme IV will be designed to guarantee the flexibility needed to further engage beneficiaries in work initiated under this framework, to adapt its intervention to the level of progress in the areas of reform undertaken by the beneficiaries, and to set in motion new areas of work identified with beneficiaries on an ad hoc basis.

As to the geographical scope, it will apply a regional variable geometry, taking into consideration the optimum solution for sustainable and tangible results.

### 4.3 Mainstreaming

This action directly targets **human rights** and **gender equality** issues. Therefore, it will develop a **gender-sensitive rights-based approach** <sup>(21)</sup> to good governance and the rule of law, ensuring that policies and public institutions are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all citizens, both women and men. The development of policies and institutions in a country/region will ensure that all groups have a voice in decision-making, either directly or through institutions that legitimately represent their interests and needs. It will also reinforce fundamental democratic principles, with strong accountable institutions, which are the foundations of **resilient societies** and **sustainable peace**. The action works within the provisions of the Council of Europe legal instruments, which are strongly rooted on the principles of equality, non-discrimination, gender balanced participation and inclusiveness of civil society.

As a component of this gender-sensitive rights-based approach and in line with the GAP II and the **EU *acquis* on gender equality**, the CoE emphasises gender mainstreaming throughout its project activities, in line with its **Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023** <sup>(22)</sup>. This includes a gender-responsive approach to capacity building and technical assistance. Both the launch of the **Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Co-operation Projects** in 2018 and specific gender mainstreaming trainings for CoE staff in 2019 are expected to enhance the implementation of a gender dimension in cooperation activities both within the organisation and with/by national partners.

The programme will prioritise **gender equality**, equal opportunities and the participation of **women** and **youth** in its **activities** <sup>(23)</sup>. Any of the activities foreseen under this action will be respectful and integral to these principles, including non-discrimination. **Women** will be encouraged to participate in the existing and new networks as well as have equal opportunities to access capacity building and decision-making institutional spheres.

The South Programme IV will strengthen existing networks with **civil society organisations**, especially with women's rights organisations, to support their engagement in relevant reform processes guided by CoE <sup>(24)</sup>. In this respect, the CoE will ensure that experience and knowledge of the CoE and the **EU values** are shared with key CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) and WCSOs (Women's Civil Society Organisations) in a given field. The participation of civil society representatives in activities, in some cases together with governmental stakeholders, will help to create bridges and encourage networking <sup>(25)</sup>. Therefore, to the extent feasible, the advice provided by the CoE on constitutional issues and European conventions ought to be subject to public awareness activities involving civil society, parliaments and other relevant stakeholders.

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<sup>(21)</sup> This is in line with the European Consensus on Development, and the GAP II.

<sup>(22)</sup> For more information, see the CoE web page on gender mainstreaming.

<sup>(23)</sup> Youth leaders and/or youth civil society organisation can act as multipliers for instance in the framework of the Tunisian and Moroccan Schools of Political Studies, as well as the activities of the North-South Centre.

<sup>(24)</sup> The CoE also promotes effective civil society participation, as outlined in the Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations' participation in CoE's co-operation activities. See <https://rm.coe.int/1680656cef> for further reference.

<sup>(25)</sup> Civil society participated actively in the Lisbon Forum or the MedUni, and the organisation of activities in partnership with universities, such as the Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings, together with the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis at the University of Carthage organised in January 2018 under South Programme II.

#### **4.4 Contribution to SDGs**

In general, the implementation of the South Programme contributes to strengthening the rule of law and democracy, by developing and nurturing sustainable peace, justice and strong institutions, strongly anchored in human rights and gender equality. Therefore, the South Programme IV will continue to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and the effective realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially the SDG 16 (in particular targets 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and B). Emphasis is also laid on the SDG 5 concerning gender equality, with specific efforts dedicated to achieving targets 1 and 2. In addition, the work of the Council of Europe often touches upon and contributes to implementation of other SDGs, this is the case the SDG 3 (and specifically target 5 which aims to strengthen the prevention of substance abuse), the SDG 4 (in particular target 7 on human rights education), the SDG 8 (and specifically target 7 which aims to eradicate forced labour), and the SDG 10 (targets 2 on the inclusion of citizens from all backgrounds, and 7 on migration policies).

