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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX I**

**of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South Neighbourhood for 2021-2023**

**Action Document for Support for institution-building and international co-operation in the Southern Neighbourhood**

**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

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

**1. SYNOPSIS**

**1.1. Action Summary Table**

<p><b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>Basic Act</b></p>	<p>Support for institution-building and international co-operation in the Southern Neighbourhood</p> <p>Multi-annual action plan part I in favour of Southern Neighbourhood for 2021-2023</p> <p>CRIS number: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2021/043-037</p> <p>Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)</p>
<p><b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b></p>	<p>The action shall be carried out at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood South countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel<sup>1</sup>, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine<sup>2</sup>, Syria<sup>3</sup> and Tunisia);</li> <li>• As per Art. 43(1) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 the action will be extended to the following countries: Countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, Anna Lindh Foundation and League of Arab States not mentioned above.</li> </ul> <p>This is justified as the “Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme (2021-2027)”, makes reference to the importance of cross regional cooperation: “<i>The future</i></p>

<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> Co-operation with the Government of Syria suspended since 2011. Included in case suspension is lifted.

	<i>regional cooperation should have a flexible geographical and thematic scope, also allowing for interlinkages with other regions, where necessary and appropriate as highlighted in the Joint Communication on a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood.” and “The EU will be ready to explore further regional, sub-regional or trilateral cooperation and joint initiatives between partners in targeted areas of mutual interest and of a cross-border nature”.</i>			
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Communication for a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood JOINT (2021) 2 final of 09/02/2021			
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	Regional South Multiannual Indicative Programme (2021-2027): Priority area 5: “Support to the main drivers of regional integration” (SO1: Enhance cooperation with regional organisations; SO2: Promote intra-regional and cross-regional cooperation in particular with Sub-Saharan Africa, the Gulf and the Red Sea region).			
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>				
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Institutional building and Democratic governance 151 Government and Civil Society			
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) 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) SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15150 Democratic participation and civil society			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	21000 International NGO 47000 Other multilateral institutions 47138 (Council of Europe)			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from 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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line: 14.02.01.10. Total estimated cost: EUR 41 550 000. EUR 25 800 000 for <u>component 1</u> , EUR 8 750 000 for <u>component 2</u> , EUR 5 500 000 for <u>component 3</u> , and EUR 1 500 000 for <u>component 4</u> .			

	<p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 24 400 000.</p> <p>The remaining EUR 17 150 000 is financed through third party contributions (financing by Member States of the Union for the Mediterranean, Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue and own contributions by the Council of Europe).</p> <p>The EU contribution is for an amount of EUR 15 800 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2021, EUR 4 300 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022, and EUR 4 300 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023.</p>
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
<b>13. Implementation modalities (type of financing and management mode)</b>	<p>Project Modality</p> <p><b>Direct management</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grants</li> <li>- Procurement</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the Council of Europe</p>

## 1.2. Summary of the Action

<p>The <b>overall objective</b> of this action is to promote institution building and international cooperation with four regional organisations for more integration, democracy and diversity in the Southern Mediterranean, and for more dialogue and cooperation with the Arab countries.</p> <p>The action contributes to the fulfilment of the specific objectives identified under the fifth priority area of the Regional South MIP (2021-2027)<sup>4</sup>, namely “support to the main drivers of regional integration” (SO1) and “promote intra-regional and cross-regional cooperation in particular with Sub-Saharan Africa, the Gulf and the Red Sea region” (SO2).</p> <p><b>Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM).</b> This component is designed to support the work programme of the Secretariat of the UfM for the year 2022, 2023 and 2024. The support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean contributes to <b>SDG 17</b> (<i>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</i>) as the support to the functioning of the Union for the Mediterranean will enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation; policy coordination and policy coherence on mutually agreed terms for a more sustainable development in the Euro-Med region. The support to the UfM Secretariat will also contribute to enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the Euro-Med countries.</p> <p><b>Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI.</b> This component is designed to support the Foundation to implement the sixth phase of its triennial programming since its inception.</p> <p>The support to the Anna Lindh Foundation contributes to <b>SDG 16</b> (<i>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</i>) as the support to the functioning of the Anna Lindh Foundation will contribute to the promotion of non-discriminatory laws and policies, and to more inclusive and pluralistic societies through its support to civil society and its focus on cultural diversity.</p>
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<sup>4</sup> Regional South MIP (2021-2027) – C(2021)9399.

### **Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V.**

This component is designed to continue the partnership with the Council of Europe to strengthen democratic and political reforms in the Southern Mediterranean countries through a new phase of the South Programme. The implementation of the South Programme V contributes to the Southern Mediterranean partners' efforts to advance towards the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, especially to **SDG 4**, **SDG 5** and **SDG 16**.

**SDG 4 - *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*** The Human Rights Training for Legal Professionals (HELP) courses and other capacity-building actions will reach out to universities, particularly law faculties, with the aim of integrating human rights courses in their curricula. It will also enable the lifelong training of legal professionals in the field of human rights.

**SDG 5 – *Gender equality.*** The programme will achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls in particular through the intervention of the programme on combating violence against women and notably the outreach of the Istanbul Convention and assistance in the field of trafficking in human beings. In addition, the support aims to ensure that gender is integrated in all authorities' responses and that particular situation and gender-specific needs of women and men, girls and boys, and other respective groups are taken into account.

**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.*** This SDG is the cornerstone of the Rule of Law in the Agenda 2030. Due to the nature of its mandate, Council of Europe's technical cooperation actions bring a significant contribution to the achievement of SDG 16. The South Programme V will contribute to the fight against human beings trafficking, with a special focus on child trafficking. The HELP courses and other capacity-building activities for legal professionals will aim at promoting the Rule of Law within the national institutions. The programme will also provide to improve the efficiency of justice for a qualitative justice for all.

**Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and co-operation with the League of Arab States.** This component is designed to continue reinforcing the potential dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States through the continuation of the Training and Information Course on Euro-Arab relations (El Hiwar III).

The third edition of El Hiwar will contribute to **SDG 17 (*Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*)** as the training and information programme on EU-Arab relations will enhance North-South cooperation, in particular the policy dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the League of Arab States for a more sustainable development in the Arab world. El Hiwar III will also contribute to enhancing the EU-Arab partnership through sharing of knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the Arab countries.

## **2. RATIONALE**

### **2.1. Context**

#### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration in November 2020 reminds us that a strengthened Mediterranean partnership remains a strategic imperative for the European Union as the challenges the region continues to face require a common response, especially ten years after the Arab Spring.

The situation in the region remains very complex. It is facing governance, socio-economic, climate, environmental and security challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the societies and economies in the region at their core, and exacerbated the inequalities.

The region has one of the lowest levels of regional economic integration in the world. Unsustainable use of natural resources and climate change jeopardise access to water, food, and energy, accelerate desertification

and loss of biodiversity, and threaten lives and livelihoods. Significant economic and gender inequalities persist, and governments struggle to meet the aspirations of young people.

Since the outburst of the pandemic, particular concerns regarding discrimination, prejudice, racism and hate speech, especially on social media, were flagged. Good governance, promotion and protection of fundamental rights, as well as respect for the rule of law, remain key for the development of sustainable, peaceful and stable democratic societies in the Southern Mediterranean.

The need to address these challenges jointly is further reinforced by the pandemic, which has illustrated starkly shared vulnerabilities and mutual interdependence of the countries in the region. The need to seek common solutions through engaging with regional actors, notably the Union for the Mediterranean and the League of Arab States, has been specifically emphasised in the Joint Communication on the renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood<sup>5</sup> adopted on 9 February 2021. With the New Agenda for the Mediterranean the EU is committed to give priority to regional cooperation and integration.

The new Agenda will guide the EU bilateral, regional, and cross-regional cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean under the EU's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). It incorporates new areas and forms of cooperation identified during the health crisis. The new Agenda for the Mediterranean offers opportunities for new partnerships on strategic priorities and is based on the conviction that sustainable prosperity can only be built in strong partnership across the Mediterranean, and that common challenges can be turned into opportunities in the mutual interest of the EU and its Southern Neighbours. The new Agenda includes a dedicated Economic and Investment Plan<sup>6</sup> to spur the long-term socio-economic recovery in the Southern Neighbourhood.

It forcefully acknowledges the central role of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) as crucial focal point to enhance regional cooperation and of its regional dialogue platforms to support shaping sectoral policies.

Close coordination between the EU and the UfM Secretariat is constant in order to ensure complementarities and synergies with the Commission's priorities and avoid overlaps of specific activities or double funding. There is a regular exchange of information between the UfM Secretariat, Commission services, the EEAS and other donors and international financing institutions. This flow of information is greatly helped by the secondment of an EU official to the UfM Secretariat.

The EU holds the UfM Co-presidency and is associated to the preparation of ministerial including the annual Foreign Ministers' Regional Forum, and Senior Officials meetings and to the endorsement of projects for UfM labelling. More than 50 projects have been UfM-labelled across the region. The EU is associated to the drafting of UfM ministerial declarations. The UfM annual work plan is submitted to the EU for option before it is officially endorsed by the Senior Officials.

The new Agenda for the Mediterranean offers new opportunities for synergies and complementarity between the two institutions, in particular for issues that are of interest to the whole Euro-Med region.

#### Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI

The EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy (2016) recognises the importance of building partnerships between the people and in particular of inter-cultural dialogue for plural and inclusive societies. This is done in particular through support to the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), consistent with its role as the "EU's main interlocutor in matters of intercultural dialogue" as referenced in the "Joint Report on the Implementation of the ENP Review"<sup>7</sup>. This central role of ALF is also recognised in the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy.

Since its creation, the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation has been aligned with the EU priorities in the Euro-Med region, notably the support to civil society and youth. The EU recognises the central role of the

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<sup>5</sup> SWD (2021)23: "Renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood: A new Agenda for the Mediterranean".

<sup>6</sup> SWD/2021/23 final.

<sup>7</sup> JOIN/2017/018 final.

Foundation in the revised European Neighbourhood Policy<sup>8</sup> but also the important role that the Foundation can play to deliver the new Agenda for the Mediterranean, in particular in the field of human rights and human development. This complementarity with EU policies has also led to a close synergy with EU regional programmes (e.g. Open Neighbourhood, Med Media, Erasmus +) and with the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force for the South).

To maximise the impact of its action and benefiting from working through partnerships, the Foundation will continue aligning its programming orientations with relevant international and national frameworks, including the:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- EU Joint Communication for A New Mediterranean Agenda
- EU Green Deal
- EU civil society strategies at the national level
- Marseille Declaration of the Summit of the Two Shores
- League of Arab States declarations
- Euro-Med national countries priorities in the field of intercultural dialogue and/or specific sectors that can contribute to this mission

Furthermore, to strengthen the impact of its action, avoid duplication, and create synergies with relevant donors and regional institutions, the ALF has concluded cooperation agreements and has regular coordination exchanges with, among others, the Union for the Mediterranean as a central partner for the Foundation, UNESCO, Council of Europe, OECD, UNOPS/CMI, OSCE, League of Arab States, Club de Madrid, British Council.

