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ANNEX 7

to Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI East Regional Action Programme 2017 Part 2 (including two actions on budget 2018 and two actions on budget 2018 & 2019), to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

Action Document for Support to the Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the Implementation of the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy

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 section 5.3.1 concerning calls for proposal and in sections 5.3.2 and 5.3.3 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support to the Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the Implementation of the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy CRIS number: - ENI/2017/040-350 - ENI/2018/040-651 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument.
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine), and the Russian Federation The action shall be carried out at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Partnership countries; • EU Member States; • Norway, Iceland; • Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey
3. Programming document	ENI Regional East Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Regional East Multiannual Indicative Programme (2017-2020)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension, Black Sea Synergy, Northern Dimension
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 12 210 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 12 000 000

	<p>The contribution is for an amount of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EUR 6 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017 - EUR 6 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2018, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 160 000.</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by UNDP for an amount of EUR 50 000.</p>			
6. Aid modality and implementation modalities	<p>Project Modality</p> <p><u>Direct management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grants – call for proposal - grants – direct award - procurement of services <p><u>Indirect management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - indirect management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 			
7. DAC code(s)	43010 - Multi-sector aid			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	x
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
	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	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<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	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N.A.		
10. SDGs	N.A.			

SUMMARY

The action supports the **implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the implementation of the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy**, as guided by the European Neighbourhood Policy, including the bilateral relations between the EU and its Eastern Partnership partner countries as well as relations amongst the countries themselves. It entails a **flexible mechanism** giving the European Commission the possibility to decide on the financing of policy priorities and processes as well as small-scale actions in line with the

objectives of the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Northern Dimension policy framework and the Black Sea Synergy policy framework.

The action will address the following areas:

1. Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension

The action provides for cooperation activities and a forum to share information and experience on the partner countries' steps towards transition, reform and modernisation and gives the EU an additional instrument to accompany these processes. It is aimed at fostering the relations between the EU and its EaP partner countries as well as relations amongst the countries themselves.

2. Northern Dimension

The action contains a flexible mechanism allowing funding of activities to promote dialogue and concrete cooperation to strengthen stability and economic cooperation and promote economic integration, competitiveness, sustainable development and contacts between societies in Northern Europe.

3. Black Sea Synergy

The action allows financing policy dialogue and confidence building measures within the Black Sea Synergy and concrete cooperation in selected areas of mutual interest, incl. small-scale actions in line with the objectives of the Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as its operational and policy priorities.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Regional context and EU policy framework

The EU's relations with its neighbours are guided by the **Global Strategy**¹ and the revised **European Neighbourhood Policy** (ENP)². Both call to focus on achieving the overall goal of increasing the **stabilisation** and **resilience** of our neighbours.

The **Eastern Partnership** (EaP)³ was launched in 2009 at a Summit held in Prague, in an effort by the EU and its Eastern European partners to help promote political and economic reforms and assist the countries of the region move closer to the EU. At its basis lies a shared commitment to international law and fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to market economy, sustainable development and good governance. The **EaP Summit** in Riga in 2015, followed up by the Ministerial in May 2016, confirmed the consensus to step up **actions in four key priority areas**: economic development and market opportunities; strengthening institutions and good governance; connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change; and mobility and people-to-people contacts.

Though each country has an individual relationship with the EU, under the EaP umbrella the EU and its partners have committed to further developing an **EaP multilateral dimension**, involving all EU Member States and partner countries. This multilateral framework is intended to strengthen and complement the bilateral track and facilitate the development of common positions and joint activities, with the objective of delivering concrete results for EaP and EU citizens under the “20 deliverables for 2020” agenda.

To ensure the involvement of civil society in the Eastern Partnership, and in line with the Riga Summit Declaration and the “20 deliverables for 2020” that underlines the need to engage on a

¹ Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy presented by the High Representative in June 2016.

² The European Neighbourhood Policy was reviewed in November 2015.

