to the Commission Decision on the ENP Regional South Annual Action Programme 2013 — Part II

Action Fiche for Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth)

1.   **IDENTIFICATION**

Title/Number	Networks of Mediterranean Youth — NET-MED Youth CRIS number: ENPI/2013/024-856		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 8 800 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 8 000 000		
Aid method/ Method of implementation	Project approach Joint management with UNESCO		
DAC code	16010 Youth	Sector	Social/welfare services

2.   **RATIONALE AND CONTEXT**

2.1.   Summary of the action and its objectives

NET-MED Youth is a regional programme aimed at mainstreaming youth issues and priorities across national decision making in European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) South countries by building the capacities of youth[1] and youth organisations[2] and promoting their active engagement in revising relevant legislation, implementing national youth strategies where they exist, ensuring that youth issues are adequately covered by national and regional media and identifying workable models for improving young people's access to employment. The programme also aims to favour regional exchange of experience and the cross-fertilisation of tools and approaches, especially in the light of the recent geo-political developments in ENP South countries from 2011 onwards. It also envisages involving youth networks from EU countries in order to learn from the experience of these networks in impacting national policies.

2.2.   Context

NET-MED Youth is in line with the two Joint Communications 'A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean' and 'A new

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[1]   According to the 'EU Strategy for Youth — Investing and Empowering: a renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities', youth is understood as including teenagers and young adults from 13 to 30 years old. Nevertheless, depending on the contexts, this age range could vary: i.e. for national and regional activities implemented in the Southern Mediterranean countries, UNESCO applies the definition given in the African Youth Charter, where 'youth' means 'every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years'.

[2]   Youth organisations are included in the list of non-state actors in Article 24(2) of the Financing Instrument for Development Cooperation DCI 2007-2013 established under Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 December 2006.

response for a changing Neighbourhood', which updated the ENP, asserting Europe's solidarity with and support for the struggle for democracy, dignity and prosperity. The first Communication calls for '... partnerships not only with governments but also with civil society …' and '… increasing opportunities for youth exchanges …' It is also in line with the new EU Strategy for Youth, where '… in the period up to and including 2018, the overall objectives of European cooperation in the youth field should be to create more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and to promote the active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people.'

Many have described the 'Arab Spring' as a youth rebellion driven by grievances about unemployment and oppressive political regimes. Of the 367.4 million people living in the region, more than half are under 25 years of age. A youth bulge (a significant increase in comparison with other age groups) has resulted in the most rapid growth in the region's history.[3]

Young people in the region face the biggest youth unemployment challenges in both quantitative and qualitative terms and suffer from poverty and a lack of quality education. The 'Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012' states that in the Arab states one in five young people in the age bracket 15-24 have not completed primary education, and that more than 6 million young people in this region are illiterate . Young females, in rural areas in particular, are even more disadvantaged than males because of discriminatory structures and norms. In rural Morocco, 93 % of young women do not have the skills learnt at elementary school. In most Arab countries, young women are not included in the numbers of the unemployed because they are not actively seeking work. To complete the picture of youth unemployment and under-employment in the region, it is estimated that more than 20 million young people (mostly unskilled and/or low-skilled) work in informal, poor quality jobs at subsistence wages and without any prospects for improvement.[4]

The recent geo-political unrest in the region has compelled governments and the international community to give youth issues even greater attention. Efforts have been made to formulate national youth policies, strategies and action plans to offer young people more opportunities.[5] Youth groups and organisations are frustrated with the lack of national reform and improvement in their situation and feel that their contribution to the revolution(s) has been somehow hijacked by the new ruling political classes. Young people have clearly stated that current legislation often hampers their access to political participation.

Growing unemployment and the lack of credible policies and actions to address this problem has also emerged as a primary concern of young people in all countries. However, despite their dissatisfaction, young people lack the tools to voice their fears and concerns. They also lack the leadership needed to effect change mainly because they are not organised and not aware of each other's activities and potentials. This programme therefore aims to empower young people by harnessing their collective potential.

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[3] http://social.un.org/youthyear/docs/Regional%20Overview%20Youth%20in%20the%20Arab %20Region-Western%20Asia.pdf.

[4] http://www.etf.europa.eu/webatt.nsf/0/8FFEB91E20FD39D8C12579A4003746FB/$file /UfM%20Employability%20Review%20-%20DRAFT-%20080212.pdf.