The complementarity of the Foundation's actions with regional integration processes have been recognised on some important occasions. In June 2019, the Summit of the Two Shores in Marseille underlined the political commitment to the Foundation as a "central platform for strengthening the partnership between the European Union and all countries around the Mediterranean, building shared community feeling in the field of people-to-people and civil society. At the 5<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Forum in November 2020, the UfM Co-Presidency in its statement recognised the role that the Anna Lindh Foundation is playing for the promotion of the intercultural dialogue as the only Euro-Mediterranean organisation gathering civil society actors of the whole Mediterranean Basin.

### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V

The EU-Council of Europe (CoE) relations are governed by the Memorandum of Understanding of 2007<sup>9</sup>, which particularly mentions the Neighbourhood and Enlargement with a view to develop democratic stability. The Statement of Intent signed on 1 April 2014 by the CoE and the Commission<sup>10</sup> formalised the political commitment to foster a more strategic and long term cooperation between the two institutions that should translate into concrete and tangible results of our joint programmes in the Southern Neighbourhood.

In line with the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024<sup>11</sup>, EU commitment to promote Rule of Law, fundamental rights, equality, democracy and good governance in the Southern Neighbourhood is renewed in the Joint Communication for a renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood.

The South Programme V will complement the efforts of the European Union to create a space of shared commitments to human rights, democracy and the rule of law in light of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

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<sup>8</sup> "Review of the European Neighbourhood Policy", JOIN (2015) 50 final, 18.11.2015.

<sup>9</sup> [The Council of Europe's Relations with the European Union \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/the-council-of-europe/southern-neighbourhood)

<sup>10</sup> [168066b99e \(coe.int\)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/the-council-of-europe/southern-neighbourhood)

<sup>11</sup> JOIN/2020/5 final.

The South Programme V will promote complementarity with other EU actions as well as with other donors in the Southern Neighbourhood in the fields of rule of law, justice, human rights, fight against corruption, including EU/Council of Europe joint programmes, such as the CyberSouth Programme, as well as Council of Europe's projects in the region not financed by the EU. Synergies will be reinforced with actions implemented in the region under the EU Thematic Programme "Democracy and Human Rights".

The South Programme V will ensure regular exchanges of information with other organisations active in the region like the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the League of Arab States (LAS) and Euromed Justice. Coordination will also be ensured with relevant United Nations (UN) agencies, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and EU Member States' development agencies.

#### Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and co-operation with the League of Arab States

The League of Arab States (LAS) is a central partner in the stabilisation of the region and the main institutional interlocutor with the Arab world. At the first EU-LAS summit in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt) on 24-25 February 2019, the leaders agreed to deepen Arab-European ties to enhance the stability, prosperity, and well-being of the two regions. Both sides agreed to boost cooperation towards security, conflict resolution and socio-economic development throughout the region. Leaders also reaffirmed the need to strengthen economic cooperation between the two regions to spur investment and sustainable growth. The summit in Egypt marked the start of a new dialogue between the EU and the LAS. Leaders committed to hold EU-LAS summits regularly, with the next summit set to take place in Brussels in 2022.

With the current El Hiwar II project, increased synergies have been established with other EU projects, organisations supported by the EU as well as actions funded by other donors. These efforts consisted in organising meetings or inviting speakers and guests from these other initiatives, sharing contributions or publications from other parallel endeavours.

In 2019, the policy dialogue on "Youth, Civil Society and Socio-Economic News: New Avenues for Euro-Arab Cooperation" of 3 April 2019 was the occasion to showcase some EU funded projects (e.g. Sahwa, Power2Youth, Arab Transformations projects under the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the UfM Med4Jobs initiative, the EU-UNESCO Generation What project). The policy dialogue on "Women and Conflict" involved the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office; the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP, UN Women and OSCE. The policy dialogue on "Human Rights" involved several representatives of the Council of Europe. In the field of culture, El Hiwar II seeks also complementarity with the EU-LAS culture programme, implemented by the Goethe-Institut and funded by FPI.

In addition, in the framework of the upcoming policy dialogue on economic matters and civil society, El Hiwar II intends to involve parallel projects/initiatives where synergies and complementarities could be sought. Those synergies will be reinforced and broadened under El Hiwar III. Other Commission services (e.g. ECHO, INTPA, EAC, JUST, HOME) and EEAS will keep on being involved depending on the thematic focus.

## **2.2. Problem Analysis**

#### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration, the UfM Ministers reaffirmed at the 5<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Forum in November 2020 the essential role of the UfM Secretariat to act as catalyst to bring countries, national, regional and international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society together around regional dialogue platforms and concrete projects of strategic importance to build a joint response to common challenges across the Euro-Mediterranean region. In light of this fundamental role, the EU has been providing support to the UfM Secretariat in the form of an annual operating grant since 2010 in co-funding with the UfM member states.

The priority areas for more cooperation and integration were identified by the 2008 Paris Declaration (transport, urban development, energy, environment, climate change, water, higher education and research, social and civil affairs, employment, trade and business development) and still remain valid to transform the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy, cooperation and prosperity.

In addition to the Paris Declaration<sup>12</sup>, the UfM Roadmap for Action adopted by the UfM Ministers in January 2017<sup>13</sup> extends UfM field of action to new areas for more integration in the Mediterranean (e.g. digital and blue economy, youth and women empowerment). Furthermore, in the statement issued by the Co-Presidency at the 5<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Forum in November 2020<sup>14</sup>, the Ministers have recognised the need to prioritise the areas of action where the UfM can play a crucial role and provide for a comparative advantages and agreed to focus the UfM's work in the coming years on the following specific areas: a) environmental and climate action; b) sustainable and inclusive economic and human development; c) social inclusiveness and equality as an essential element in the socio-economic development of the region; d) digital transformation, and e) civil protection.

## Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue – Phase VI

The Anna Lindh Foundation has played a fundamental role since 2005 in forming a bridge between the Euro-Mediterranean region by promoting understanding and intercultural dialogue between cultures, religions and people. The pandemic showed that COVID-19 is not just a health problem; it can also be a virus that exacerbates xenophobia, hate and exclusion. Therefore promoting intercultural dialogue in the region is more imperative than ever, as a response to increasing regressive cultural and social trends both in Europe and in the South, which are fuelling the rise of xenophobia and new forms of exclusion.

Young people in the Southern Neighbourhood often feel excluded from participation in political and economic decision-making. The support to the Foundation's initiatives is intended to contribute to remedying this perception. The ALF suffers from under-funding by its Member States as well as from some governance difficulties. A pro-active approach on the part of the EU vis-à-vis the Foundation will be important in trying to overcome this situation.

In line with the ALF Strategy<sup>15</sup>, investment in youth is a central overarching aim that has been reaffirmed through the flagship event of the Foundation, MED FORUM, and the Anna Lindh Report on Intercultural Trends. In addition to its strategic objectives, the Foundation will take into consideration in its programming two major global challenges: the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, calling on all of the ALF networks and partners to join efforts for innovative approaches to the post-COVID-19 recovery and green transition.

Furthermore, the ALF priority field of action would aim to contribute to the fulfilment of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean; the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and to the priority areas identified by 2017 UfM Road Map for Action, and the Summit of the Two Shores and the Marseille Declaration (e.g. energy, youth, education, mobility, economy and competitiveness, culture, media, tourism, environment and sustainable development).

To contribute to more sustainable and open Euro-Med societies through intercultural dialogue, the Foundation will adopt a fourfold approach for the development of its triennial programme (2022-2024):

1. Intercultural learning and capacity-building: Educators and learners develop face-to-face and digital education activities and resources for Euro-Med citizens' intercultural understanding and better living in multi-cultural societies.
2. Networking and cooperation: Civil society organisations, local authorities, young people, education institutions work together on common initiatives to fight stereotypes, xenophobia, extremism and racism.

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<sup>12</sup> [Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean - Union for the Mediterranean - UfM \(ufmsecretariat.org\)](#)

<sup>13</sup> [UfM Roadmap for Action \(ufmsecretariat.org\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> [UfM Foreign Affairs Ministers set priority areas for stronger cooperation and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region - Union for the Mediterranean - UfM \(ufmsecretariat.org\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> "Working Together Towards 2025" adopted by the Foundation's Board of Governors on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

3. Youth voice and green recovery: Young people are empowered to contribute to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies and the development of a green post-COVID-19 recovery across the Euro-Med region.
4. Advocacy and research: Policy-makers and media operators are provided with scientific data and spaces for debate to develop policies and media productions which favour and encourage cultural diversity, overcoming of cultural stereotyping and benefits from increased solidarity.

#### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South programme V

Ten years after the Arab Spring, the Southern Neighbourhood region continues to face important challenges with a view to advancing democratic reforms, the Rule of Law and the protection of fundamental rights. A few countries, notably Morocco and Tunisia, and to a lesser extent Jordan, have engaged in comprehensive democratic reforms, but many challenges remain, putting at stake the democratic gains as recently shown by massive protests in Tunisia. Overall, most countries of the region are still far from having engaged in democratic transition. Egypt's brief test with democracy failed, Libya and Syria plunged into civil war with as a consequence millions of refugees having fled to neighbouring countries. However, calls for democratic reforms continue as shown by recent upheavals in Algeria and Lebanon.

The success of the democratic transitions truthfully engaged will largely depend on the support that will continue to be provided by Europe, both in terms of financial aid and through expertise. In this context, building bridges between Europe and Southern Mediterranean founded on shared values and the universal approach to human rights remains crucial.

As recalled in the New Agenda for the Mediterranean, 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. Likewise, the Council of Europe's policy towards neighbouring regions aims to progressively promote the creation of a common legal space between the Southern Mediterranean and Europe and to support the countries of the region to tackle global challenges through the tools developed with this purpose for its member states.

The partnership established since 2012 between the European Union and the Council of Europe with the Joint Programme "Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood" (South Programme) has proven its relevance and added value as shown by the achievement of key results including support to the preparation of the Tunisian Constitution in 2014 and accession of several countries of the region to key conventions of the Council of Europe.

The overall objective of the fifth phase of the South Programme is to ensure enhanced protection of human rights, Rule of Law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in accordance with European values by further raising awareness about European and international standards in the region and by supporting national reforms based on such standards. In addition, the South Programme will focus on combating violence against women, trafficking in human beings, economic crime, preventing ill-treatment and torture, protecting freedom of expression, guaranteeing independence and the efficiency of the judiciary and personal data protection.

#### Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States

Europeans and Arabs have a long and rich history of cultural, economic, commercial and political exchanges. This, together with the geographical proximity and interdependence, has contributed to institutionalise a strong relationship between the EU and the League of Arab States (LAS).

The EU-LAS Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meetings and other contacts between the two organisations paved the way for EU-LAS co-operation. In January 2015, an EU-LAS Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the High Representative/Vice-President with the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to structure the cordial relations between the two parties.