³ The Eastern Partnership is a joint initiative involving the EU, its Member States and 6 eastern European partners: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

deeper level with civil society, the European Commission also supports the **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**, to promote contacts among civil society organisation and facilitate their dialogue with public authorities.

The **Northern Dimension** (ND) is a joint policy between the EU, the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland, in which Belarus cooperates in practical activities. Other actors such as International Financial Institutions, regional councils, universities and research centres also take part in the Northern Dimension. Canada and the United States are observers. The Northern Dimension policy was initiated in 1999 and renewed in 2006. It aims at providing a framework to promote dialogue and concrete cooperation; strengthen stability and confidence building; and promote economic integration, competitiveness and sustainable development in Northern Europe. To facilitate ND project implementation, **four Partnerships** have been established to deal with the following thematic issues: environment; public health and social well-being; transport and logistics; and culture. Besides, there are the Northern Dimension Institute (NDI) and the Northern Dimension Business Council.

The EU supports regional development in the Black Sea region with its **Black Sea Synergy** (BSS) policy framework, which was endorsed by the Black Sea Ministerial Conference in Kiev in 2008. The main goal of this initiative is confidence building and fostering regional dialogue. By encouraging cooperation between the countries surrounding the Black Sea⁴, the framework offers a forum for tackling common problems while encouraging political and economic reform. In this sense the BSS is contributing to regional resilience. The Black Sea **Environmental Partnership** was launched in March 2010 and activities are already underway on environmental monitoring. In addition, several initiatives were launched in the fields of transport, energy, civil society, maritime affairs, and research and information society. Other initiatives may follow on higher education, public health and the fight against organised crime.

The EU has also supported the **Black Sea NGO Forum**, a civil society led initiative bringing together CSOs from each of the countries surrounding the Black Sea. The Romanian NGO FOND has been ensuring the secretariat of this platform since its set up in 2008. The Forum has a unique mandate to offer a platform of regional debate to CSOs surrounding the Black Sea on issues of common interest. It meets once a year to propose recommendations to policy makers on issues related to the status of civil society and issues such as citizen participation and volunteering, youth and education and culture.

Synergies and complementarity with other ENI instruments notably the Cross-border Cooperation programme and the Neighbourhood Investment Facility as well as other EU policy instruments will be sought.

1.2 Stakeholder analysis

Main stakeholders are authorities and administrations of EU Member States and Eastern Partnership, Black Sea Synergy and Northern Dimension countries as well as small scale SMEs and civil society organisations. End beneficiaries are citizens of the EaP, ND and BSS partner countries overall.

1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The differentiation introduced by the ENP Review requires actions ensuring that the overall process remains open and **inclusive** for all the partners. That being so, the **EaP multilateral dimension** has to provide the right platform to sustain engagement with all partner countries, share best practices, ensure transparency, promote confidence building and design joint actions.

⁴ Countries participating in the Black Sea Synergy: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania and the Russian Federation.

Climate change, pollution, and increasing economic activity are putting growing pressure on the **environment** in the Northern regions. The **Northern Dimension** policy plays a significant role in helping improve waste water treatment in cities, energy efficiency, solid and hazardous waste management as well as in the implementation of the EU's Arctic Communication, in particular tackling the black carbon emissions in the European Arctic. Besides, ongoing actions targeting mitigation the legacy of operations of Russian nuclear infrastructure should continue.

The Regional **Transport** Network of the ND simplifies planning of infrastructure improvements on the most important routes in Northern Europe.

Social welfare and health care are important factors in economic stability and sustainable development. Priorities of the ND Partnership on **Health and Social Well-being** as set up in its Strategy 2020 and Action Plan include inter alia the reduction of communicable diseases and infections, the promotion of healthy lifestyle, the reduction of harm of alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse, the development of the primary health care and occupational safety, and the implementation of strategies on antimicrobial resistance.

The ND Partnership on **Culture** as a tool for developing people-to-people cooperation will be maintained and supported in its actions on cultural and tourism cross-border collaboration as well as on creative culture industries' growth.

