



This action is funded by the European Union

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ANNEX IV

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2017 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document for Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPI) 2017

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following section concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2017 CRIS number: ENI/2017/040-341 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Middle East The action shall be carried out at the following location: Israel and Palestine ¹ and tentatively EU Member States and Jordan.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Building a partnership with people
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 6,125,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 5,000,000 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,125,000

¹ 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.

	Budget line: 22.04.01.03			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management: – grants – call for proposals – procurement of services			
7. DAC code(s)	15220 - Dispositifs civils de construction de la paix, et de prévention et de règlement des conflits			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<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"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	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"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme		
10. SDGs	Main Sustainable Development Goal (SDG): Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies			

SUMMARY

In alignment with the EU Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)², the overall objective of the programme is to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.

The programme will be implemented through a Call for Proposals which will finance civil society initiatives in Israel, Palestine, and tentatively EU Member States and Jordan aiming: 1) to promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict via participatory civil and political engagement; 2) to build mutual understanding, confidence and trust; 3) to contribute

² FAC Council Conclusions can be accessed at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/public-register/>

to peacebuilding through cross-border work in strategic areas; 4) to promote the creation and strengthening of cross border networks of civil society organisation active in peacebuilding

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic area

The resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a fundamental interest of the EU. The Middle East Peace Process has been stalled for long time now. The latest attempt to revive peace negotiations between Israeli and Palestinians was conducted between 2013 and 2014 by the US Secretary of State, without success. The situation on ground continues to deteriorate in Gaza, West Bank and Jerusalem, with a wave of violence which started in October 2015 and is still continuing on both sides with fluctuating intensity. As mentioned in Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 18 January 2016 'only the reestablishment of a political horizon and the resumption of dialogue can stop the violence' and 'the underlying causes of the conflict need to be addressed.' The EU seeks to contribute to addressing the underlying causes and to re-build the conditions for a dialogue between Israeli and Palestinians also through this specific programme.

Since 1998, following the recommendations of the Luxembourg European Council in 1997 the EU has been actively supporting civil society initiatives in the Middle East as an essential means of reinforcing dialogue and restoring mutual confidence. Initially such support was provided through the European Union's People to People (P2P) Programme (1998 - 2001) and subsequently from 2002 to the present, through its successor, the EU Partnership for Peace Programme (PfP). Based on the findings of an external consultation conducted in 2014 on the PfP Programme 2007-14, and in order to clarify and enhance the programme's relevance to the current regional political context, it has been decided to rename the programme as "EU Peacebuilding Initiative" (EUPI).

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The central objective of the EU in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) is a just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-state solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition. This includes a negotiated solution to all final status issues, including borders, Jerusalem, security, water and refugees. The EU has reiterated its readiness to contribute substantially to post-conflict arrangements for ensuring the sustainability of a peace agreement.

The positions of the EU on the MEPP are communicated on a regular basis through conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council. The FAC conclusions provide a solid basis for implementing EU policy on MEPP through direct support for actions on the ground by civil society and other actors. The EU's Special Representative to the MEPP, was appointed in April 2015 to support the work of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR). The Quartet on the

Middle East, comprising the EU, Russia, UN and USA, is a framework for the international community to provide policy co-ordination in the peace process.

At the regional level, the Arab Peace Initiative (API) remains the principal option for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and normalisation of relations between Israel and the Arab countries. However, though the Initiative has been welcomed anew by the international community including the EU and the United States, Israel has not yet formally responded to the API. The regional approach to the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict will have to take into account the fundamental changes across the Arab world. The EU recently reiterated that it will work, including through the action of its Special Representative, with all relevant stakeholders towards a renewed multilateral approach to the peace process³.

The EU has urged both sides to demonstrate, through policies and actions, a genuine commitment to a two-state solution in order to rebuild trust and create a path back to meaningful negotiations, and to avoid any action that could undermine peace efforts and the viability of a two-state solution. The EU is remaining engaged politically in the MEPP via policies which aim to maintain the viability of the two state solution and encourage the parties to return to negotiations. The EU has called for significant transformative steps to be taken by the parties to the conflict, consistent with the transition envisaged by prior agreements, in order to restore confidence and rebuild trust. It has urged both sides to implement such measures, particularly in Area C, where a fundamental change of policy would significantly increase economic opportunities, empower Palestinian institutions and enhance stability and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

In 2013, the European Commission published 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 onwards⁴, clarifying EU policy with regard to the territorial applicability of EU legislation and bilateral EU-Israel agreements. The Guidelines make a specific exception (section 15) for activities which are carried out by Israeli entities over the Green Line which aim at promoting the Middle East peace process in line with EU policy.