Political dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the LAS encompass various regional challenges high on their respective agendas. From the Middle East Peace Process, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq to climate

change, economic development, counter-terrorism and migration, the single common objective is to look for long-lasting solutions to ensure regional peace and stability.

At the first EU-LAS Summit held in 2019 in Sharm El-Sheikh (Egypt), the EU and Arab leaders agreed to further strengthen the cooperation towards security, conflict resolution and socio-economic development throughout the region. They committed to developing a positive cooperation agenda especially in the fields of trade, energy, including energy security, science, research, technology, tourism, fisheries, agriculture and other mutually beneficial areas; all with the aim to create wealth, increase growth rates and reduce unemployment to better respond to peoples' needs.

### **3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

#### **3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs**

##### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The overall objective (impact) of the action is to contribute to a close integration of the Euro-Med region for shared prosperity.

The specific objective (outcome) of the action is to reinforce the role of the UfM Secretariat as a regional dialogue platform.

The main expected results are the following:

1. The UfM Secretariat executes its mandate, in particular its work programme.
2. High quality regional projects and initiatives in the six priority areas (*Transport and Urban Development, Energy, Environment including Climate Change and Water, Higher Education and Research, Social and Civil Affairs, Business Development and Employment*) are given the UfM label and constitute an implementation of the political mandate provided by the Ministerial declarations.
3. Relations and cooperation with international and bilateral financial institutions and the private sector are strengthened, notably to increase financing for projects.
4. The internal functioning of the Secretariat is improved, in particular as evidenced by the supportive relations with Commission line DGs.

##### Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI

The overall objective (impact) of the action is to build more tolerant and pluralistic societies in the Euro-Med region.

The specific objectives (outcomes) of the action are the following:

1. The citizens, in particular young people, in the Euro-Med region are sensitised on the importance of intercultural dialogue to coexist peacefully in multi-cultural societies.
2. Civil society organisations, local authorities, young people, education institutions work together on common initiatives to fight stereotypes, xenophobia, extremism and racism.
3. Young people contribute to the development of sustainable, inclusive and greener societies across the Euro-Med region.
4. Policy-makers and media operators use scientific data and spaces for debate to promote cultural diversity and combat cultural stereotypes.

The main expected results (outputs) of the action are the following:

- R.1.1: Pedagogical resources and exchange platforms are created.
- R.1.2: Partnerships with universities, research centres and university networks for the organisation of online and offline academic courses and workshops are strengthened.
- R.1.3: Educators and multipliers are in capacity to organise education initiatives within and across their communities.
  
- R.2.1: Funding mechanisms to the ALF network members are put in place for joint actions to fight stereotypes.

- R.2.2: Regional campaigns involving ALF network in favour of dialogue are better coordinated.
- R.2.3: Structured platforms in favour of dialogue among different stakeholders are put in place.
- R.2.4: Cooperation and synergies are improved among ALF network members.
- R.2.5: Activities of ALF network members are more visible.
  
- R.3.1: Young people's capacity for inclusive citizenship in multicultural societies are enhanced.
- R.3.2: Sustained dialogue mechanisms aiming at influencing policy-makers are developed.
- R.3.3: Young people and civil society members' mobility scheme across the Euro-Med region is developed.
- R.3.4: Young people's capacity to make proposals for a green recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic are developed.
  
- R.4.1: Intercultural trends in the Euro-Med region are duly monitored.
- R.4.2: Intercultural trends are translated into messages informing policy-makers and different stakeholders.

### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V

The overall objective (impact) of the action is to better protect human rights, Rule of Law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in line with European and international standards.

The specific objectives (outcomes) of the action are the following:

1. *Enlarged common legal space between Europe and Southern Mediterranean based on European and international standards.*

Around 150 Council of Europe conventions are open to non-member States, as well as Partial Agreements that bring together member States and non-member States to deal with specific issues (such as combating corruption, constitutional matters, global education, etc.). Throughout its previous phases, the South Programme has succeeded in promoting accession to conventions by countries from the Southern Mediterranean. Examples include:

- Tunisia is the first non-member State having acceded to the Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) in October 2019; it also ratified the Convention on Data Protection and signed in 2019 the Modernised Convention in this area (Convention 108+);
- Tunisia is the first country of the region having been invited to accede to the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO); it has also been invited to ratify the Istanbul Convention and the European Convention to combat trafficking in human beings;
- Morocco is a Contracting Party to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data (Convention 108) and its Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows in May 2019, as well as the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) and its Additional Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism in June 2018;
- Israel is a Contracting Party to the Budapest Convention in June 2016, as well as the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters in August 2018 and should soon accede to the European Convention to combat trafficking in human beings;
- Other countries of the region have expressed interest in Council of Europe conventions.

The South Programme will continue supporting the progressive creation of a common legal space between Europe and Southern Mediterranean in any area related to human rights, Rule of law and democracy, based on Council of Europe conventions and other instruments deriving from the European Convention of Human Rights.

This specific objective will therefore aim to progressively include countries of the Southern Mediterranean region as Contracting Parties to relevant conventions and Partial Agreements on an equal footing with member States. Certain of these conventions include monitoring mechanisms that assess on a regular basis the level of implementation of conventions at the national level, identify gaps and make recommendations to improve compliance. In the medium term it is expected that countries of the region will also be monitored by such mechanisms.

Whilst the ratification of conventions and accession to Partial Agreements will be the main objective in the medium/long term, the harmonisation of legislative frameworks with European and international standards is expected to be further pursued with the programme's support.

The thematic scope regarding this specific objective will be open to any area related to human rights, Rule of Law and democracy that might present an interest for the region. Nonetheless, the focus of the South Programme will be put, to the extent possible, on themes identified as priority ones between the European Union and the Council of Europe, namely on standards devised to protect human rights (e.g. torture and ill-treatment, anti-discrimination, freedom of expression), on standards aimed at tackling global challenges (e.g. fight against domestic violence, trafficking in human beings, combating corruption,...), and on standards facilitating economic exchanges, trade and investments (e.g. combating organised crime, protecting data protection). Specific attention will also be given to the need to respect human rights and Rule of Law standards in times of crisis (such as the COVID-19 pandemic).

The main expected results (outputs) of this outcome are the following:

- R.1: Countries of the region participate in Council of Europe conventions and Partial Agreements on an equal footing with member States, including in monitoring mechanisms as relevant.
- R.2: Countries of the region revise legislation, including on constitutional matters, in core areas relating to human rights, Rule of Law and democracy, in accordance with European and international standards.
- R.3: Countries of the region are aware and make use of the Quick Response Mechanism of the South Programme.

2. *Capacities to address global challenges through common tools and responses are enhanced and based on European and international standards.*

Global challenges require a shared understanding of the issues at stake and coordinated response to ensure efficiency in combating them. Trafficking of human beings, domestic violence, organised crime (corruption, money laundering, counterfeit of medical products, etc.) can only be stopped through coordinated global responses. The Council of Europe has developed tools to ensure common definitions and standards regarding such global challenges, including most recent ones such as violence against women and trafficking in human beings, that propose consistent action to prevent these phenomena, to protect the victims and to prosecute perpetrators.

Thanks to the action of the South Programme, several countries of the Southern Mediterranean region have increasingly shown interest in these tools over the last years, and some countries have even requested accession to relevant conventions. Mechanisms deriving from such instruments have been put in place in certain countries (e.g. National Mechanisms of Orientation of victims of trafficking in human beings in Tunisia) and present a potential to be made available on other countries so as to allow the connections needed to effectively tackle global challenges.

The main expected results for this outcome are the following:

- R.2.1: Awareness is raised on European and international standards regarding global challenges to human rights and Rule of Law to ensure a consistent understanding and approach to these phenomena.
- R.2.2: Awareness is raised, and further development is ensured, on existing mechanisms, tools and best practices to combat global challenges.
- R.2.3: Capacities of relevant bodies and professionals to jointly address global challenges are increased.

3. *Enhanced cooperation and dialogue on human rights, Rule of Law and democracy within the Southern Mediterranean region and between the region and Europe to ensure effective implementation of European and international standards and the relevant national bodies' capacity to interact.*

Both informal and institutionalised regional networks will increase the coordination within the region and with Europe to deal with issues of common concern. The Šibenik Network of Corruption Prevention Agencies (NCPA)<sup>16</sup>, gathering several member states of the Council of Europe, and in which Jordan, Morocco, Palestine\*, Tunisia and more recently Egypt joined, is a good example of such initiatives that provide an unparalleled opportunity for partners to come together, at the political and technical level, to discuss common issues, share strategies and explore areas for cooperation. It is expected that the successful experience of some countries in following European and international standards will be shared with other countries of the region and generate appropriate demands for support to reforms. Civil society will be involved as far as possible in these initiatives. Likewise, civil society networks will be facilitated and enlarged in key areas such as domestic violence and trafficking in human beings.

The main expected results (outputs) for this outcome are the following:

- R.3.1: Existing networks of the Council of Europe are consolidated and expanded.
- R.3.2: New networks are created to ensure sustained and structured cooperation and dialogue between beneficiaries in the Southern Mediterranean region, as well as to improve practices, notably with a view to addressing global challenges.
- R.3.3: Civil society networking is reinforced throughout the region in key areas of intervention.

#### Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States

The overall objective (impact) of the action is to deepen Arab-European ties for more stability, prosperity and well-being of the two regions.

The specific objective (outcome) of the action is to reinforce the dialogue and cooperation between the European Union and the League of Arab States through a dedicated information and training programme, as a follow-up of the project El Hiwar (ending in May 2022).

The main expected results (outputs) of the action will be the following:

R.1: Interactions between EU officials and LAS officials are enhanced.

R.2: Political dialogue is reinforced between the two institutions.

R.3: Knowledge on EU policies is increased among LAS officials, and vice-versa.

R.4: Policy thinking and analysis on themes of common interest is developed.

R.5: Stronger regional cooperation between the EU and the Arab countries is promoted.

R.6: Dialogue with civil society and promotion of human rights are reinforced in the EU-Arab relations.

### **3.2. Indicative Activities**

#### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Activities will focus on the continuous upgrade of the procedures for processing projects submitted for 'labelling' including, when appropriate the possibility of discontinuing the UfM label for projects that are not performing.

The on-line Project Monitoring System will continue to be consolidated as the unique tool of projects information internally and externally and will allow for a closer scrutiny of processes and follow up of implementation of projects. The projects submitted should take account of EU policies and priorities,

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<sup>16</sup> The NCPA, which was initiated in 2018 and is supported by the GRECO, aims at: uniting efforts to improve the systematic collection, management and exchange of information among anti-corruption authorities, including their respective experiences and good practices; supporting members to enhance capacities and promote operational independence; recognising and promoting international standards for the prevention of corruption; and stimulating and partnering with other international stakeholders for the promotion of integrity.

particularly in light of the New Agenda for the Mediterranean and the external dimension of EU policies on topics such as the environment, climate action, energy, transport, small and medium-sized enterprises, higher education, gender equality and women empowerment, civil protection and research and employment.