Developing cross-border cultural ties is important for local communities and **people-to-people cooperation**, as well as for economic development. Also dialogue with indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of the Northern dimension will be promoted. The EU Arctic policy highlights the importance of international cooperation in the field of education.

In order to help the Northern Dimension actors maintain dialogue and to provide prospects for future cooperation, the **Northern Dimension Institute** (NDI) will be further supported.

As underlined in the implementation report on the **Black Sea Synergy**⁵, the EU's objective is to reinforce coherence across the various existing and planned activities and provide a framework for more cross-sectorial activities. The main fields of cooperation identified are **environment, fisheries, maritime affairs, tourism, transport, research networks, civil society, education and cross border cooperation**.

The Black Sea is facing serious challenges with respect to the conservation of **fishing resources**. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) is also responsible for the sea and is a key actor with a view to preserving fisheries resources in the area. The Black Sea is shared between three GFCM Members (Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey) and three non-Members (Georgia, Russian Federation, Ukraine) who are cooperating with the GFCM. The state of stocks in the area is at a critical level while levels of IUU (illegal, unreported and unregulated) fishing are considered to be extremely high. In addition scientific advice remains a challenge while fisheries management instruments for non-EU riparian states need to be reformed and modernised to come up to international legal and technical developments. Main actions in these fields will continue to be covered by Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; actions in these fields foreseen in this action document will only complement work of DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and fill the gaps when needed.

Further action is needed regarding the development of existing networks of **civil society** in the region, notably their work on child protection in the Black Sea (a success story of the Child Pact Index launched in September 2016 in Brussels).

⁵ Joint Staff Working Document "Black Sea Synergy: review of a regional cooperation initiative", SWD(2015)6 of 20.01.2015.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

For the **EaP multilateral dimension**, the main assumptions are that the political situation continues to allow for the planned activities to be implemented and does not deteriorate, national government partners remain committed and support project implementation, and trust is built among stakeholders.

The situation of **EU-Russia relations** will be kept under review. It has an impact on cooperation under the **ND** Environmental Partnership. It may have an impact on the activities of the **BSS** in which the Russian Federation could be involved. However, the main activities focus on confidence building measures and people to people initiatives; in particular support to civil society and cross border cooperation will continue.

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

Since its creation the **EaP** has proven to be a key policy initiative to foster policy dialogue and share experience among partner countries, EU Member States and the relevant EU institutions. The EaP Summit in Riga in 2015, followed up by the Ministerial in May 2016, has given the process new impetus. The participation of civil society and international financial institutions has further contributed to cooperation among interested parties.

The creation of panels within platforms to support the **EaP multilateral dimension** responds to the participants' request for deeper cooperation on certain areas. In this regard, the increased number of panels and specialised seminars on specific topics shows that the policy dialogue at regional level between the EU and its Eastern partners is steadily advancing. Ministerial meetings on specific sectors and so-called informal dialogues also contribute to furthering political cooperation on issues of mutual interest. Nevertheless, the current EaP multilateral structure presents some weaknesses that will need to be addressed, such as platforms and panels taking often the shape of seminar-type meetings, without commitment to results; imbalances due to some priorities being taken forward more than others; and low level of cross-sectoral fertilisation.

To enable the various dialogue processes to successfully pursue their activities it is necessary to finance the organisation of events and ensure that participants have the resources to attend. Experience of supporting the **EaP multilateral dimension, the ND and the BSS** has shown so far that maintaining a certain level of flexibility as regards the original planning of activities is necessary to take account of developments that may take place in the work programmes of the Eastern Partnership platforms throughout the year.

The engagement of civil society in EaP dialogue is crucial, to ensure that their expertise can be taken into account and that the voice of society in both the EU and Eastern Partnership countries is heard. The participation of civil society in platforms and panels and the creation of the **EaP Civil Society Forum** working groups mirroring the work of the platforms show the importance that civil society attaches to their participation in the Eastern Partnership process.