[5] This is the case in Morocco, Lebanon and Egypt.

Mainstreaming youth issues and concerns also emerged as one of the major gaps in the desk research of youth projects implemented in the region during 2010-13, whether nationally or regionally. Mainstreaming youth entails significant capacity building within the framework of a well-defined action plan with clear milestones and a clear definition of the desired outcomes. Similarly, continuous lobbying and advocacy is needed across various influence spheres in order to ensure that youth concerns and priorities are taken seriously into consideration. Utilising mainstream media (TV, radio, print media) is one advocacy tool which will empower young people and make their voices heard. However, mainstream media are largely neglected in favour of web-based tools and social media, although they remain the primary tool for reaching out to public opinion at large, and young people should therefore have a marked presence in mainstream media that is at least equivalent to their marked presence in online media and social networks.

Proper advocacy calls for building networks and coalitions and for planning together how to effect change. Young people interviewed in various countries were aware of their need to work together in order to more effectively push for their interests, and as such, it was not surprising that the establishment of national networks was one of the most frequently cited priorities in various consultations with youth groups.[6] Networking appears to be particularly pertinent due to the diversity of issues and causes that young people are currently dealing with (active citizenship, civic rights, unemployment, health, education, gender mainstreaming, etc.). Capacity building was also cited as another key priority in order to consolidate and institutionalise the spontaneous emergence of youth organisations and youth leaders and in order to channel their motivation and energy into actionable strategies with clear objectives and milestones, especially since current interventions are mostly focused on individual capacity building and rarely address the system level.

At the national level, NET-MED Youth is in line with the Action Plans concluded with most of the Southern Mediterranean countries within the context of the ENP. It also complements the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs), particularly in relation to youth and the inclusion of civil society in the light of the EU's renewed emphasis on building deep democracies and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The proposed programme will also build on the achievements of the previous Euro-Med Youth programming cycles, most particularly the current Euro-Med Youth IV, and will capitalise to the greatest extent possible on the experiences and networks of the youth organisations that took part in Euro-Med Youth, along with the 'multipliers' and leaders that were identified and trained during the process.

2.3. Lessons learnt

A comprehensive independent external evaluation of Euro-Med Youth IV together with the different results-oriented monitoring (ROM) reports point to a converging set of lessons learned:

- Avoid the fragmentation of inputs and efforts.

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[6] Needs Assessment Report, Identification of a Regional Programme for Youth and Evaluation of ongoing Programme Euromed Youth IV, March 2013, Contract ENPI/2012/298-514.

- Go beyond the 'comfort zone' of the programme and reach out to rural and marginalised youth organisations.

- Avoid working with the same circle of organisations and give the broadest possible range of youth organisations and groups the opportunity to benefit from support under the programme.

- Focus on the long-term sustainability of the action.

- Use a light and proactive implementation structure.

2.4. Complementary actions

Networking projects targeting civil society organisations do exist, and might as such include youth organisations. Such a pattern was found within the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Network, Euro-Med Migration III, the Civil Society Facility and the new regional programme for women 'Spring Forward for Women'. It is also worth mentioning the work carried out in the framework of the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership[7] and the European Youth Forum.[8]

There are also a few existing national networks around certain themes, such as the Réseau Marocain de la Jeunesse et de Concertation (REMAJEC) in Morocco, the Bus Citoyen initiative in Tunisia, the Young Arab Analyst Network (ALN) in Algeria, the Egyptian Youth Coordination Network in Egypt, the UNDP/ILO-supported Sharek Youth Forum in Palestine, and regional networks such as SIRAJ,[9] which is a regional leadership network supported by USAID, Nawaat, an Arab Youth Climate movement linked to the UN, and the National Arab Liberals Youth Network (NAL) in a few Arab countries. The networks that exist include only a small number of organisations. The project will build on existing networks and empower them through a broader platform that will include all national projects: significant synergies can be offered by SALTO[10] (Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities), Youth in Action[11], Anna Lindh Foundation networks and previous EU regional programmes, together with existing multipliers from the Euro-Med Youth IV regional programme.