Apart from the projects activities, the UFM Secretariat, as an operational platform for cooperation between Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean, will continue encouraging consensus building, promoting the development of regional agendas, developing regional and sub-regional networks, and foster dialogue and exchange among all stakeholders from the Mediterranean region. This will be implemented through the organisation of ministerial meetings, including the Foreign Ministers' annual Regional Forum, specific dialogue meetings, high level conferences and experts' fora/working groups or round tables in the areas of activity of the Secretariat's mandate.

## Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI

### 1. INTERCULTURAL TRENDS RESEARCH AND LEARNING

**Academic courses and workshops; civil society and media dialogue.** In this regard, the Foundation will develop a series of coordinated actions and tailored communication tools, including the strengthening of partnerships with universities, research centres and university networks for the organisation of online and offline academic courses and workshops; additionally, the further development of the Intercultural Trends and Media Platforms, debates and workshops with the ALF civil society.

**Anna Lindh Intercultural Trends Report.** The Foundation will continue producing the Anna Lindh Report on Intercultural Trends and Social Change in the Euro-Med region based on a region-wide public opinion polling and expert analyses, and the customisation of a series of easy-access communication tools with research information.

**Capacity-development for intercultural learning and good practice exchange.** The Foundation will reinforce its work on capacity-building for intercultural dialogue. This includes expanding the “training for educators” on intercultural citizenship education tested and developed in previous phases, and the related mentorship scheme for the support of a pool of multipliers to organise education initiatives within and across their communities to ensure the largest reach to young people and educators in the formal and non-formal education section. The main pedagogical resource in the Euro-Med region is the “Anna Lindh Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship”; the Foundation plans to test an innovative online course and virtual training for trainers on intercultural citizenship education.

**Intercultural Dialogue Resource Centre.** Created in 2020, the Foundation will ensure the regular strengthening and further development of the Intercultural Dialogue Resource Centre that provides a wide array of publications, good practices and learning activities, news and information on expertise in relation to intercultural relations and affairs in the region. This is a user-friendly information digital hub.

### 2. MEDIA, ARTS AND CO-PRODUCTIONS BETWEEN EURO-MED CITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY FOR INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE

The Foundation is a networking institution; its civil society network includes over 4,000 organisations in the 42 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean, and constitutes a unique resource to ensure the outreach and impact of its promoted, encouraged and supported dialogue work.

With the outburst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the years to come call upon the Foundation, its network, partners and donors to not only continue strengthening its network through technical, financial and communication support, but to also work to identify new mechanisms to ensure crisis response and readiness to its associated critical issues. Both the health pandemic and climate change appear to be the main challenges that will affect people in the Euro-Med region, and at the global level, for at least the next decade, directly or in relation to their consequences on society.

Therefore, the Foundation sets to establish a mechanism to support its civil society network in being effective actors of change in relation to both the consequences of the health pandemic and climate change. In light of

the large diversity in the nature and scope of each of the institutions that are part of the ALF Network, the specific type of actions will be defined jointly.

**Funding mechanisms.** The Foundation will ensure the launch of the Head of Network Management support scheme, the support of cross-network actions involving consortia of members, and flexible funding schemes to respond to emergency situations.

**Regional campaigns and MEDFORUM.** In light of previous experience and impact, the Foundation will ensure the coordination of regional campaigns with network involvement in favour of dialogue; and will work toward the organisation, on a three-year basis, of the largest civil society gathering in the Euro-Med with the fourth edition of the MEDFORUM. The programme integrates the lessons learnt and potentially some dimensions of the Foundation's Virtual Marathon for Dialogue organised in 2020/2021 due to the cancellation of MEDFORUM in 2020.

**Local platforms for dialogue and Euro-Med Capital for Dialogue Award.** Cities provide a critical space for the Foundation. The action in favour of civil society dialogue, resilience to crises and coordinated effort for raising environmental responsibility and respect will have a central feature within the city and in collaboration with local authorities, because of the potential of local authorities to ensure the needed political and financial support for the sustainability of actions in favour of intercultural dialogue. In this regard, the Foundation will support the establishment of local platforms for dialogue, and will launch the Award for the Euro-Med Capital for Dialogue to encourage joint initiatives between cities and civil society as a way to recognise dialogue work at the city level.

**Online hub for civil society exchange at times of emergency.** With the further development of the Intercultural Dialogue Resource Centre framework on its website, the Foundation will aim to create an online space to facilitate international and national exchange of practices, resources and calls for support, to be effective especially within the aforementioned periods of crisis.

### 3. FIGHTING STEREOTYPES

In today's global arena, deciding what is real in the many competing versions of reported media stories has become a major challenge with the rise of fake news and hate speech. The ALF civil society network and youth can contribute to countering these narratives by effectively showing the ways in which the different reality emerges. The ALF intercultural trends research evidences how reality varies from provocative headlines often found in mainstream media to the distorted visions that can characterise online sources. The ALF works for the fight against cultural and gender stereotyping within its mission for the promotion of intercultural dialogue.

At the delivery level, one of the key areas of support the Foundation has developed since its inception has been through a system of "call for proposal", both at local and cross-national level. The ALF funding schemes focus on its priority fields: granting financial support for international projects developed by civil society and NGOs across the two shores of the Mediterranean. For this reason, all the financed projects have involved one or more civil society partners from the South and the North. During a period of fifteen years, granted projects and programmes have addressed issues of common interest in the Euro-Med region, generating effective impact at the institutional and grassroots levels, fostering cross-cultural dialogue, encouraging communities in the region to know each other better and associating different types of stakeholders to develop integrated approaches.

The grants have covered seminars, roundtable meetings, training initiatives, photo exhibitions, video production, books, musical events, theatre productions, festivals, and academic research initiatives, adding value to the main fields of the Foundation and its core strategies. Globally, the projects have reached thousands of the ALF's main target groups, including youth, women and migrants, in the North and the South, and in small towns and communities, confirming the outreach ability of the Foundation. The grants allowed concrete interaction with the grassroots civil society groups, promoting the pivotal role of intercultural dialogue in dealing with the different aspects of civil societies.

**Call for proposals to fight cultural and gender stereotypes.** A call for proposals mechanism will be launched to support the fight against cultural and gender stereotypes and the establishment of Euro-Med civil society collaborations north and south of the Mediterranean.

**Capacity-building.** In the coming years, the Foundation will further create capacity-building opportunities to its networks and beneficiaries of its grant schemes. There is a wealth of knowledge, skills and expertise within the networks and recognising this would foster a collaborative approach to achieving the goal. The Foundation will be planning face-to-face and virtual capacity-building activities around communication and project management, along with reporting and impact.

#### 4. EURO-MED YOUTH FOR DIALOGUE AND CLIMATE ACTION

Investment in youth is the central pillar of the Foundation’s action and focus of work since its creation. The Foundation has coordinated “Young Mediterranean Voices”, the region’s flagship dialogue programme that has generated youth-led alternative narratives to extremist discourses. Young women and men in the Euro-Med region have represented the main beneficiaries of the Foundation’s programming since 2005. The Foundation’s research on intercultural trends further validates and provides evidence of growing public recognition on youth-led dialogue initiatives and participation as the most efficient long-term approach to the prevention of hate speech, cultural divide and extremism.

In the first two years of the programme, YMV has engaged around 7,500 young people from across the Euro-Med and has trained over 4,000 young people in debate and dialogue skills; overall, 58.5% of young girls engaged in rural and peri-urban suburbs; 84.9% of engaged youth are clustered in the 18- to 24- year age group. The main issues of debate identified by young people ranged from quality of education to electoral systems, political participation of marginalised groups, climate change and employability, amongst other pressing global issues. In 2020, young people were also involved in high-level policy debate with decision-makers to directly share their recommendations and views and impact policy development. YMV has engaged partners that include the British Council (implementing partner in the South), MEDAC (Univ. of Malta), Club the Madrid-World Leadership Alliance, Friends of Europe, Soliva, and the Centre for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), with a 2020 partnership with Chatham House. Principle funders are the EU (DG NEAR), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the British Council and CMI.

In the coming years, the Foundation will strive to ensure the continuation of YMV’s objectives with three main project components:

- **Action and dialogue:** A model of dialogue, exchange and cooperation created between young people in the North and South Mediterranean and led by a sustained network of alumni and debate clubs.
- **Capacity building:** Young people’s capacity is enhanced and their voice is strengthened to be agents for dialogue and purposefully influence decision-makers in their communities and across the Euro-Med region.
- **Influencing policy:** Young people will embed research and evidence into intercultural dialogue mechanisms to influence public policies that aim to achieve positive social change, including social cohesion.

In light of the impact of COVID-19, young people will enhance the use of digital technology and virtual exchange within each of the programme components. The focus of their coordinated action will be to contribute to the enhancement of the Green Agenda, both as part of the sustainable development goals to 2030, and as one of the main areas of mutual interest for young people around the region.

**Euro-Med Exchange:** Within the framework of the “Dawrak-Citizens for Dialogue” programme, the component “Euro-Med Exchange for civil society” was launched in 2012 and expanded in 2015. With the aim of supporting civil society organisations in the exchange of technical and intercultural skills and knowledge, and assist intercultural cooperation at the regional level, the Foundation will relaunch the Euro-Med Exchange to offer residency opportunities to young people and civil society members for full cultural and professional experiences within another Euro-Med region country. For the pedagogical purpose of the mobility scheme

and with the highest level of respect for the environmental impact, medium-length residencies will have priority over short travels.

### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V

Indicative activities for specific objective (outcome) 1:

- Assessment of existing legislative frameworks, preparation of gaps analysis and recommendations to harmonise with European and international standards;
- Provision of legislative expert advice through the Quick Response Mechanism;
- Regional events to raise awareness about European and international standards and regional exchanges on best practices;
- Capacity building to ensure understanding of relevant standards and their effective application by relevant legal professionals, other professionals, law enforcement officials and civil society;
- Study visits to European bodies such as the European Court of Human Rights or national bodies;
- Specialised training for legal professionals, including the tools developed by the Council of Europe Human Rights Training for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme and training on relevant methodologies (e.g. tools developed by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ));
- Participation in relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental structures and networks.

Indicative activities for specific objective (outcome) 2:

- Regional and country-specific complementary awareness raising events on European and international standards and tools available to tackle global challenges;
- Regional workshops to exchange experiences on the application of relevant standards, tools and mechanisms to address global challenges;
- Capacity building for relevant professionals, law enforcement officials and civil society;
- Support to the development of mechanisms and tools to address global challenges at country-specific and regional level;

Indicative activities for specific objective (outcome) 3:

- Regional awareness raising events in the framework of existing networks, such as the NCPA;
- Setting-up of regional focus groups on potential responses to common challenges, led by European experts and experts from the region having made significant steps in advancing towards the protection of certain rights (e.g. Tunisia in the area of data protection, trafficking in human beings);
- Preparation of assessment and expert papers concerning potential new networks.

### Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States

El Hiwar III will serve as the EU-LAS Joint Work Programme on information and training, complementing the necessary EU-LAS activities outside El Hiwar (e.g. PSC and ministerial meetings, other political exchanges with EU-LAS counterparts, EU-LAS Strategic Dialogue).

Activities would take place in Brussels, Cairo and Malta and shall be organised around the following lines:

- Thematic workshops/dialogue sessions where the LAS, the EU and Civil Society would debate and exchange on regional priorities and challenges to find synergies and common solutions;
- Working sessions between the EU and LAS officials to exchange around their respective policies;
- Production of policy briefs on themes of common interest (e.g. economic topics, climate action, gender equality, migration, post-COVID-19 recovery, security...);
- Study visits to EU institutions;
- Training programmes for EU and LAS officials;
- Participation of LAS officials in EU regional initiatives.

## **3.3. Mainstreaming**

## **Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity**

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

The SEA screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

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

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

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

### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

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

### **Human Rights**

Human rights is a significant objective in all components.

### **Disability**

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

### **Democracy**

Democracy is a significant objective in all components.

### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience is a significant objective in all components.

### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

Disaster Risk Reduction is not an objective of this action.

### **Other considerations if relevant**

#### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Addressing environment, climate change and gender equality is part of the work of the Union for the Mediterranean to achieve more integration in the Euro-Med region. The UfM Secretariat is committed to addressing common challenges faced by region with the involvement of civil society, notably in relation to youth and women empowerment but also, more specifically, in the field of social economy, environment, employment and labour.

In the UfM labelling process, the Commission will recall the importance to consider the working principles of the Rights-Based approach in the projects that will be proposed for UfM labelling.

#### Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI

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

The Foundation is a hybrid organisation, governed by the UfM Member States but relying, for its activities, on national networks of civil society organisations. Civil society empowerment and support is therefore a major dimension of the Foundation's action.

Given the importance of women empowerment policies in the region, the Foundation will also encourage and support projects addressing women rights. Gender equality will be streamlined throughout all the Foundation's programmes. The Foundation will also ensure that gender equality is reflected among the activities' participants.

A special focus on green transition will be embedded in the Foundation's action in the coming years, and it will be contributing to the climate change challenges and identification of shared solutions for awareness raising campaigns and joint action in favour of environmental sustainability.

### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V

The South Programme V will apply a Rights-Based approach, notably a human rights approach, at all levels and stages of its design and implementation. This approach incorporates human rights standards and processes into project management. At the same time, the human rights approach attempts to avoid any unintentional human rights harm, imbalance or negative impact.

The programme will be implemented in line with the four main principles of the human rights approach: participation and inclusion, including engagement with civil society; equality and non-discrimination; accountability; and transparency and access to information.

The South Programme V will take into consideration the specific needs of vulnerable groups by aiming to improve, through its actions, the rights and/or the quality of life of such groups.

Both the European Union and the Council of Europe are committed to protecting children from harm and ensuring that children's rights to protection is fully realised and this dimension will be taken into consideration by the South Programme's actions.

As a component of this human rights approach, the South Programme will emphasise gender mainstreaming throughout its project activities in line with GAP III and the EU *acquis* on gender equality, and the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023. The [Council of Europe Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for Co-operation Projects](#) will help boost the implementation of a gender dimension in the South Programme including by national partners and other stakeholders.

In particular, the action will aim at ensuring a gender sensitive approach in the implementation of the programme, including efforts towards:

- Providing and analysing gender disaggregated data and related information to enable project teams to see the need for gender mainstreaming activities, and adjusting the project accordingly by integrating better the gender perspective;
- Gender balanced composition of implementation teams;
- Gender balance in the selection of participants in project activities;
- Gender sensitive communication on projects.

The South Programme will promote the active participation of civil society in project activities in accordance with the [EU action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024](#) and the [Guidelines on Civil Society Organisations Participation in Council of Europe's Co-operation Activities](#). Action aiming at ensuring a civil society inclusive approach in the implementation will involve the participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in technical steering committee meetings as well as in project activities as necessary and their inclusion as main target group in some projects.

Another transversal dimension to be mentioned is the protection of the climate and the environment. Development cooperation for human rights, the Rule of Law and democracy makes an inherent contribution to the resolution of many political, legal and social issues that aggravate climate change. Hence, the South Programme will have an indirect positive impact on the environment through its support to countries in strengthening their good governance structures and this enabling them to better deal with their environmental challenges and goals.

#### Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States

The action proposes to reinforce dialogue with civil society in the EU-Arab relations. Civil society will be associated in the programme's activities, notably in thematic areas for which it plays an important role (e.g. human rights, social inclusion, women's rights, culture, and environment). The action will contribute to enhancing EU-Arab cooperation and policy dialogue in areas of common interest, such as environment and climate action. Through the information and training sessions LAS officials will be sensitised on Gender Equality and Women's Rights, in particular on the EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Relations 2020-2025 (GAP III). LAS officials will also increase their understanding of the concept of the Rights-Based approach through specific training modules.

### 3.4. Risks and Lessons Learned

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
Category 2 – Risks related to planning, processes and systems	<p><b>Component 1: Union for the Mediterranean</b></p> <p>The main risks and possible constraints derive from the fact that the global budget of the UfM Secretariat relies upon contributions from the European Union (50%) and the 42 UfM members. Any delay in the delivery of UfM governments' contributions or in the fulfilment of the corresponding commitments might lead to a disruption of the implementation of the approved work plan of the Secretariat.</p>	M	H	The UfM Secretariat, as well as the two co-Presidencies, lead constant actions towards UfM members and other potential donors in order to ensure regular funding, As a result, for instance, Sweden has signed a Memorandum of Understanding contributing EUR 6.5 million over the period 2017-2022. A similar agreement was concluded with Germany for an amount of EUR 5 million for 3 years (which will be provided in kind rather than directly to the UfM budget).
Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment	Disagreements amongst Member States can delay or prevent the adoption of sectorial policy documents or ministerial declarations.	H	M	Intense work with the Secretariat and amongst Member States to try to agree on compromise solutions.

<p>Category 2 – Risks related to planning, processes and systems</p> <p>Category 3 – Risks related to people and the organisation</p>	<p><b>Component 2: Anna Lindh Foundation</b></p> <p>The main risk weakening the ALF is the Member States not living up to their financial commitments. The present action is designed with the assumption that ALF Member States will contribute to the triennial budget of the EC action grant with an amount of EUR 3.75 million. Uncertain, decreased or cancelled Member States' contributions might put at risk the sound implementation of the action.</p> <p>A poor governance and weak internal management of the Foundation can also put at risk the sound implementation of the action.</p>	<p><b>H</b></p> <p><b>H</b></p>	<p><b>H</b></p> <p><b>H</b></p>	<p>EU institutions and ALF use every occasion to remind ALF Member States to respect their financial commitments. The Commission representative at the Board of Governors meetings will restate the importance of sufficient and sustainable funding. At the beginning of the year, the Secretariat will try to sign funding agreements with the Member States to secure funding and to make Member States' contributions more predictable. There will be renewed fundraising efforts by the Secretariat, notably by the liaison officer in Brussels, to seek and secure complementary sources of financing from the public and private sector.</p> <p>The Board of Governors and the Commission will continue monitoring the way the Foundation is governed and will take appropriate decisions for a better management. The working group established in 2020 to follow governance matters will remain operational. The Secretariat will continue taking a close look at its internal organisational structure and will launch processes to improve its governance.</p>
<p>Category 2 – Risks related to planning, processes and systems</p>	<p><b>Component 3: Council of Europe</b></p> <p>Sector focus of South Programme V covers priority topics for EU cooperation (democratic governance, human rights, rule of law, gender-based violence, data protection, etc.) which could also be covered by bilateral actions. Risk of duplication exists.</p>	<p><b>M</b></p>	<p><b>M</b></p>	<p>South Programme V will have a strong regional focus to avoid duplication with bilateral action. Actions to be undertaken in individual countries will be financed as much as possible through bilateral allocations. Strong mechanisms of coordination and information sharing between CoE, EU Delegations, EU cooperation agencies and DG NEAR should be put in place, The</p>

<p>Category 1 – Risks related to the external environment</p>	<p>Any activities in this field in the Southern Neighbourhood risk encountering the problems caused by the difficult geo-political environment, acute and chronic conflicts and lack of political engagement and regional integration.</p>	<p><b>M</b></p>	<p><b>M</b></p>	<p>programme should also ensure appropriate level of coordination with relevant organisations, including international civil society organisations, working in same or similar areas. The programme should propose the creation of coordination platforms as necessary, and preferably by theme.</p> <p>The programme will closely monitor political developments in the region and analyse potential impact on the work plans. It will organise regional events showing the benefit of the action in certain areas for countries of the region. The programme will adopt a flexible methodological approach to swiftly adapt the type of interventions to the level of involvement of different beneficiary countries.</p>
<p>Category 3 – Risks related to people and the organisation</p> <p>Category 3 – Risks related to people and the organisation</p>	<p><b>Component 4: League of Arab States</b></p> <p>Officials’ turn-over could weaken the work done in establishing a strong network and sustainable relations between the two institutions.</p> <p>Very centralised decision-making in the hands of the Cabinet of the LAS Secretary General can delay the implementation of activities.</p>	<p><b>H</b></p> <p><b>M</b></p>	<p><b>M</b></p> <p><b>M</b></p>	<p>Activities should target preferably recently recruited officials or officials expected to stay in their position in order to build sustainable networks.</p> <p>The programme will propose some modalities to speed up the decision-making by the LAS Secretariat, with a possible increased role (and power) of the LAS European Affairs Department. The programme should also propose an annual work programme for the approval of LAS Secretariat in order to avoid seeking for LAS approval for each individual activity.</p>

## Lessons Learned

### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The successful UfM ministerial meetings of the past years have consolidated the importance of the UfM as a crucial political platform and reconfirmed the importance of its centrality in order to promote regional

integration and cooperation to build peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration was the occasion to reaffirm the important work of the Union for the Mediterranean to find joint responses to the difficult situations we are confronted with in these days. The Covid-19 pandemic has also demonstrated the need for more solidarity and for more integration to build a Euro-Mediterranean response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Building on the experience of the past 25 years, the UfM Ministers have recognised at the 5<sup>th</sup> UfM Regional Forum in November 2020 the need to prioritise the areas of action where the UfM can play a crucial role and provide for a comparative advantage and agreed to focus the UfM's work in the coming years on strategic areas for more integration: climate action, inclusive economy, youth and women empowerment, digital transformation and civil protection. With these strategic objectives in mind, the UfM Ministers reaffirmed the importance to mobilise sufficient financial resources to enable the implementation of UfM labelled projects and reiterated their commitment to support the UfM Secretariat, including through more balanced and predictable contributions to its budget.