### **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **5.1 Financing agreement**

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

#### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision.

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

#### **5.3 Implementation modalities**

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures <sup>(26)</sup>.

##### **5.3.1 *Indirect management with an entrusted entity***

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the Council of Europe.

This implementation entails carrying out the activities identified in section 4.1, related to the objectives of the action.

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<sup>26</sup> www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

The envisaged entity has been selected because of the CoE’s comprehensive history and broad recognition as a key actor in the protection, fulfilment and advocacy for human rights and the rule of law as well as its strong expertise and technical competence in these areas. The **EU-CoE Memorandum of Understanding** (2007) and the **Statement of Intent** (2014) signed between the CoE and the European Commission <sup>(27)</sup> were also considered as guarantors of the political commitment between both institutions, with special regards to the Southern Neighbourhood region. Moreover, there is a need to ensure continuity in the actions initiated by the South Programmes I, II and III in key areas to achieve sustainable results in the medium and long term.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission’s services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria, that is, high level of technical expertise and strong past experience in the fields of human rights, rule of law and overall good governance building..

#### 5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

#### 5.5 Indicative budget

	<b>EU contribution 2020 (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Indirect management</b> with the Council of Europe (cf. section 5.3.1)	3,000,000	334,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>334,000</b>

#### 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by the Commission services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant, in close

<sup>(27)</sup> See the [EU-Council of Europe Memorandum of Understanding](#) (2007) and the [Statement of Intent](#) (2014) signed between the Council of Europe and the European Commission for further details.



collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (the European External Action Service, the European Parliament, EU Member States).

## **5.7 Performance and Results 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 log frame matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support).

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators, as for instance per Joint Programming document, should be taken into account.

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, an ex post 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).

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

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

## **5.9 Audit**

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

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

## **5.10 Communication and visibility**

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

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of the implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

## **6 PRE-CONDITIONS**

Not applicable.

**APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOG FRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)**

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact (Overall Objective)</b>	To contribute to reinforcing human rights, the rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European and other international standards	<p>Relevant Indicators as relating to SDG goals and relevant targets below:</p> <p><b>SDG 16 ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’, and especially targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 16.3 ‘Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.’</li> <li>▪ 16.6: ‘Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels’</li> <li>▪ 16.7. ‘Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.’</li> <li>▪ 16.10. ‘Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements’</li> <li>▪ 16.b. ‘Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development’</li> </ul> <p><b>SDG4 ‘Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all’ and especially target</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4.7 ‘By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global</li> </ul>	<p>Regular assessment of the action.</p> <p>Reports established by the CoE instances/ partial agreements;</p> <p>ENP and relevant European Union reports;</p> <p>Reports of Joint Human Rights Committees of the European Union;</p> <p>Steering committee meetings reports;</p> <p>Relevant UN/other international organisations reports (including Universal Periodic Reviews);</p> <p>National reports (e.g. CNDH Morocco);</p> <p>Reports by NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations);</p> <p>Reports and recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE, notably related to Pfd status;</p> <p>Council of Europe progress review reports on Neighbourhood Partnerships with beneficiaries of the region;</p> <p>Reports by CoE instances (i.e. CEPEJ, Venice Commission);</p> <p>Parliamentary Annual</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>