In addition, NET-MED Youth will complement a global initiative under the thematic programme *Investing in People* currently under preparation whose aim is to contribute to inclusive growth by helping partner countries to better respond to the aspirations of young people and strengthen their involvement in national development processes, through a better understanding of the determinants of youth inclusion and greater capacity to design effective evidence-based national policies promoting youth inclusion. This global programme should cover up to three countries in the ENP South region, and although the overall objective is similar to the NET-MED Youth programme it will focus on **building the capacity of**

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[7]   http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int.
[8]   http://www.youthforum.org.
[9]   SIRAJ is a regional leadership network developed by Save the Children that brings together 500 youth and youth development workers:
      http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.6153137/#siraj.
[10]   https://www.salto-youth.net/.
[11]   http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth.

governments and relevant stakeholders responsible for youth issues and could thus complement NET-MED Youth.

2.5.   Donor coordination

In line with the European Consensus on Development, the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, this action will contribute to more effective donor coordination, at both global and country level, and interaction with partner countries. Consultation with EU Member States, international organisations and other relevant donors present in ENP South countries already took place during the identification stage.

It is intended to establish close cooperation with other donors within the framework of the programme, in order to avoid overlapping activities but mainly to join forces to enhance the role of youth in the democratic transition towards active citizenship, political participation and social inclusion. At the regional level, the programme will take into account and coordinate with on-going and future EU programmes, including Euromed Civil Society, the Civil Society Facility, the Anna Lindh Foundation, Euro-Med Youth IV, Erasmus Mundus, Tempus, and Youth in Action (*to be merged into Erasmus+ programme as from 2014)*. It will also coordinate with regional programmes of international organisations, NGOs, universities and other relevant stakeholders dealing with youth issues.

3.   DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1.   Objectives

The overall objective of NET-MED Youth is to improve the access and effective participation of young people in mainstreaming their priorities in legislation and national planning in ENP South countries.

The specific objective of the programme is to build the capacities of youth organisations in ENP South countries and enhance networking among them in order to reduce the fragmentation of efforts and harness the collective potential of young people in achieving democratic transition towards active citizenship, political participation and social inclusion.

3.2.   Expected results and main activities

The NET-MED Youth regional programme aims to achieve the following results:

➢ Inclusive, transparent, gender-friendly and proactive youth organisations are supported in each of the ENP South countries and at regional level for the systematic and structured mobilisation of youth around common themes and challenges.

➢ Capacities are built in order to empower young men and women in revising their national legislation and advocating the development of national youth strategies, and to lobby for the sound implementation of these strategies when they exist.

➢ Fair and objective coverage of gender-sensitive youth news and achievements is ensured in mainstream media (TV, radio, print media) together with the positioning of youth vis-à-vis national policies and programmes across various

sectors (education, employment, access to rights, the environment, the fight against corruption, political inclusiveness, etc.).

➤ A watchdog role is played with a view to improving the design, implementation and evaluation mechanisms (effectiveness, efficiency and equity) of projects and programmes that are supposedly addressing youth needs, and more specifically those geared towards employment and promotion of youth entrepreneurship.

In order to achieve these expected results, the following indicative list of activities and sub-activities could be envisaged. In any event, detailed action plans based on the context and needs of each Southern Mediterranean country will be prepared and adopted in close and regular consultation with the EU Delegations and other relevant national stakeholders. Furthermore, capacity-building activities will be tailored to reflect the needs at each national level.

Activity 1: Preparing a comprehensive regional directory on youth organisations in ENP South countries

A comprehensive national mapping study will be carried out of all youth organisations working across the ENP South countries targeted by the programme. This should in particular include organisations focusing on activities with young women. The programme will use the results of already existing or on-going mapping exercises such as the initiatives of the World Bank, Council of Europe, Europe Youth Partnership, the European Youth Forum and others.

These national maps will provide the basis for selecting the members of the national networks.

Activity 2: Building the capacities of existing groups of independent youth organisations in each ENP South country targeted by the programme and making them more inclusive to new and grass-root youth organisations.

As mentioned in section 4.3, the implementing Agency will be UNESCO. Participants will be selected by the implementing agency, taking into account the views and opinions of the EU Delegations, Member States and other relevant stakeholders working with youth organisations, especially those working at local community level. A mix of 'old' traditional youth organisations and 'new' ones and of large and grass-roots entities will be sought. Members of other networks established under EU-funded programmes will also be taken into account to maximise possible synergies among various programmes. Attention should be given to the ALF's activities under the 'Young Arab Voices' and 'Citizens for Dialogue' programmes, as well as under its activities dealing with youth and the media.