Since the creation of the UfM Secretariat, the role of the EU has proven to be instrumental for the organisation. As co-president of the UfM, the EU steers, together with the Jordanian co-presidency, the action of the organisation and sets the priority areas for a stronger cooperation and integration in the Euro-Mediterranean region. At sectoral level, the know-how and technical capacity of the different Commission line DGs are essential to define the relevant regional strategies and coordinate, with the support of the UfM Secretariat, the work of the technical UfM regional dialogue platforms. Financially, the yearly Commission's contribution, amounting to 50% of the global budget of the organisation, gives the financial means for the Secretariat to implement its work programmes and provides the much needed predictability of resources for an organisation that depends on voluntary financial contributions of its Member States.

#### Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI

In 2017, the mid-term evaluation of the Commission's support to the Anna Lindh Foundation confirmed that the work of the Foundation remains highly relevant to the overall political, social and cultural context of the Mediterranean region (and also to "non-Mediterranean" EU countries). The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated trends for extremism, radicalisation and xenophobia, which makes the promotion of diversity even more necessary these days.

Over the recent years, the Foundation has experienced activity dispersion with new initiatives such as the "Young Mediterranean Voices" project and the pilot initiative "Erasmus + Virtual Exchange" that have moved the Foundation from its core mandate, which is the support to the networks. This activity dispersion has also led to a dilution of its long-term strategy and impact, with the themes covered overly broad.

A refocus on its core mandate and a better definition of the priorities of the Foundation, around important and current common challenges, are therefore necessary. The Foundation should enhance its role as an actor of proximity. In this perspective, the current setting, functioning and role of the national networks should be reviewed. This would allow them to play a stronger role in the implementation of ALF's action.

At policy level, the Foundation still faces considerable challenge in balancing civil society needs and government policies, especially in relation to civil society space in some Member States. Another important challenge for the Foundation is to effectively contribute to policy changes and reforms but also to reach the most vulnerable youth.

The EU funding has become essential to the ALF's survival, especially in light of the financial crisis the Foundation is going through resulting from the lack of sufficient contributions from the Member States. The current critical funding crisis is directly impacting on all aspects of its work and seriously undermining its effectiveness.

The way the Foundation is governed and organised has also raised some concerns. The Foundation should significantly improve its organisational structure and communication with the networks as well as its internal communication between the management and the staff. In particular, transparency should be improved in the field of human resources and decentralisation of actions. A first independent assessment was commissioned

by the Foundation in 2019 to undertake a human resources review for a more efficient and transparent organisational structure. A working group with the participation of some Member States representatives was established in 2020 to discuss and agree on some pressing governance aspects (e.g. Executive Director and President mandates, ALF budget and priorities, liaison officer in Brussels).

### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V

The South Programme V will take into consideration lessons learnt from previous phases. Some of these lessons learned derive from the findings and recommendations of the programme's past evaluations.<sup>17</sup> The main lessons learnt that will apply to the design and implementation of the fifth phase are the following:

➤ Regional/country-specific complementarity

The South Programme has progressively moved, since 2012, from providing bilateral country-specific support to countries of the Southern Mediterranean region, to combining ad-hoc bilateral assistance with a progressively stronger regional dimension aimed to raise awareness, and promote joint action among countries of the region, on key areas identified as crucial for advancing human rights, rule of law and democracy.

Considering the little common denominator in the areas targeted by the South Programme throughout the region, regional action will notably be used to raise awareness about European and international standards and to allow relevant exchange of experience among countries. With a view to ensuring that reforms move forward effectively on a national level – with the subsequent benefit at the regional level –, bilateral actions complementing the regional objectives will also be fully included in the South Programme.

➤ Relevance of Council of Europe instruments

Independent evaluations have underlined the relevance of Council of Europe variety of tools for countries of the Southern Mediterranean region. With the aim to enlarge the common legal space, the ultimate goal of the South Programme is to facilitate beneficiary countries' accession to Conventions open to non-European non-Member States. Despite the concrete outcomes already achieved in this respect, a common legal space will be the result of a long-term process. In working towards this objective, other Council of Europe instruments will be used to facilitate the understanding, benefits and added value of European and international standards. These include the participation of representatives of the region in relevant intergovernmental committees and in existing networks.

As way of example, the HELP programme that provides human rights training for legal professionals has seen a very significant increase in the region thanks to the South Programme. The number of HELP users from the region increased by 91% between March 2019 and November 2020. Training modules in areas such as combating violence against women, trafficking in human beings or data protection, have been translated into Arabic and in some cases adapted to the specific national context. They serve as an important instrument to bring together legal professionals throughout the region and to ensure a consistent approach to human rights.

➤ Flexibility

One of the successful dimensions of the South Programme has been its methodological flexibility, both thematic and geographical, that has allowed to respond to the needs of partner countries and to adapt its intervention to the level of progress in country-specific and regional areas of reform.

➤ Quick Response Mechanism

One of the main objectives of the South Programme is to accompany legislative reform in areas of expertise of the Council of Europe, ranging from constitutional reform to the revision of by-laws in areas targeted by the programme. The Quick Response Mechanism will allow the Venice Commission, *i.e.* the main consultative European body on constitutional and electoral matters, as well as other relevant instances of the Council of Europe, to provide legislative advice and policy advice upon request within a very short period of time. This tool has proven its value in other regional programmes and will be included in the fifth phase of the South Programme and given appropriate visibility to generate requests from countries of the region.

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<sup>17</sup> Evaluation of the South Programme I (2014), evaluation of the South Programme II (2016), Results-Oriented Monitoring Report (ROM) of the South Programme III (2019).

➤ Continued reinforced coordination with EUDs

Continued coordination between the EU Delegations in the region and the Council of Europe will be ensured with a view to the definition of the programme and throughout its implementation. It will involve thorough consultations, regular dialogue and close cooperation regarding the implementation of activities.

➤ Decentralised implementation

For the sake of efficiency, the South Programme implementation will be decentralised to the region (hub in Tunisia).

Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States

The ROM review conducted in 2020 confirmed the relevance of the El Hiwar programme. It is the only existing dialogue platform on EU-Arab relations and it also interacts with civil society. The programme increased visibility, information and knowledge on EU-Arab relations in general and specifically on a wide range of themes (youth, civil society, women and conflict, intercultural dialogue, human rights, contemporary challenges – e.g. Covid-19, disinformation, etc.).

Over 30 departments or units of the LAS Secretariat have been involved in the implementation of El Hiwar. The programme permitted more interaction between the Commission services, the EEAS and the EU Delegation to Egypt with the LAS Secretariat. It also brought some interest on EU-Arab relations among other Commission services (e.g. ECHO). The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed that the opportunities of online activities are feasible and allow involvement of a wider group of interlocutors and participants.

The ROM review recommended the need for a more prominent understanding of the benefit that the programme brings apart from dialogue. Therefore, the third edition of the programme should try to go from debate to action. The expert made some other recommendations that should be considered for the continuation of the programme (e.g. more active role of the LAS Secretariat in the decision-making, continuing the dialogue with civil society, boosting involvement of ECLASLO, prioritise thematic areas El Hiwar can bring added value, broadening programme's beneficiaries; participation of LAS officials in EU regional programmes; more emphasis on economic topics; inclusion of LGTBQI rights in the dialogue on human rights,...).

### **3.5. The Intervention Logic**

The underlying intervention logic for this action is based on assumptions and measures to provide sustainability.

Component 1: Union for the Mediterranean

There must be sufficient political commitment by UfM Member States to reinforce the Euro-Med partnership and the regional integration between the two shores of the Mediterranean. The UfM Secretariat will revise and adapt its work plan for 2022 and subsequent years if UfM Member States' contributions do not reach the 50% of the budget foreseen.

Over the last decade, the UfM Secretariat has demonstrated its institutional management capacities to deliver its action in terms of project labelling, organisation of regional dialogues, implementation of ministerial mandates, preparation of ministerial meetings and senior officials meetings, etc. The purpose of the operating grant is to strengthen these capacities and to reaffirm its implicit ownership over the Barcelona Process.

Component 2: Anna Lindh Foundation

The Secretariat of the ALF will revise and adapt the work programme and the budget related to Phase V if Member States' contributions do not amount to EUR 3.75 as expected. The new Executive Director will boost the organisational reforms to improve the internal governance of the Foundation.

The changing regional context in which the Foundation operates led to the re-definition of priorities over time. This shows flexibility, but to ensure longer-term strategy and impact, the Foundation considers the need to keep a clear focus and uniqueness in relation to its mandate. Furthermore, taking into consideration that the Foundation's action was conceived to produce an impact at societal level and on people's attitudes and

behaviour in favour of openness to cultural diversity and interaction, its main indicators of success can be measured with long-term actions involving young people and addressing their needs.

The EU funding has been qualified as essential to the Foundation's survival, especially in the light of the financial crisis the Foundation went through in the past. To ensure structural and sustainable funding for its action, the Foundation will aim at securing a funding mechanism that integrates secured contributions from the beginning of the programming phase, and additional funding for specific projects and programmes by national governments and agencies, private donors, international organisations aligned to the Foundation's objectives, philanthropic donations, and non-profit income-generating activities.

### Component 3: Council of Europe

The countries in the region are willing to move forward the human rights agenda in accordance with their commitments to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are committed to make use of Council of Europe's instruments.

In view to increase ownership of the South Programme actions by local actors in the region, key for the sustainability of broader democratic reforms, the Programme may also implement granting schemes. Eligible entities may be, but not limited to, civil society organisations.

The South Programme's action will aim to ensure the sustainability of the reforms. This will be primarily achieved through participation of countries of the region in conventions, partial agreements, and other instruments of the Council of Europe, as they entail international commitments from the new member countries. The enlargement and establishment of networks will be institutionalised as far as possible, and this should also contribute to the sustainability of the achievements of the programme.

### Component 4: League of Arab States

Continued commitment of the LAS Secretariat and Member States to engage with the EU. Most of the Arab countries are enjoying political stability.

The second EU-LAS Summit will be organised in 2022. It will be the occasion for both institutions to reaffirm the importance of engaging together to address common political, economic and social and security challenges in the EU-Arab relations. The continuation of the El Hiwar programme shall have a positive impact on the consolidation of EU-Arab relations and serve as the EU-LAS Joint Work Programme.