The EU and its Member States have reiterated their commitment to ensure continued, full and effective implementation of existing EU legislation and bilateral arrangements applicable to settlements products, whilst noting that this does not constitute a boycott of Israel which the EU strongly opposes. The European Commission, at the request of Member States, has issued an interpretative notice to clarify certain elements linked to the interpretation and implementation of existing EU legislation on the indication of origin of products from territories occupied by Israel since June 1967⁵.

³ FAC Council Conclusions, 18 January 2016.

⁴ Official Journal of the European Union C205/9 19 July 2013 at https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/20130719_guidelines_on_eligibility_of_israeli_entities_en.pdf

⁵ Interpretative Notice on indication of origin of goods from the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, 11.11.2015 C(2015) 7834 final.

The Council Conclusions of 20 June 2016⁶ reiterated the need of both parties to demonstrate, through policies and actions, a genuine commitment to a peaceful solution in order to rebuild mutual trust and create conditions for direct and meaningful negotiations aiming at ending the occupation. The Council also reaffirmed the European proposal, as endorsed in the Council Conclusions of December 2013⁷, of an unprecedented package of political, economic and security support to be offered to and developed with both parties in the context of a final status agreement.

On 23 September 2016⁸ the Quartet reiterated its call on the parties to implement the recommendations of the Quartet Report of 1 July 2016⁹, and create the conditions for the resumption of meaningful negotiations that will end the occupation that began in 1967 and resolve all final status issues. It expressed concern about recent actions on the ground that run counter to its recommendations. In particular it emphasized its strong opposition to ongoing settlement activity, including the retroactive “legalization” of existing units, and the continued high rate of demolitions of Palestinian structures, expressed concern for the dire humanitarian situation and illicit arms build-up in Gaza and called on all sites to de-escalate tensions and prevent incitement.

This was followed by the UN Resolution 2334 of December 2016, that reaffirm that Israel’s establishment of settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity, constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the vision of two States living side-by-side in peace and security, within internationally recognized borders.

The situation in Gaza remains critical, and the EU has urged all parties to take swift steps to produce a fundamental change to the political, security and economic situation in the Gaza Strip, including the end of all rocket fire, the end of the closure and a full opening of the crossing points, the lifting of import and export restrictions, while addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns.

The EU has urged all Palestinian factions to engage in good faith in the reconciliation process, based on non-violence, as an important element for reaching the two state solution. Strong, inclusive and democratic institutions, based on respect of the rule of law and human rights, and working together to address the needs of the Palestinian population, including through the return of the Palestinian Authority (PA) to Gaza, are crucial in view of the establishment of a viable and sovereign Palestinian State.

In addition, the added value and effectiveness of an increased participation of women should be highlighted. According to its Resolution 1325, adopted in 2000 the UN Security Council stated the necessity to include more women representatives in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. Since its adoption, women’s position and role in peace processes has positively evolved offering them more empowerment and involvement. However, despite the approval of Resolution 1325

⁶ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press-releases-pdf/2016/6/47244642934_en.pdf
⁷ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/140097.pdf
⁸ <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sg2232.doc.htm>
⁹ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/7022_en

by both Palestinian Authority and Israeli government, the inclusion of women in the political aspects of MEPP remains minimal.

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders of the programme are civil society organisations (CSO), including Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and not necessarily working on conflict-resolution, local authorities, leaders and opinion-formers in Palestine, Israel and in the region as well as their European partners and international organisations. Women and youth organisation are particularly targeted.

CSOs, through their capacity to reach down to the grass-roots level, can also be effective in ensuring that national or more macro-level initiatives reflect real needs and perspectives on the ground.

The final beneficiaries are the people of the Middle East and the Mediterranean Partner Countries.