The results achieved so far by the various **Northern Dimension** Partnerships, which have positively contributed both to strengthening policy dialogue and to implementing concrete activities, show the importance of continued assistance to dialogue processes and project funding. In this context it is worth mentioning that the Environmental Partnership policy has served as a model for other multi-donor partnerships and initiatives. The success of the Environmental Partnership in leveraging funds has inspired the setting up of the Partnership on Transport and Logistics Support Fund, even though new concrete actions have been limited due to the restrictive measures on the Russian Federation resulting from the annexation of Crimea.

In the context of the **Black Sea Synergy**, further coordination in policies and legislation between the Black Sea countries has proven to be a common interest to both the EU⁶ and its partner countries. An example of this is the harmonisation process in cooperation activities aiming at building the regional infrastructure for marine environmental monitoring in line with the MSFD principles. Also, the **Black Sea Cross-border cooperation programme** has been supporting a constantly growing number of projects, technical assistance needs and management costs for municipalities and small-scale stakeholders in areas such as environment, SME-development, tourism, research and innovation. The high amount of successful projects implemented under the Black Sea CBC is a case in point.

Support to civil society remains essential in this region, in particular the pragmatic development of the **Black Sea NGO Forum** remains essential. Since 2013, the European Commission has provided direct logistical support in organising the Black Sea Civil Society Forum. However, dialogue and concrete work have been intensifying under this format and there is a need to further institutionalise and strategically develop the Black Sea NGO Forum.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

This action is complementary to the technical assistance allocations existing in the framework of the **bilateral and regional Annual Action Programmes** for the Eastern Partnership countries. It also complements the activities under the **Global Allocation**.

The **EaP multilateral dimension** entails by its own nature close coordination with EU Member States and partner countries in the framework of the platforms and related panels. Other donors/entities are also represented in these fora (e.g. European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Economic and Social Committee, Council of Europe).

Activities implemented in the framework of the **Northern Dimension** are complemented by actions carried out under the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBS), which is an EU policy aiming to save the Baltic Sea, connect the region and increase prosperity of the Member States' regions involved. The Russian Federation has a Strategy for socio-economic development of the North-West Federal District for the period until 2020 which sets out the priorities for the Russian region where ND activities take place. This strategy is currently under review aiming to identify common priorities with the EUSBS. The multilateral nature of the ND brings together not only the EU Member States but also the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland. EU Member States individually, the Arctic Council, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Nordic Council of Ministers all participate in this policy. International Financial Institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB) and the Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO) provide funding for activities.

Concerning the **Black Sea Synergy**, on-going activities focus on environmental cooperation, enhancing biodiversity and protection of the Black Sea ecosystems, collecting and exchange of data on marine environmental and coastal areas, as well as the nascent cooperation on maritime affairs. In the Black Sea basin, activities implemented in the framework of the **Black Sea Synergy Environmental Partnership** (i.e.: the 2013-2014 “Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea” regional project - EMBLAS) are complemented in the non-EaP riparian countries by a mirror initiative (Marine Strategy Framework Directive Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System - MISIS) the objective of which is to contribute to the harmonisation of environmental monitoring policies across the region in countries not covered by the ENI. Environmental monitoring should continue under the BSS. Further initiatives in linking the Black Sea Synergy and the Danube Strategy could be envisaged

⁶ Bulgaria and Romania are also parties to the Black Sea Commission (BSC).

also in the context of the Black Sea Synergy Environmental Partnership. Filling the gaps to the on-going and future initiatives in fisheries, governance could be developed under the Black Sea Synergy. Coordination with the GFCM remains relevant in particular for prioritising capacity building and technical assistance and ensuring complimentary on actions covering the fight against IUU fishing, MCS infrastructure improvements and scientific projects on data collection and scientific advice. Coordination with regional organisations such the Black Sea Commission and Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation remains relevant in particular for disseminating information to the relevant experts in the Black Sea region and for raising awareness about the added value of collective action.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Under **EaP multilateral dimension**, which consists almost exclusively of events, gender equality of participation in events will be taken into account where appropriate and feasible. Human rights, gender equality and environmental issues will regularly be topics discussed at EaP events including during higher level policy dialogue.