### 3.6. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

[PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)]

#### COMPONENT 1: Support the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

Results	Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @1]	Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result @1]	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	To contribute to a close integration of the Euro-Med region for shared prosperity.	Indicators identified in the OECD Regional Integration in the Union for the Mediterranean: Progress Report 2021 in the field of trade, finance, infrastructure, movement of people, research and higher education. In the field of employment, ILO indicators on employment-population ratio (men/women), unemployment rate (men/women), unemployment rate youth (men/women).	0	<b>Trade:</b> Address remaining obstacles hindering trade development <b>Finance:</b> Develop financial markets across the region. <b>Infrastructure:</b> Increase investments in the development of high-quality transport and energy infrastructure. <b>Movement of people:</b> Promote a shared vision of mobility of people as a driver of economic and social development. <b>Research and higher education:</b> Implement	UfM regional integration progress report, OECD, World Bank, UNCTAD, ILO reports.	<i>Not applicable</i>

				complementary policies in research, higher education and innovation. <b>Employment and social affairs:</b> Address the issue of high unemployment rate, especially among youth and women and strengthen the sectoral dialogue.		
<b>Outcome</b>	The role of the UfM Secretariat is reinforced as a regional dialogue platform.	Cooperation frameworks, agreements, partnerships, programmes built and implemented in the Mediterranean region for better socio economic integration.			Official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat (e.g. interim and annual activity reports).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sufficient political commitment by UFM Member States to reinforce the Euro-Med partnership and the regional integration between the two shores of the Mediterranean;</li> <li>- Financial contributions are effective in complement to the EC operating grant.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 1</b>	The UfM Secretariat executes its mandate, in particular its work programme.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regularity of Senior Officials meetings (SOM);</li> <li>2. Occurrence of Ministerial Meetings in</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 0</li> <li>2. 0</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 12</li> <li>2. 3</li> </ol>	Official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat (e.g. SOM minutes, interim	

		priority areas of the UFM.			and annual narrative reports).	
<b>Output 2</b>	High quality regional projects and initiatives in the six priority areas (Transport and Urban Development, Energy, Environment including Climate Change and Water, Higher Education and Research, Social and Civil Affairs, Business Development and Employment) are given the UfM label and constitute an implementation of the political mandate provided by the Ministerial declarations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of projects Labelled</li> <li>2. Number of projects launched/implemented</li> <li>3. Number of regional dialogue platform events organised</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 0</li> <li>2. 0</li> <li>3. 0</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6</li> <li>2. 6</li> <li>3. 30</li> </ol>	Official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat (e.g. SOM minutes, interim and annual activity reports).	
<b>Output 3</b>	Relations and cooperation with international and bilateral financial institutions and the private sector are strengthened, notably	Number of partnership agreements signed by the UFMS and external partners, and fund raised.	0	3	Official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat (e.g. SOM minutes, interim and annual activity reports).	

	to increase financing for projects.					
<b>Output 4</b>	The internal functioning of the Secretariat is improved, in particular as evidenced by the supportive relations with Commission line DGs.	Number of meetings organised with Commission and EEAS services.	0	6	Official communication and reports from the UFM and its Secretariat (e.g. SOM minutes, interim and annual activity reports).	

**COMPONENT 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue (ALF) – Phase VI**

<b>Results</b>	<b>Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 <a href="#">@1</a>]</b>	<b>Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result <a href="#">@1</a>]</b>	<b>Baselines (values and year)</b>	<b>Targets (values and years)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact</b>	To build more tolerant and pluralistic societies in the Euro-Med region.	Number of new policy documents implemented in the countries of the Euro-Med region promoting tolerance (disaggregated by country)	0	4		<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	The citizen, in particular young people, in the Euro-Med region are sensitised on the importance of intercultural dialogue to coexist peacefully in multi-cultural societies.	Number of educational initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue implemented by the Foundation and targeting	0	15	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	The new Executive Director will boost the organisational reforms to improve the

		specifically young women and men.				internal governance of the Foundation.
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Civil society organisations, local authorities, young people, education institutions work together on common initiatives to fight stereotypes, xenophobia, extremism and racism.	Number of initiatives promoted by civil society together with local authorities to combat racism, xenophobia and extremism.	0	6	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Young people contribute to the development of sustainable, inclusive and greener societies across the Euro-Med region.	Number of young people involved in ALF activities whose awareness on climate action is enhanced.	0	150	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Outcome 4</b>	Policy-makers and media operators use scientific data and spaces for debate to promote cultural diversity and to combat cultural stereotypes.	Number of public debates with policy-makers and media operators to discuss cultural diversity.	0	15	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 1</b>	Pedagogical resources and exchange platforms are created.	Number of pedagogical resources and exchange platforms created.	0	5	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative	

					interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 2 related to outcome 1</b>	Partnerships with universities, research centres and university networks for the organisation of online and offline academic courses and workshops are strengthened.	Number of partnerships signed with universities, research centres and university networks for the organisation of online and offline educational activities on intercultural dialogue.	0	5	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 3 related to outcome 1</b>	Educators and multipliers are in capacity to organise education initiatives within and across their communities.	Number of education initiatives organised by educators within and across their communities.	0	40	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 2</b>	Funding mechanisms to the ALF network members are put in place for joint actions to fight stereotypes.	Number of projects to fight stereotypes implemented by ALF network members through call for proposals	0	40	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 2 related to outcome 2</b>	Regional campaigns involving ALF network in favour of dialogue are better coordinated.	Number of meetings organised with ALF Heads of Networks to discuss the design and launch of regional campaigns to promote dialogue across the Mediterranean.	0	6	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	

<b>Output 3 related to outcome 2</b>	Structured platforms in favour of dialogue among different stakeholders are put in place.	Number of structured platforms in favour of dialogue among different stakeholders created.	0	6	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.
<b>Output 4 related to outcome 2</b>	Cooperation and synergies are improved among ALF network members.	Number of initiatives to improve cooperation and synergies among ALF network members.	0	100	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.
<b>Output 5 related to outcome 2</b>	Activities of ALF network members are more visible.	Number of activities implemented by ALF network members that are reported in local media (TV, radio, newspapers, social media).	0	30	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 3</b>	Young people's capacity for inclusive citizenship in multicultural societies are enhanced.	Number of trainings organised to build knowledge and skills among youth on diversity and pluralism.	0	5	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.

<b>Output 2 related to outcome 3</b>	Sustained dialogue mechanisms aiming at influencing policy-makers are developed.	Number of dialogue mechanisms aiming at influencing policy-makers created.	0	10	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 3 related to outcome 3</b>	Young people and civil society members' mobility scheme across the Euro-Med region is developed.	Number of young people and civil society members benefitting from mobility scheme across the Euro-Med region created.	0	50	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 4 related to outcome 3</b>	Young people's capacity to make proposals for a green recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic are developed.	Number of educational initiatives to build the capacity and skills of young people to consider the green transition as an opportunity to boost the economic post-COVID-19 recovery.	0	3	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 4</b>	Intercultural trends in the Euro-Med region are duly monitored.	A new edition of the ALF Intercultural Trends Report is launched.	0	1	Fourth edition of the ALF Intercultural Trends Report.	

<b>Output 2 related to outcome 4</b>	Intercultural trends are translated into messages informing policy-makers and different stakeholders	Number of activities to present the findings of the new edition of the Intercultural Trends Report to policy-makers, students and teachers.	0	20	ALF newsletters, monthly reports, narrative interim and final reports.	
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**COMPONENT 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V**

<b>Results</b>	<b>Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @]</b>	<b>Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result @]</b>	<b>Baselines (values and years)</b>	<b>Targets (values and years)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact</b>	To better protect human rights, Rule of Law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean region in line with European and international standards.	Number of Southern Mediterranean countries that adopt and implement legislation in the field of human rights, democracy and Rule of Law according to European and other International standards.	0	5	Official journals of country beneficiaries.	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	Enlarged common legal space between Europe and Southern Mediterranean based on European and international standards.	Number of laws prepared with the Council of Europe's support adopted or in the process of being adopted.	0	5	Committee of Ministers decisions.  Official journals of beneficiaries.	The countries in the region are willing to move forward the human rights agenda in accordance

					<p>Assessment reports by Council of Europe Convention monitoring mechanisms.</p> <p>Reports of consultative Council of Europe bodies (CEPEJ, CCPE, etc.).</p> <p>List of participants to relevant conventional committees and intergovernmental bodies.</p>	<p>with their commitments to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are committed to making use of the Council of Europe's instruments.</p>
<b>Outcome 2</b>	Capacities to address global challenges through common tools and responses are enhanced and based on European and international standards.	Number of requests for assistance on human rights related issues.	0	10	PACE Partner for democracy status assessments and recommendations.	
<b>Outcome 3</b>	Enhanced co-operation and dialogue on human rights, Rule of Law and democracy within the southern Mediterranean region and between the region and Europe to ensure effective implementation of European and international standards and the relevant national bodies' capacity to interact.	Number of regional and intra-regional networks on human rights, Rule of Law and democracy created.	1	10	<p>Review of new law/regulation and analysis of key elements by the Venice Commission or other entities of the Council of Europe.</p> <p>Minutes of the Venice Commission's plenary session meetings.</p>	

					<p>Minutes of the related activities carried under the programme as a follow-up of legal opinion/expertise.</p> <p>Reports of the European Union, United Nations and other international relevant organisations.</p> <p>National reports by public bodies.</p> <p>Reports by NGOs.</p> <p>Activity reports of the networks supported by the programme.</p>	
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 1</b>	Countries of the region participate in Council of Europe conventions and Partial Agreements on an equal footing with member States, including in monitoring mechanisms as relevant.	Number of official processes initiated towards accession to relevant Council of Europe conventions and to Partial Agreements following official requests.	0	5	<p>Committee of Ministers decisions.</p> <p>Statements of representatives of the region in high level thematic events organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Enlarged Partial and</p>	
<b>Output 2 related to outcome 1</b>	Countries of the region revise legislation, including on constitutional matters, in core	Number of capacity building training provided to ensure understanding of relevant	0	10		

	areas relating to human rights, Rule of Law and democracy, in accordance with European and international standards.	standards and their effective application by relevant national stakeholders.			Enlarged Agreements (e.g. North-South Centre and Venice Commission).	
<b>Output 3 related to outcome 1</b>	Countries of the region are aware of and make use of the Quick Response Mechanism of the South Programme.	Number of legislative and policy expert advice provided through the Quick Response Mechanism.	0	15	Contributions/inputs of beneficiaries to relevant conventional committees and intergovernmental bodies.  Reports of awareness raising activities on Council of Europe Conventions supported by the Action.  Recommendations/analysis of new law/regulations by the Venice Commission or other entities of the Council of Europe.  Official journals of beneficiaries.	
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 2</b>	Awareness is raised on European and international standards regarding global challenges to human rights and Rule of Law to ensure a	Number of activities organised to enhance awareness on European and international standards in human rights, Rule of Law and democracy, disaggregated	0	20	Advices/opinions, regulations and publications of human rights institutions and good governance bodies.	

	consistent understanding and approach to these phenomena.	by topic/convention/working group.			Activity reports of line ministries, human rights institutions and good governance bodies, bodies of constitutional justice and the ordinary judiciary.	
<b>Output 2 related to outcome 2</b>	Awareness is raised, and further development is ensured, on existing mechanisms, tools and best practices to combat global challenges.	Number of mechanisms, strategies and tools developed to address global challenges at country-specific and regional level.	0	10	NGOs reports.	
<b>Output 3 related to outcome 2</b>	Capacities of relevant bodies and professionals to jointly address global challenges are increased.	Degree of use of knowledge gained by relevant bodies and professionals through participation in training activities, including HELP courses.	1121 users (Nov. 2020)	Increase by at least 40% the number of users in the region of the HELP platform.	Available data on the HELP online platform.  Reports from the judiciary and relevant training institutions of the beneficiaries on the use of HELP courses.  Assessment and activity reports, activity documentation produced under the programme.  Programme deliverables.	
<b>Output 1 related to outcome 3</b>	Existing networks of the Council of Europe are consolidated and expanded.	Number of existing networks, that actively engage and discuss issues of common interest, supported by the programme (by focus area and by countries involved).	0	6	Reports of awareness raising and peer to peer exchanges activities supported by the programme.	