An external evaluation and consultation of the EU Partnership for Peace programme (PfP) was conducted from December 2013 until January 2015. During the consultation phase, interviews, meetings and focus groups were held with a range of Israeli and Palestinian stakeholders, including journalists, politicians, youth, women and religious groups. European Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and EU staff in HQ and Delegations were also consulted.

In the past years support for the two state solution decreased among Palestinians and Israelis, with each side continuing to view the intentions of the other as posing an existential threat.

In such a context, engagement in MEPP and peacebuilding in general, is often understood differently by Israelis and Palestinians. As the political situation has deteriorated further on the ground over recent years, despite attempts to revive peace talks, anti-normalisation movements in Palestine (and Jordan) have been increasingly vocal in advocating for a freeze of all joint activities between Palestinians and Israelis

Despite the negative atmosphere surrounding it, the evaluation of the PfP programme found that "*results at project level were generally positive, often very much so. The **relevance** of the projects to the broader objectives of the programme was found to be high, even though this was not reflected in public perceptions of the programme. This remained true for projects with constituents generally seen as being unsympathetic to peacebuilding.*"

Similarly, despite certain disillusionment with the MEPP, the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations remains an important issue for both societies, and is reflected in the overwhelming attention paid to it in the media and political commentary. It is also noted that annual calls for proposals generally attracts over 110 applications from Israeli, Palestinian and European Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), thus indicating a consistently high level of interest in peacebuilding work despite the difficult circumstances.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The political environment has a direct impact on the work done by Israeli and Palestinian CSOs which are working towards an end to the conflict. During periods

of direct peace talks, activities gain momentum and during the outbreak of conflict, such as the recent rounds of violence in 2014 and 2015, activities tend to be negatively affected, albeit temporarily. The last years have also witnessed a more restrictive environment for CSOs operating in both Palestine and Israel. Whilst the conflict itself remains long term and intractable, it is also unpredictable at times, requiring flexibility and rapid response to events which can either deteriorate quickly into violence, or alternatively, require encouragement of positive steps.

Taking into account the complex social and political environment in which it operates, the EUPI will be tackling three mutually reinforcing priority areas that aim to enhance the attempts by EU and international actors to move Israelis and Palestinians towards an agreed settlement to the conflict:

1. **Engagement of a wide range of stakeholders** is necessary in order to broaden support and to build mutual confidence. Ensuring broadest levels of engagement in solving the conflict is not only important as a democratic principle, but also to encourage realistic and accepted solutions, while ensuring that all actions are coherent with and support the framework of overall EU policy on the MEPP. This means civil and political engagement of people at large and of communities who are not generally active or visible in conflict resolution but fundamental for conflict transformation. This is particularly necessary regarding grass-roots level initiatives engaging with women and youth (girls and boys). Investing in women's and girls' contributions to conflict resolution is an important move towards the prevention of further violence as well as the sustainability of the attained peace agreement.

2. **The values of equity, sustainable peace, non-violence and tolerance need to be supported on both sides** as well between parties in conflict in order to altering the discourse between Israeli and Palestinians. Understanding of these values, also through learning from successful settlement of conflicts in other countries, is a fundamental factor in reaching a sustainable resolution. In this regard, activities range from combatting incitement and misinformation to encouraging understanding of 'the Other'. Such activities can occur within educational institutional frameworks, in public spaces especially by diffusing positive Israeli-Palestinian partnerships and coexistence experiences through media and social networks, and through joint learning from European experiences.

3. Whilst **cross-border co-operation** between Israelis and Palestinians is subject to anti-normalisation pressure and misinformation, experience shows that this kind of actions can strongly contribute to build confidence between the sides. With the aim of maintaining the conditions for the viability of the two-state solution, joint actions will be promoted by demonstrating the practical potential dividends of peace. Acknowledging the asymmetry between Israeli and Palestinians, actions shall directly empower and benefit the communities affected by the conflict. By working together, violence can be counteracted and hope can be instilled, hence contributing to building peace. This includes strengthening the CSOs who want to increase joint work for a stronger advocacy impact vis-à-vis both the internal and the international arena.

