



# LIBYA

## Southern Neighbourhood



### Key milestones

#### FEBRUARY 2011

The EU suspends its cooperation with Libya as a reaction to the brutal crackdown by the Gadhafi regime against demonstrators. Needs based humanitarian assistance is however maintained.

#### 2014-2016

Reorientation of EU cooperation to address the most pressing needs of the Libyan population

#### NOVEMBER 2015

Launch of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa at the Valletta Summit on Migration

#### SINCE 2017

Use of yearly 'Special Measures' to implement EU's bilateral cooperation due to Libya's unstable political situation



### EU-Libya Relations

Following the 'Arab Spring' uprising in 2011, the EU rapidly responded to the needs of the Libyan population in close cooperation with the United Nations Support Mission for Libya (UNSMIL). Since then, EU policy towards Libya aims at assisting the country in its efforts towards a democratic, stable and prosperous state through the so-called **'Berlin Process'** under the auspices of the UN. This involves promoting a democratic transition, strong, transparent and accountable institutions and vibrant civil society. The EU is also actively working to provide protection, assistance and economic alternatives to migrants, refugees and internally displaced people in Libya.



### Trade & investment

- The EU is Libya's main trading partner. In 2021, **35.3%** of Libya's imports originated from the EU, while **67.41%** of Libya's exports were directed towards the EU. The EU-Libya two-way trade in goods amounted to €29.5 billion.
- In 2020, total trade in services between EU and Libya amounted to €600 million.
- In 2020, EU Foreign Direct Investments stocks in Libya amounted to €6.6 billion and Libya FDI stocks in the EU to €1.42 billion.



### EU-Libya Cooperation priorities



Governance



Economic development



Health



Support to civil society and youth



Environment and Climate change



Migration



### EU funding

- The **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI)** is the main instrument for EU's cooperation with external partners, including Libya, in 2021-2027. In 2021, the EU adopted two programmes aiming at supporting democratic governance, the rule of law, private sector development and sound economic policies (€20 million) and in 2022, two new programmes aiming at supporting health and environment and climate change (€32 million). In the previous 2014-2020 period, the EU provided support to Libya with up to €98 million through the European Neighbourhood Instrument.
- EU assists Libya in the area of migration to work towards ensuring the **protection of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in the country** with more than 60% of the portfolio being allocated to protection-related activities, while also reinforcing Libya in the area of border management to increase its ability to save lives at sea.
- Libya is the main beneficiary of the **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa – North Africa window (EUTF Africa)** with a current total of **€465 million**, out of which the majority goes to the protection and assistance of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people, alongside actions to support municipalities along the migratory routes and to strengthen the integrated border management.
- Libya also benefits from EU thematic programmes and instruments such as the **NDICI Rapid Response pillar**, the **NDICI Thematic programme for Human Rights and Democracy**, **NDICI Thematic programme for Civil Society Organisations**.



### Examples of results of EU-Libya cooperation on economic development

- Support to **50 SMEs** in competitiveness enhancement has led so far to 750 jobs created/matched.
- **SME units**, providing financial and non-financial services, were designed, established and trained in **6 commercial banks**.
- **Business incubators** were designed, established and trained in **12 universities**, and **fab-labs equipped in 6 universities**.