		<p>citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SDG5 ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’,</b> and especially targets: 5.1. ‘End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</li> <li>▪ 5.2. ‘Eliminate all forms of violence’ against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation’.</li> <li>▪ 5.A ‘Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws’</li> <li>▪ 5.C. ‘Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels’</li> </ul>	<p>Reports;</p>	
<p><b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</b></p>	<p><i>S.O. 1: Progressive creation of a common legal space</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of conventions/partial agreements to which the countries are Contracting Parties;</li> <li>▪ Number of laws prepared with the Council of Europe’s support adopted or in the process of being adopted;</li> <li>▪ New/ revised legal frameworks in areas identified as priorities for cooperation by countries, in line with European and other international standards.</li> <li>▪ Level of recommendations of CoE legislative reports inserted in new legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Committee of Ministers decisions. Official journals of beneficiaries. Council of Europe expert opinions and assessments. Assessment reports of the Council of Europe/ European Union/UN and other international relevant organisations (e.g. UN Special Rapporteur on torture, UPR). National reports (e.g. CNDH Morocco). Reports by NGOs.</p>	<p>Continued commitment of beneficiaries to the implementation of new/ revised constitutions in line with European and other international standards. Continued commitment to democratic governance reforms, in particular from the relevant ministries,</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of new human rights institutions and democratic governance structures created.</li> </ul>	<p>PfD status assessments and recommendations. Feedback from participants in the various training, peer-to-peer, networking events. Venice Commission opinions.</p>	<p>independent instances and democratically elected bodies. The citizens and the non-state actors respond positively to new constitutional reforms and the establishment of new legal frameworks in general and the new democratic governance structures. Specific demands and request for expert opinions and assistance from the Council of Europe continue to be generated. Good level of absorption capacity of beneficiary institutions.</p>
	<p><b><i>S.O.2. Strengthening human rights international standards in the Southern Neighbourhood Region</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of accessions to relevant CoE conventions on human rights</li> <li>Number of requests for invitation to CoE conventions</li> <li>Number of national laws that have transposed international human rights standards and followed public consultations</li> <li>Number of human rights country strategies that include gender equality as an objective (GAP II indicator)</li> <li>Number of requests for assistance on human rights related issues</li> <li>Target groups (sex-disaggregated) that have received specific human rights training by the CoE.</li> <li>Number of existing or new human rights institutions/structures which have developed institutional capacity to improve their functioning with CoE's support (e.g. Ombudsmen Offices, Human Rights Observatories)</li> </ul>		
	<p><b><i>S.O.3. Combat violence against women in the region</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of laws to address GBVAW prepared with the Council of Europe's support and following meaningful public consultations</li> <li>Number of national strategies developed by relevant ministries in line with the Istanbul Convention Provisions.</li> <li>Percentage of referred cases of gender-based and sexual violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (SDG 5.39)</li> </ul>		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of stakeholders trained on the Istanbul Convention, sex-disaggregated.</li> <li>▪ Number of referral mechanisms developed at country level.</li> <li>▪ Monitoring mechanisms in place to track progress on implementation of GBVAW laws.</li> </ul>		
	<i>S.O.4: Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of regional networks strengthened between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean</li> <li>▪ Number of intra-regional networks created through transparent social dialogue</li> <li>▪ Number of regional and intraregional network activity on rule of law, human rights and GBVAW (disaggregated by thematic and sex)</li> <li>▪ (Intra)regional roadmaps on relevant rule of law issues, human rights issues and GBVAW developed within regional platforms and fora</li> <li>▪ Number of civil society organisations that effectively participated in regional and intraregional networks (disaggregated by country, thematic and sex)</li> <li>▪ Gender mainstreamed into all training provided.</li> </ul>		
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Specific Objective 1: Progressive Creation of a Common Legal Space</b>  <b>Expected Output 1:</b> Progress towards endorsement and ratification of relevant CoE conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of official processes initiated towards accession to relevant CoE conventions following official requests.</li> <li>▪ Number of ratifications of CoE Conventions.</li> <li>▪ Number of accessions to partial agreements.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Expected Output 2:</b> Progressive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of national laws that have</li> </ul>		