Environmental protection will be one of the major topics of cooperation and dialogue both under the **ND and the BSS** processes. Gender equality in participation in projects and event will be taken into account where appropriate and feasible.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

In line with the European Neighbourhood Policy, the **overall of objective** of cooperation under the regional dimension is to strengthen the prosperity, stability, security, and good neighbourliness in the region and facilitate the implementation of the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership, the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension.

The **specific objective** for the **EaP multilateral dimension** is to foster links among partner countries themselves and between them and the EU, as well as to provide for cooperation activities, for support on legislative and regulatory approximation with the EU, and for a forum to share information and experience on partner countries' steps towards reforms. The multilateral dimension is also aimed at supporting the implementation and, particularly, the monitoring of the "20 deliverables for 2020".

The **specific objective** for the EU within the **Northern Dimension** policy is to promote dialogue, cooperation, stability, economic integration, sustainable development, the improvement of the environment, connectivity and people-to-people contacts in Northern Europe (the EU, the Russian Federation, Belarus, Norway and Iceland). Cooperation activities take place within **four sectorial Partnerships** dealing with environment (NDEP), transport and logistics (NDPTL), public health and social well-being (NDPHS) and culture (NDPC).

The **specific objective** for the EU within the **Black Sea Synergy** is to encourage political and economic cooperation between the countries surrounding the Black Sea with a focus on environment, maritime affairs, fisheries governance, interconnections, civil society, and respective support to sectoral partnerships.

4.2 Intervention logic

The implementation of regional Eastern Partnership programmes will be supported by the new streamlined Eastern Partnership **multilateral architecture**. It involves the six partner countries, the EU Member States and EU institutions and is structured around four thematic platforms, in line with the four Riga priorities. Platforms are supported by various expert panels, workshops, seminars and meetings. The political steering is given by Senior Officials Meetings, as well as by ministerial meetings. Furthermore, building on the positive results achieved by Eastern

Partnership Flagship Initiatives up to now, it is proposed to upgrade them into new branding initiatives such as EU4Business, EU4Energy, EU4Innovation and EU4Youth.

To implement the **EaP multilateral dimension**, the Commission Communication on the Eastern Partnership establishes thematic platforms and panels to support the work of the platforms in specific areas:

Four **thematic platforms** allow for target-oriented sessions on the four main areas of cooperation agreed in Riga:

- Strengthening institutions and good governance (Platform 1),
- Economic development and market opportunities (Platform 2),
- Connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change (Platform 3),
- Mobility and people-to-people contacts (Platform 4).

While the platforms are the fora where the political steer takes place, the panels established under each of the platforms support more in-depth discussions.

The **following meetings** can be expected per year (indicative figures):

- 3 Ministerial level meetings,
- 8 Platform meetings,
- 24 Panel meetings,
- 30 Seminars and meetings in the framework of panels,
- 1 Annual Assembly of the Civil Society Forum,
- 4 Civil Society Forum Steering Committee meetings,
- 5 Civil Society Forum Working Groups meetings.

In addition, this support will cover the organisation costs of **ad hoc meetings** related to one or several countries to gain practical knowledge and experiences as regards transition and modernisation process in the context of the Eastern Partnership.

Capacity building activities may also be implemented in support to the Flagship initiatives launched under the Eastern Partnership and new EU4 branding initiatives. Furthermore, additional activities may be carried out in order to support the implementation of the Eastern Partnership priorities and deliverables.

The EU also supports the **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum** (CSF). It brings together approximately 800 organisations throughout the region, out of which a maximum of 200 attend the yearly Annual Assemblies. Its main governance body is its elected Steering Committee. Working Groups are discussing issues on the agenda of the Eastern Partnership Platforms. The Working Groups of the CSF are working in parallel with the platforms and should contribute with their work to the progress of the platforms' work programmes.