Working groups should also showcase the diversity and dynamism of youth organisations across all sectors of interest (active citizenship, political participation, human rights, the environment, the arts, culture, education, gender mainstreaming, reproductive and behavioural health, ICTs, handicapped people, organisations in rural areas, etc.) and try to ensure equivalent representation of both genders.

Capacity building activities will address each of the main topics identified as priorities for young people in the region. In this sense, three working groups are envisaged:

- a working group on mainstreaming youth issues in national policies,

- a working group on youth and employment,

- a working group on youth and the media.

Draft terms of reference for the working groups on the media, employment and mainstreaming youth issues in national policies will be prepared by the implementing agency together with the programme participants, in addition to formulating an annual action plan for the working groups. Links and working relations with already existing institutional platforms such as national youth councils will also be clearly defined and developed.

Activity 3: Identifying loopholes discriminating against youth in national policies and implementing a national and a regional agenda for action

Based on national stock-taking reports and existing country profiles analysing policies discriminating against youth, including gender-based discriminations, a set of concrete action areas and entry points will be identified and proposed. An agenda for action will be prepared as a follow-up to the national workshop and should lead to the submission of proposals for a number of substantive amendments to national legislation to make it more youth-friendly.

Regional follow-up meetings between the members of the Policy Mainstreaming Working Group (PMWG) will be held on a regular basis to discuss progress and lessons learned, along with recommended best practices to achieve policy influence.

Sub-regional exchange visits will be also organised on the peer assist model (e.g. between Morocco and Egypt, which are both in the process of drafting new national youth strategies, or between Libya and Lebanon on youth in post-war transition).

Regional training of trainers in strategic planning and advocacy will be organised for the core members of the PMWG. It will feature case studies and success stories from EU countries in dealing with similar situations. The training of trainers will be replicated at national level for all members of the PMWG in order to prepare them for developing the agenda for action. Limited South-South and North-South physical exchanges in addition to more extensive virtual exchanges could also take place between participants. In the case of virtual exchanges, this activity would run as a pilot following already existing schemes in the region where universities are being used as hubs facilitating such types of exchange.

Constant feedback loops will be maintained between this working group and the youth and employment and youth and the media working groups.

Activity 4: Developing a benchmarking and recognition system for national and regional programmes targeting youth employment to incite them to become more transparent and more accountable to young people[12]

Regional training of trainers in lobbying and benchmarking will be organised for the core members of the Youth and Employment Working Group (YEWG). It will

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[12]   Surveys and work conducted by the ILO and the ETF in several Southern Mediterranean countries, such as Egypt, Syria and Jordan, will be taken into account as baseline data and information.

feature case studies and success stories from EU countries with comparable contexts to ENP South countries. The training of trainers will be replicated at national level for all members of the YEWG in order to prepare them for developing an agenda for action.

In the light of a baseline study on projects targeting youth employment, the YEWG will periodically review the progress made by projects and programmes against a set of pre-defined criteria (equity, outreach, attainment of stated objectives, concrete achievements on the ground, impact on national policy, repeatability, etc.) and issue recommendations and/or warning signs if needed (watchdog role).

The agenda for action could be implemented on a reciprocal basis between country pairs with similar contexts by exposing a group of youth leaders, but also journalists and policy makers, to programmes and experiments tackling youth employment that are taking place in a specific country and across various contexts. Here again, South-South and North-South physical exchanges in addition to more extensive virtual exchanges could also take place between participants. In the case of virtual exchanges, this activity would run as a pilot following already existing schemes in the region where universities are being used as hubs facilitating such types of exchange.

Outcomes will be shared at regional level by examining youth employment in the ENP South in the light of the baseline studies, benchmarking reports and learning routes.

The YEWG will coordinate closely with the PMWG to influence/improve legislation relating to youth employment and with the Youth and Media Working Group (YMWG) to make sure that the right youth employment issues are addressed and featured.