A more inclusive framework with equal involvement and representation of women is recommended along the three priority areas. Women's involvement in conflict

prevention activities would contribute to a greater understanding of the common as well as different needs of the male and female populations.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Disruption of activities linked to instability of the political situation	M	Flexibility in implementation, for example using flexible procedures for crisis and emergency situations
Joint activities lack participation due to anti-normalisation pressures in Palestine, or social/political pressures in Israel.	M	Due to sensitivity, whenever confidentiality of beneficiaries has to be granted, the visibility of events/project/participants could be kept low.
Lack of permits for Israelis and Palestinians to enter each other's territories	L	Contacts with relevant authorities issuing permits
Assumptions		
Local civil society organisations continue to seek the support of the programme, as evidenced by consistently high number of applications to calls for proposals.		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The external evaluation and consultation undertaken in 2013-2015 made a number of specific recommendations. Firstly, given the low participation of Jordan in the programme, consideration should be given to the involvement of the EU Delegation in Amman in the management of the programme. Whilst Jordan should remain a priority third country under the programme, the focus must nevertheless remain on Israel and Palestine.

The evaluation further assessed that whilst projects funded under the EU Partnership for Peace programme were generally positive, most projects were not found to directly impact on peace negotiations. Given the disillusionment that Israelis and Palestinians have with the peace process, it was recommended that the programme reduce its direct linkage to MEPP. However, overall the EU policy on the MEPP remains a relevant factor in outlining a solution, acceptable to significant parts of both populations, and requires reinforcement to counteract influences which can pull

in other directions. EU positions are also sometimes subject to misinformation when reported in the local media. To that end, the political and operational work of the EU in both Delegations is aligned.

The external evaluation and other consultations conducted by the EU, have pointed consistently to a high level of satisfaction of the complementarity of the three areas covered by the programme: 1) promoting political resolution, 2) dialogue and mutual confidence and 3) cross-border co-operation. This was seen as important in outreach to a wide range of stakeholders, rather than being limited to only certain kinds of organisations or population groups.

Given the difficult political situation, peacebuilding projects often require significant support and attention from the EU Delegations. In addition to a high level of involvement by Task Managers, specific service contracts were introduced aimed at enhancing skills of project beneficiaries (e.g. trainings on monitoring and evaluation, outreach and public diplomacy), as well as supporting communication and visibility activities which often require additional efforts in view of the complex context. In addition, with regular contacts between Israelis and Palestinians dwindling, these joint activities provide valuable and safe networking opportunities, adding to the coherence of the programme. All these actions have been well received by project partners and have added value to the programme, and its objectives, as a whole.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

The Programme will take into account, seek complementarities with, and avoid duplication with bilateral and regional actions, in particular under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights¹⁰, the Civil Society Facility and the Civil Society and Local Authorities Thematic Programme, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)¹¹, and the East Jerusalem Programme¹² under the EU-PA bilateral co-operation.

In general, donor co-ordination as regards peace-building initiatives has been limited, reflecting diverse strategies, sensitivities and funding mechanisms for this type of activities. Notwithstanding, informal co-ordination efforts amongst donors has stepped up in recent years, with the aim to share information on ongoing actions and partners in a more regular basis. Until now, a number of meetings have taken place in Ramallah and in Tel Aviv with the participation of EU and other donors.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The EUPI will seek coherence with the EU Comprehensive Approach to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security by encouraging initiatives directly tackling women and the involvement of women in the actions. Engagement of women has remained a priority under the programme and is in line with the Joint Staff Working Document

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 March 2014 (OJ L 77, Vol. 57 15 March 2014), establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide. Available at: (<http://www.eidhr.eu/files/dmfile/EIDHR.2014-2020.pdf>).

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace (OJ L 77/1, 15.3.2014)

¹² Commission Implementing Decision of 20.7.2016 on the Annual Action Programme 2016 part 2 in favour of Palestine to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, C(2016) 4671

on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020¹³. The Gender Action Plans and a Right-Based Approach will guide the Call for Proposals.

Cross-cutting issues such as environmental sustainability and disability rights will be given due consideration in the context of the programme by respectively encouraging applicants to adopt a mainstreamed approach and raising their awareness on environmentally friendly and inclusive operations.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

In line with EU Council Conclusions on the MEPP, the **overall objective** of the programme is to support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.

The programme will set out four **specific objectives**:

1.1 To support practical and innovative actions that will have an impact in the political sphere with the aim to break the current political impasse and/or reverse current negative trends.