	transposition of CoE standards at national level, on areas agreed by beneficiaries.	effectively transposed CoE international standards, with effective application.		
	<b>Expected Output 3:</b> Regular participation of partner countries in relevant CoE intergovernmental structures and networks to promote the acquisition of official status (observer or member) as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of partner countries participating in CoE events, intergovernmental structures and networks disaggregated by, 1) official position of attendees, 2) sex of attendees, 3) CoE network, 4) CoE working group.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Expected Output 4:</b> Application of monitoring processes in Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries once they become Contracting Parties to relevant CoE conventions and partial agreements, as non-member States of the Council of Europe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of partner countries that achieved an official status (observer or member).</li> <li>▪ Number of monitoring mechanisms used to assess compliance with obligations under CoE Conventions, disaggregated per ministry/body/country</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>S.O.2: Strengthening Human Rights International Standards in the Southern Neighbourhood Region</b></p> <p><b>Expected Output 1:</b> Awareness-raising and reinforcement of relevant stakeholders' know-how on European and other international standards relating to human rights issues.</p> <p><b>Expected Output 2:</b> Knowledge and skills-transfer on European and other international human rights standards and CoE conventions, with a view to enhancing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of activities organised to enhance awareness on international human rights law, disaggregated by topic/convention/working group.</li> </ul> <p>(Indicators for EO1 and EO2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sex, status and institutional membership disaggregated of number of stakeholders targeted.</li> <li>▪ Set of skills developed per target group</li> <li>▪ National capacities built per training per ministry/institution</li> <li>▪ Skills recognition strategy per ministry/national bodies/ national</li> </ul>		

	national and intra-regional capacities.	democratic structures with a view to apply new capacities at work.		
	<b>S.O.3: Combatting Violence against Women in the Region:</b>			
	<b>Expected Output 1:</b> Further promotion of the Istanbul Convention at regional level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of activities organised to raise awareness on the Istanbul Convention.</li> <li>Sex and status disaggregated number of officials targeted and involved in capacity building activities (per field) on the Istanbul Convention.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Expected Output 2:</b> Enhanced understanding and capacity on the Istanbul Convention and its provisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of gender-sensitive trainings organised among relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention</li> </ul>		
	<b>Expected Output 3:</b> Development of gender-sensitive practices concerning legal provisions that currently discriminate against women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of measures developed to address gender discrimination in legislation.</li> <li>Number of gender-sensitive practices developed in official institutions (e.g. ministries, national institutes, etc.) eradicate GBVAW.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Expected Output 4:</b> Close follow-up of developments towards accession to the Istanbul Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of accession requests to the Istanbul Convention.</li> <li>Monitoring mechanisms used to ensure effective accession to the Istanbul</li> </ul>		
<b>Expected Output 5:</b> Enhanced regional cooperation on addressing GBVAW conducive to a regional action plan, in line with the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial Declaration following the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convention (per ministry/institution/stakeholder)</li> <li>Development of a (intra)regional work plan to ensure roadmap development based on the Istanbul Convention standards and the UFM GBVAW</li> </ul>			



	<p>the Role of Women in Society.</p>	<p>monitoring mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of activities and recommendations conducive to the elaboration of a regional action plan on GBVAW.</li> <li>▪ Public consultation processes held to design a regional action plan on GBVAW.</li> <li>▪ Level of participation of WCSOs in consultation processes and regional cooperation on the matter.</li> </ul>		
	<p><b>Specific Objective 4: Development and expansion of sustainable regional and intra-regional networks</b></p> <p><b>Expected Output 1:</b> Expansion and creation of networks focused on specific objectives 1, 2, and 3.</p> <p><b>Expected Output 2:</b> Experience-sharing and best practice exchange between Europe and the Southern Neighbourhood region, including countries benefiting from CoE cooperation projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of regional networks actively engaged by the action.</li> <li>▪ New intraregional networks created, disaggregated by specific objective of the action.</li> <li>▪ Number of outputs produced resulting from network activities, disaggregated by specific objective of the action.</li> </ul>		