The Working Groups are as follows:

- Working Group 1. Democracy, human rights, good governance and stability,
- Working Group 2. Economic integration and convergence with EU policies,
- Working Group 3. Environment, climate change and energy security,
- Working Group 4. Contacts between people,
- Working Group 5. Social Dialogue.

The Secretariat serves as the main support structure of the Forum, ensuring coordination and consolidating expertise. It ensures a greater visibility of the CSF, its National Platforms and Working Groups and an increased contribution of civil society actors to the reform processes in the EaP region. The Secretariat receives an action grant from the European Commission, which covers 90% of the costs of their activities. This support – stemming from the EaP Civil Society

Facility – will continue until at least 2020. Indicatively EUR 8 million has been allocated to activities of the Forum from 2013 to 2020. With the aim of supporting the CSF to adapt to any changes that it may have to undertake as a result of changes in the Eastern Partnership architecture, this action could make available support that is not already foreseen in the facility and is complementary to it (including the support to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum).

The implementation of the **Northern Dimension** supports partnerships in four different areas: environment; transport and logistics; health and social well-being; and culture. Activities planned in the context of these partnerships, such as small-scale projects, grants and short-term technical assistance, mobility and people-to-people actions, meetings and studies, will rely on support from this component, as will the **Northern Dimension Institute** as promoter of dialogue and cooperation.

More specifically, indicative planning includes:

- **Technical assistance** under the ND Partnership for Health and Social Wellbeing,
- **Technical assistance** under the ND Partnership for Culture,
- **Direct grant support** to the NDI to implement targeted actions under the Northern Dimension policy framework,
- **Call for Proposals** on environmental protection and awareness raising targeting non-state actors.

This component will also receive funding under the standard service contract implementing the EaP multilateral dimension, in order to accompany processes and political dialogue.

The implementation of the **Black Sea Synergy** comprises the establishment of partnerships in different areas such as environment, maritime affairs (including maritime transport, marine research and innovation) and fisheries governance. Activities to take place in the context of these partnerships, including meetings, studies or technical assistance and small scale projects, will rely on support from this component.

More specifically, indicative planning includes:

- **Small-scale technical assistance** in selected areas of mutual interest under the Black Sea Synergy Environment Partnership and related to the Bucharest Declaration and the GFCM 2017-2020 mid-term strategy, in complementarity with the EMBLAS programme.
- **Support to an international organisation** (UNDP) to implement a call for proposals on environmental protection and marine environmental monitoring and fight against IUU fishing in the Black Sea basin, in complementarity with the EMBLAS programme.
- **Thematic events** on maritime governance (including marine research) and studies on blue growth potential in view of developing a bottom-up common maritime agenda for the Black Sea.
- **Direct grant support** to FOND to implement targeted actions within the Black Sea NGO Forum framework.

This component will also receive funding under the standard service contract implementing the EaP multilateral dimension, in order to accompany processes and political dialogue.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

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

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

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

5.4 Implementation modalities for an action under project modality

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

5.4.1 Grants: call for proposals on “environmental protection and awareness raising” under the Northern Dimension (direct management)

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

The calls for proposals modality will be used for implementing actions under the objective defined in section 4.1. Activities and expected results of the calls for proposals will be in line with the expected results and activities defined in section 4.2.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In accordance with eligibility conditions defined in Article 14 of ENI regulation⁷.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 260 000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 24-36 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

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

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

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

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

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

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

2nd quarter of 2018.