Activity 5: Establishing a monitoring system for youth news coverage in mainstream media (TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, etc.) and an active outreach strategy to incite mainstream media to become more supportive of youth issues and to regularly showcase youth-related news that are otherwise confined to social media

Regional training of trainers in media monitoring strategies will be organised for the core members of the Youth and Media Working Group (YMWG) together with young journalists from different ENPI countries, during which a simple regional monitoring model for youth news coverage will be developed. The training of trainers will be replicated at national level for all members of the YMWG in order to prepare them for developing an agenda for action. As in the case of the other two working groups, South-South and North-South physical exchanges in addition to more extensive virtual exchanges could also take place between participants. In the case of virtual exchanges, this activity would run as a pilot following already existing schemes in the region where universities are being used as hubs facilitating such types of exchange.

The YMWG members will implement the said agenda in their respective countries to track the frequency and nature of coverage of youth news in mainstream media (which could very well take place in collaboration with the youth chapters of the

national journalists' associations). It will also develop and maintain a database of journalists and anchors who have proven to be youth-friendly.

Based on a survey of young people's perceptions of national and regional media, an outreach strategy will be developed in close coordination with the policy mainstreaming and youth employment working groups in order to influence/improve legislation and to feature youth concerns regarding the right to employment and make sure that the right youth employment issues are addressed and featured.

Activity 6: Strengthening South-South and North-South interaction and exchange between independent youth organisations

On top of the regional and sub-regional training and exchange events organised within the three thematic working groups, meetings of the programme participants will be held on a regular basis. During these meetings the overall status of the programme will be reviewed and achievements, bottlenecks and lessons learned will be shared. The said meetings could take place under the framework of ALF networks, in order to maximise the synergies with ALF with respect to the various activities targeting youth in the region.

Constant exchange will be ensured through the programme's website and other social media networks. A Euro-Med Youth Summit will serve as the programme's final closing event and should bring together national delegations of 'champions' who will have emerged by the end of the programme.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Assumptions

- ➤ The political and security situation in all countries will allow the smooth implementation of the programme.

- ➤ The partners involved (the UN and community-based organisations and civil society organisations working on youth issues) are committed to participate in all activities throughout the duration of the programme.

- ➤ National youth organisations are interested in networking together and joining forces in order to better advocate their causes.

- ➤ Larger youth organisations do not overwhelm smaller rural youth organisations and disempower them.

- ➤ Advocacy efforts lead to changes in laws and improved access to resources for young people.

- ➤ Youth organisations linked to political parties do not attempt to hijack the project.

Risks

- ➤ Political instability or a deteriorating security situation in one or more countries may disrupt the implementation of one or more components of the project.

➢ Changes to the law on freedom of association or other regulations may undermine effective participation of civil society organisations in the programme.

➢ Disagreements may arise among participating youth organisations.

➢ Specific political developments in Israel which are perceived as anti-Palestinian or anti-Arab may lead to the withdrawal of one or more partners during regional meetings.

➢ Partners may receive threats by fundamentalist organisations which could lead to their withdrawal.

➢ As there are already several EU-funded programmes working in this field an overlap of activities could incur.

Mitigating measures

➢ Euro-Med Youth IV regional programme multipliers and the UN can play an instrumental part in the success of this project and in providing guidance to ensure its smooth implementation and negotiate solutions to possible tensions.

➢ The involvement of the UN will be important to keep the project immune from political cleavages and possible 'hijacking' by predominantly political youth organisations.

➢ Governments are encouraged to view this project as an essential and much-needed milestone to break the cycle of youth marginalisation. The project is based on transparent communication and continuous consultation and involvement of partners and thereby fosters an atmosphere of cooperation and ownership.

➢ Other donors supporting youth networks will be invited to cooperate in this project. Efforts will be made to strengthen and extend coordination and collaboration among donors supporting youth projects.

➢ Verification missions will be regularly planned to avoid the overlapping of activities with other EU-funded programmes in the same field.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

NET-MED Youth will be implemented with due regard for democracy, human rights, gender equality and good governance.

Democracy. Democratic principles and democratic decision-making will be followed through thorough assessment of the needs and priorities of various youth groups and organisations across the ten ENP South countries, together with focus groups and individual interviews in seven out of the 10 target countries. Monitoring and evaluation should also ensure that democratic processes have been followed throughout the implementation of this programme.

Human rights. The implementation of this programme will ensure that human rights are duly taken into consideration in the design of activities.

Gender. NET-MED Youth will prioritise gender equality, equal opportunities and the participation of young women in all its activities. Young women will be encouraged to participate in the networks and act on the potentially different needs and aspirations of young men and women. Particular efforts will be made to include the needs of young females in rural areas, since they remain the most marginalised.