<b>Output 2 related to outcome 3</b>	New networks are created to ensure sustained and structured co-operation and dialogue between beneficiaries in the Southern Mediterranean region, as well as to improve practices, notably with a view to addressing global challenges.	Number of new informal or institutionalised networks created.	0	5	Deliverables of the networks produced under the programme, i.e. comparative studies, thematic papers, declarations, guidelines, handbook etc.	
<b>Output 3 related to outcome 3</b>	Civil society networking is reinforced throughout the region in key areas of intervention.	Number of institutional exchanges initiated including civil society representatives of the Southern Mediterranean region (by focus and by countries involved).	0	20	Conclusions and minutes of the meetings.  NGO reports.	

**COMPONENT 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States**

<b>Results</b>	<b>Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @]</b>	<b>Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result @]</b>	<b>Baselines (values and years)</b>	<b>Targets (values and years)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact</b>	To deepen Arab-European ties for more stability, prosperity, and well-being of the two regions.	Number of activities developed under El Hiwar III to contribute to the dialogue between the EU and the LAS taking place in the context of the EU-LAS Summit.	0	2	LAS/EEAS reports on the EU-LAS Summit; El Hiwar III's narrative interim and final reports.	<i>Not applicable</i>

<b>Outcome</b>	To reinforce the dialogue and cooperation between the European Union and the League of Arab States through a dedicated information and training programme, as a follow-up of the project El Hiwar II.	Implementation of a third edition of the information and training programme “El Hiwar”.	0	1	Service contract signed with the College of Europe.	Continued commitment of League of Arab States Secretariat and Member States to engage with the EU.
<b>Output 1</b>	Interactions between EU officials and LAS officials are enhanced.	Number of initiatives organised by El Hiwar III, where EU and LAS officials can interact.	0	15	El Hiwar III’s narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 2</b>	Political dialogue is reinforced between the two institutions.	Number of policy dialogue organised by El Hiwar III.	0	6	El Hiwar III’s narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 3</b>	Knowledge on EU policies is increased among LAS officials, and vice-versa.	El-Hiwar Summer School on Euro-Arab Relations is organised by the College of Europe.	0	2	El Hiwar III’s narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 4</b>	Policy thinking and analysis on themes of common interest is developed.	Number of El Hiwar policy briefings on topics of common interest.	0	9	El Hiwar III’s narrative interim and final reports.	
<b>Output 5</b>	Stronger regional cooperation between the EU and the Arab countries is promoted.	Number of activities implemented by EU regional programmes with LAS staff participation.	0	6	El Hiwar III’s narrative interim and final reports.	

<b>Output 6</b>	Dialogue with civil society and promotion of human rights are reinforced in the EU-Arab relations.	Number of El Hiwar initiatives with civil society participation.	0	5	El Hiwar III's narrative interim and final reports.	
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## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **4.1. Financing Agreement**

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

### **4.2. Indicative Implementation Period**

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

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

### **4.3. Implementation Modalities**

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>18</sup>.

#### **4.3.1. Direct Management (Grants)**

##### Component 1: Support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean

###### **(a) Purpose of the grants**

The objective of the grants is to support the Secretariat of the UfM in executing its mandate, in particular its work programme for year 2022, year 2023 and year 2024, through a financial contribution to the functioning of the organisation.

The field of intervention, priorities and expected results are those mentioned in section 3.

###### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The beneficiary of the grants will be the Secretariat of the UfM.

###### **(c) Justification of direct grants**

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Secretariat of the UfM.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 195(f) of the EU General Budget Financial Regulation (FR), the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) is the sole forum for dialogue among 42 Euro-Med partners (EU Member States, ENP South countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Turkey and Mauritania) and complements bilateral relations between the EU and its southern neighbours. The UfM focuses on identifying and promoting projects which enhance and strengthen regional co-operation and impact directly on the livelihoods of the citizens in order to improve socio-economic development, regional

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<sup>18</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

integration, sustainable development and the exchange of knowledge among and within the members of the UfM.

The UfM was launched in July 2008 at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean. It builds on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euro-Med), established at the Barcelona Conference in 1995.

The EU has invested substantially and increasingly in the success of the UFM – politically, financially and technically. The UfM Northern Co-Presidency was transferred permanently to the EU in March 2012. There is therefore a direct political interest for the EU in the efficient operating of the Secretariat of the UfM.

#### Component 2: Support to the Anna Lindh Foundation – Phase VI

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant**

The objective of the grant is to fund the sixth phase of the programmes of the Anna Lindh Foundation. The field of intervention, priorities and expected results are those mentioned in section 3.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The beneficiary of the grants will be the Anna Lindh Foundation.

##### **(c) Justification of a direct grant**

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible and in accordance with Article 195(f) of the EU General Budget Financial Regulation (FR), the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation. This is the case of the Anna Lindh Foundation which was created in 2004, following an initiative by President Prodi, and has the mandate of promoting inter-cultural dialogue in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Based in Alexandria, it is managed by a president and executive director with an international and domestic staff of about 50 people. To help fulfil its mandate it manages a network of almost 4,000 civil society organisations throughout the region. Since its beginning, the Foundation has launched and supported action across fields impacting on mutual perceptions among people of different cultures and beliefs, as well as developing a region-wide Network of over 3,500 civil society organisations based on the 42 national networks of the 42 countries members of the Union for the Mediterranean. The Anna Lindh Foundation has an added value stemming from its unique nature as intergovernmental organisation and as a network of networks. As such, the Foundation is a platform for both governments and civil society organisations. In this sense, their management structure makes possible to the Foundation to play a key role as an intermediate structure between governments and civil society. Some bridging activities between these two levels take place to ensure dialogue and reinforce the role of civil society as interlocutor to government institutions. The Foundation organises actions in the fields of peace and co-existence; culture and arts, education and youth; values, religion and spirituality; cities and migration; empowerment of women; role of media.

#### **4.3.2. Direct Management (Procurement)**

#### Component 4: Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation with the League of Arab States

The procurement will contribute to achieving the continuation of the El Hiwar programme with a third edition of the programme.

### 4.3.3. Indirect Management with an international organisation

#### Component 3: Support to the Council of Europe for the implementation of the South Programme V

The South Programme V may be implemented in indirect management with the Council of Europe.

The envisaged entity has been selected because of the Council of Europe's comprehensive expertise 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 European Union-Council of Europe Memorandum of Understanding (2007) and the Statement of Intent (2014) signed between the Council of Europe and the European Commission 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, III and IV in key areas to achieve sustainable results in the medium and long term.

#### 4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.5. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Third-party contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Component 1</b> – Direct grants to the Secretariat of the UfM (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	12 900 000	12 900 000
<b>Component 2</b> – Direct grant to the Anna Lindh Foundation (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	5 000 000	3 750 000
<b>Component 3</b> – Indirect management with the Council of Europe – cf. section 4.3.3	5 000 000	500 000
<b>Component 4</b> – Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	1 500 000	N.A.
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision	N.A.
<b>Communication and visibility</b> – cf. section 6	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24 400 000</b>	<b>17 150 000</b>

#### **4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities**

This action will be managed by Commission services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant, in close collaboration with other relevant institutional stakeholders, in particular with the EEAS for component 1, 2, and 4.

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

### **5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

#### **5.1. Monitoring and Reporting**

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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).

During the inception phase, the initial intervention logframe and its indicators may be completed or revised for improvement. It can also be revised during the implementation of the action to reflect adaptation to changing environments and circumstances.

Component 1: The main mechanism of monitoring the performance of the action of the UfM will be the “mid-year progress reports” and the “annual progress reports” produced bi-annually by the UfM Secretariat. These reports, accompanied by the correspondent audits, account for the actual progress made and the level of implementation against the relevant yearly UfM work-programmes, and related budgets, approved by the UfM Senior Officials. In addition, the Senior official Meetings (SOM) oversee the work of the Secretariat and take regularly stock of the level of implementation and progress of the activities.

Component 2: During Phase VI, the Foundation will further invest on the work initiated during Phase V for the development of an effective monitoring and evaluation system to better communicate on the impact of the Foundation. A web-based report system where information can be gathered, aggregated will be developed to collect data, that shall provide the basis of information to monitor and assess the performance of the work achieved. An overarching system will be developed also with the mobilisation of ad-hoc expertise. Detailed monitoring criteria and indicators and sources of verification will continue to be defined for each of the programmes of the Foundation. Monitoring field visits will be resumed as soon as the health situation will allow it; while being replaced by regular virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Component 3: Results-based monitoring and reporting will be fundamental programme management pillars under the South Programme V. The South Programme V internal monitoring mechanism will include in particular:

1. Data collection allowing to assess progress made in achieving the expected outcomes against indicators and targets.

2. Implementation will be constantly monitored by the Council of Europe through the Project Management Methodology (PMM) database. The PMM database is used for the management of all Council of Europe co-operation projects. The PMM database integrates information on projects, including logframes, budgets and lists of activities and is accessible to the staff in both Headquarters and External Offices.
3. A detailed risk register for the overall programme will be developed to record risks and assess their likelihood and potential impact over the course of the implementation.
4. Internal evaluation of the programme will be foreseen.

Component 4: The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of El Hiwar III will be a continuous process. To this aim, the College of Europe shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (every six months) 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. The matrix will include the baseline, target and current values of the indicators. 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.

In addition, in order to allow closer monitoring, the College of Europe shall submit specific activity reports after the completion of each activity. These reports will notably include the deliverables of the activity and an analysis of the contribution of the activity to the overall results of the project. In order to collect further information on progress in achieving the outcome and impact level results, the College of Europe shall carry out at least two consultation processes during the lifetime of the project. These consultations will allow to collect from key interlocutors and stakeholders data to assess to what extent the action is contributing to medium and long-term changes.

## **5.2. Evaluation**

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

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

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates envisaged 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 following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. 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.

### **5.3. Audit and Verifications**

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

## **6. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

Communication and visibility is a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to advertise the European Union's support for their work to the relevant audiences.

To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the [Communication and Visibility Requirements of 2018](#) (or any successor document), notably with regard to the use of the EU emblem and the elaboration of a dedicated communication and visibility plan, to be completed for every action at the start of implementation.

These obligations apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries or entrusted entities. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

Communication and visibility measures may be funded from the amounts allocated to the action. For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and concerned EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before work starts. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.

Communication on this action should also take into consideration the risks from misinformation and disinformation, and the ways of countering these in order to avoid undermining the Union's efforts and image in the countries of Regional South programme.