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

5.4.2 Grant: direct award

5.4.2.1 Direct award to the Northern Dimension Institute (direct management)

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

The Northern Dimension is a joint policy between EU, the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland covering the Baltic Sea and European Arctic/Barents regions providing a framework to promote dialogue and concrete cooperation. The Northern Dimension Institute is a key stakeholder in this policy framework, both as a facilitator of work and dialogue as well as a means to maintain some neutral collaboration structures with the Russian Federation. The Institute is instrumental in supporting the implementation of small scale actions (studies and operating grants) to be implemented in the framework of the NDPHS and NDPC, for which no restriction of new operations in the Russian Federation apply. It is also expected to maintain low-level dialogue under the NDPHS and NDPC. The award of this grant would strengthen the capacity of the NDI, provide it with means to implement these targeted support actions and keep some neutral collaboration structures going.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Article 190(1) (f) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 authorises that grants be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis and under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Northern Dimension Institute, which has been identified as the most suitable entity.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Northern Dimension Institute, because the Northern Dimension Institute is a key stakeholder in the Northern Dimension policy framework, both as a facilitator of work and dialogue as well as a means to maintain some neutral collaboration structures with the Russian Federation. The Institute is instrumental in supporting the implementation of small scale actions (studies and operating grants) to be implemented in the framework of the NDPHS and NDPC, for which no restriction of new operations in the Russian Federation apply. It also allows to maintain low-level dialogue under the NDPHS and NDPC.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

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

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

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 95%.

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

(e) Indicative timing to conclude the grant agreement

1st quarter of 2018.

5.4.2.2. Direct award to FOND (direct management)

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

The Black Sea NGO Forum is a regional event under the framework of the Black Sea Synergy, bringing together CSOs from all eleven countries participating in the Black Sea Synergy. Its secretariat is ensured since 2008 by FOND (Federation of Romanian NGOs for Development). Awarding this grant would contribute to the institutionalisation and strategic development of the Forum and provide capacity building and support to the NGOs in the region.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Article 190(1) (f) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 authorises that grants be awarded without a call for proposals for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. On this basis and under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to FOND which has been identified as the most suitable entity.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to FOND (Federation of Romanian NGOs for Development) as entity in charge of ensuring the secretariat of the Black Sea NGO Forum, because the Black Sea NGO Forum brings together CSOs from all eleven countries participating in the Black Sea Synergy and has a unique mandate to offer a platform of regional debate on issues of common interest. Considering the current regional context in the Black Sea area, the Black Sea NGO Forum is in a unique position to continue monitoring the enabling environment for CSOs in this region and facilitating dialogue and the creation of regional thematic networks on less sensitive issues.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In accordance with eligibility conditions defined in Article 14 of ENI regulation.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

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

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

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 95%.

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

(e) Indicative timing to conclude the grant agreement

2nd quarter of 2018.

5.4.3 Indirect management with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with UNDP in accordance with Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

This implementation entails implementing a call for proposals on environmental protection and marine environmental monitoring under the Black Sea Synergy.

This implementation is justified because UNDP implements the EMBLAS programme (Improving Environmental Monitoring in the Black Sea) on behalf of the EU, and the grants awarded under this call would be implemented in full synergy with EMBLAS activities.

The entrusted entity would carry out the following budget-implementation task: design and management of call for proposals and implementation of grant contracts.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entrusted entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 5.4.5

5.4.4 Procurement (direct management)

Subject	Services	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative timing of launch of the procedure
Implementation of the Eastern Partnership multilateral dimension	Services	2	4 th quarter of 2017 3 rd quarter of 2018
Implementation of the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension	Services	6	4 th quarter of 2017 2 nd quarter of 2018 2 nd quarter of 2018 (2) 2 nd quarter of 2019 4 th quarter of 2019

5.4.5 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entrusted entity fail:

Grants: call for proposals on “on environmental protection and marine environmental monitoring” under the Black Sea Synergy” (direct management)

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

The calls for proposals modality will be used for implementing actions under the objective defined in section 4.1. Activities and expected results of the calls for proposals will be in line with the expected results and activities defined in section 4.2.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In accordance with eligibility conditions defined in Article 14 of ENI regulation⁸.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 200 000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 24-36 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

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

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

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

⁸ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

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

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

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

1st quarter of 2019.