Likewise, increased exposure to EU policies and practices will enhance awareness of more open, participatory and accountable standards and, as such, **good governance**.

3.5. Stakeholders

The main stakeholders of NET-MED Youth will be independent youth organisations across ENP South countries. The programme will put particular emphasis on including and reaching out to rural and less resourceful youth organisations and groups, together with others currently active at national level. The novelty of the programme but at the same time one of its major challenges is to be as inclusive as possible, so that organisations working on all issues of relevance to youth (active citizenship, civic rights, humanitarian assistance, behavioural and reproductive health, education, socio-cultural activities, culture and the arts, handicapped people, rural youth, gender mainstreaming, etc.) can find their place within the programme.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not intended to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, as referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation or in Article 17 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period for this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2 and 4.3 will be carried out, is 36 months, subject to changes to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Joint management with an international organisation

The action will be implemented through joint management with UNESCO. This implementation method is justified because the organisation has extensive experience in working with youth at both national and regional levels. Its longstanding commitment to youth has been given fresh impetus with the recognition of youth as a priority group for its action and the Strategy for Action with and for Youth which it adopted in 1999. UNESCO's global comparative advantage is one that leverages the multidisciplinary functions and expertise of its different units, beyond specific projects. UNESCO aims to focus on promoting holistic youth development and participation in public, political and community life, through education, the natural, social and human sciences, culture and communication and information. Joint management with this international organisation in accordance with Article 53d of Financial Regulation 1605/2002 is possible because the organisation is bound by a

long-term framework agreement (the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement — FAFA — concluded between the European Union and the United Nations).

UNESCO will be responsible for the proper implementation of the planned activities, their follow-up and monitoring. It must ensure close co-ordination and liaison with EU Delegations and European Commission services with a view to ensuring synergies between the different actions in favour of young people in the Southern Mediterranean countries. In particular, the programme's activities, progress and results will be shared widely within the European Commission and outside. Follow-up meetings will be organised on regular basis to ensure UNESCO keeps the European Commission well informed and up to date on the state of play of the programme.

Any change in the method of implementation would constitute a substantial change except where the Commission 're-centralises' or reduces the level of budget implementation tasks previously entrusted to UNESCO.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement under direct centralised and decentralised management

Subject to the following, the geographical eligibility conditions in terms of the place of establishment for participating in procurement procedures and in terms of the origin of supplies and materials purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

In accordance with Article 27(1) of the ENPI, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of EU assistance and with regard to the regional nature of this action, the Commission has decided that natural and legal persons from Mauritania shall be eligible to participate in procurement procedures. The purchase and use of supplies and materials originating in that country shall be eligible.

4.5. Indicative budget

Results	Amount in EUR	Third party contribution
Joint management with UNESCO	**8 000 000**	800 000

4.6. Performance monitoring

Monitoring of the activities will be ensured through the usual results-oriented monitoring (ROM) method used for grants and projects. Objectively verifiable indicators exist (e.g. the number of consultations undertaken by governments with non-state actors, whether national legislation on associations meets international standards, etc.). Baselines also exist, with special regard to the issue of freedom of association, which has been examined and monitored for several years by regional programmes in the Southern Mediterranean region.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

A mid-term and final evaluation of programme implementation will be carried out.

Expenditure incurred will have to be certified, as part of the obligations of the contracted parties in the context of implementation of the programme. Mid-term and

final evaluations of the results achieved will be entrusted to independent consultants, and external audits will be carried out if necessary. These evaluations and audits will be funded from sources other than the programme budget, since no commitment will be possible once the validity of this Decision has expired (the N+1 rule will apply).

4.8.   Communication and visibility

The EU visibility guidelines will be followed in all projects. Visibility and communication activities in the partner countries will be carried out with the support of and in close and regular coordination with the EU Delegations, in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Action.

A specific and detailed visibility and communication plan will be developed for the action with the objective of raising awareness and informing different stakeholders about the activities carried out. This should include:

- the organisation of annual conferences with the participation of relevant stakeholders;

- the organisation of thematic events (workshops, public debates, etc.) in relation to the objectives pursued by the project, at local, national and regional level;

- the creation of a website for the dissemination of studies, presentations and research results;

- the production of information material to support the above activities (brochures, newsletters, information panels, videos, press releases, etc.).