5.5 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 realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.6 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (in EUR)	Third party contribution (in EUR)
Support to the implementation of the <u>multilateral dimension of the EaP</u>		
5.3.5 - Procurement (direct management)	7 200 000	N.A.
Support to the support to the implementation of the <u>Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension</u>		
5.3.1 - Call for proposals on environmental protection under the ND (direct management)	1400 000	70 000
5.3.2 - Direct grant to NDI (direct management)	600 000	60 000
5.3.3 - Direct grant to FOND/BSS Civil Society Forum (direct management)	300 000	30 000
5.3.4 – Indirect management with UNDP for environmental protection under the BSS	1 000 000	50 000
5.3.5 - Procurement	1 500000	N.A.
Totals	12 000 000	12 210 000

5.7 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Each component has its organisational set up. The setup of the component related to the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension is closely linked by the EaP architecture with its hierarchy of events, including platforms and panels. The set-up of the components related to the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy are closely linked to these political processes. Detailed arrangements will be included in the respective service and grants contracts and the delegation agreement.

5.8 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

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

5.9 Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the action predominantly supports political dialogue and processes.

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

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

Where relevant, the provisions of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) between the European Union and the United Nations of 29 April 2003 and its addendum No1 of 26 February 2014 shall apply.

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

5.10 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.

Where relevant, the provisions of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement (FAFA) between the European Union and the United Nations of 29 April 2003 and its addendum No1 of 26 February 2014 shall apply.

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

5.11 Communication and visibility

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

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner 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 shall be included in the financing agreements or delegation agreements.

With regards to the Neighbourhood East, all EU-supported actions shall be aimed at increasing the awareness level of the target audiences on the connections, the outcome, and the final practical benefits for citizens of EU assistance provided in the framework of this action. Visibility actions should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

Outreaching/awareness raising activities will play a crucial part in the implementation of the action, in the case of budget support the national government shall ensure that the visibility of the EU contribution is given appropriate media coverage. The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the implementing organisations, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the Commission (European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations) will be strictly adhered to.

Where relevant, the provisions of the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded between the European Union and the selected international organisations shall apply.

It is the responsibility of the implementing organisation to keep the EU Delegations and, where relevant, DG NEAR, fully informed of the planning and implementation of the appropriate milestones specific visibility and communication activities.

The implementing organisation shall report on its visibility and communication actions, as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.

This action will be communicated externally as part of a wider context of EU support to the country, and where relevant to the Eastern Partnership region in order to enhance the effectiveness of communication activities and to reduce fragmentation in the area of EU communication.

The implementing organisation shall coordinate all communication activities with EU Delegations as well as regional communication initiatives funded by the European Commission to the extent possible. All communication strategies developed as part of this action shall ensure they are in line with the priorities and objectives of regional communication initiatives supported by the European Commission and in line with the relevant EU Delegation's communication strategy under the "EU4Country" umbrella initiative.

LOGFRAME:**Action Document for the Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the Implementation of the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension**

Specific objective 1: Support to Eastern Partnership cooperation and other regional fora		
<u>Expected Results</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
Enhanced cooperation between the EU, the EU MSs and the EaP partner countries and the countries of other regional fora through multilateral cooperation	Target and baseline will be provided when implementation starts.	Minutes of meetings Ministerial declarations Activity reports Conducted studies
Specific objective 2: Promote sustainable development and the improvement of the environment		
<u>Expected Results</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
Improved cooperation on environmental protection, energy efficiency and people-to-people contacts in the Northern Dimension region	Target and baseline will be provided when implementation starts.	Project/activity reports Minutes of meetings Conducted studies
Improved environmental situation in the Black Sea region	Target and baseline will be provided when implementation starts.	Project/activity reports Minutes of meetings Conducted studies
Specific objective 3: Infrastructure development and interconnections		
<u>Expected Results</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>
Improved transport links between TEN-T network and the network developed by the NDPTL	Target and baseline will be provided when implementation starts.	Project/activity reports Minutes of meetings Conducted studies
Improved transport cooperation in the Black Sea region	Target and baseline will be provided when implementation starts.	Project/activity reports Minutes of meetings Conducted studies