1.2 To support practical and innovative actions that can promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict through attitudinal change and inclusion of key constituents.

Expected results:

- Citizens support and advocacy for political efforts to the resolution of the conflict is reinforced.
- New and old constituencies have an improved sense of ownership over the political processes which can lead to an agreed settlement.
- Commitment to the values of peace, tolerance and non-violence and understanding of how they have contributed to resolution of conflicts is strengthened within diverse communities.
- Better understanding of barriers to conflict resolution caused by misinformation, incitement and biased narratives amongst Israelis and Palestinians is achieved.

2.1 To support co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians and to create sectors of influence on policy arrangements in key areas of mutual interest, such as trade and business (including tourism), higher education, scientific and technological advancement, health and climate change among others, with the aim of building mutual confidence and helping maintain the conditions for the viability of the two-state solution.

Expected results:

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/staff-working-document-gender-2016-2020-20150922_en.pdf. See Objective 17: Equal rights and ability for women to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels.

- Confidence between both sides and better understanding of the benefits of the two-state solution is increased.
- Reduction of fear and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians working together.
- New policy arrangements are put forward and introduced in strategic areas of mutual interest

2.2 To strengthen the voice, capacity, advocacy and policy shaping efforts of Israeli and Palestinian peace oriented CSOs through the creation or consolidation of wider networks, platforms or fora, at cross border level.

Expected results:

- stronger advocacy is carried out jointly by CSOs in the local and international arena in favour of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.
- Civil society actions are better co-ordinated and more effective.

4.2 Main activities

The activities under the programme include:

(1) measures to promote conditions for a negotiated resolution of the conflict via participatory civil engagement such as advocacy and awareness-raising of political processes and peace initiatives, including at grass-root level, research for ending the conflict, dissemination of peace-related information, capacity-building support to peace activists and mediators.

(2) initiatives to build mutual understanding, confidence and trust such as counteracting incitement and misinformation; non-violent culture and peace programmes; dissemination of information and promotion of knowledge on barriers to conflict resolution and peace.

(3) Cross-border work supporting co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians, and creation of sectors of influence on policy arrangements in key areas of mutual interest, such as trade and business (including tourism), higher education, scientific and technological advancement, health and climate change among others. .

4) Wider advocacy campaign and multi-sector actions implemented by platform and cross border networks of Peacebuilding CSOs.

4.3 Intervention logic

As a strategic programme, the EUPI aims to support actions which can lead to an improved atmosphere in which peace negotiations can operate and progress, or at the other end, to prevent escalation of violence. This means to address short terms needs such as immediate engagement of the Israeli/Palestinian societies for peace negotiations, as well as longer term needs to prepare local populations for a sustainable peace agreement and the practicalities of 'the day after'.

The four specific objectives of the programme contribute towards the overall objective by promoting peacebuilding amongst both societies in three different dimensions: political, attitudinal, and relationship-building.

Diverse and mutual reinforcing objectives allow the programme to reach to a wider range of stakeholders and beneficiaries, including women and women's

organisations, rather than being limited to only certain kinds of organisations or population groups, in line with the priorities of the Gender Action Plan.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

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

5.2 Indicative implementation period

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

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

5.3 Implementation modalities

5.3.1 Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

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

Each action grant has its own objectives and expected results deriving from the specific situation the action intends to address, within the scope of the objectives and results described in section 4.1.

As per the type of actions eligible for financing, they must be in line with the activities described in section 4.2. Actions will cover a range of civil society initiatives, and where relevant may involve governmental, international organisations and private sector stakeholders. Priority will be given to: actions expanding the peace camp outreach by reaching widespread and diverse audiences in a substantial manner through the use of media and social networks; actions involving marginalised groups and/or targeting sceptical groups that are not committed to conflict resolution or to the values and policies which the EUPI supports; actions fostering local leadership and grass-roots initiatives able of producing multilevel and long term relationship-building impact, actions that foster joint work and networks between several organisation active in peacebuilding on both sides of the divide.

Proposals should build on a clear local dimension, take into account past experiences and consider sub-granting mechanism for actions when relevant. The role of international organisations and partners within the partnerships should focus on the transfer of knowledge, mediation and/or innovation, helping the local organisations to strengthen relationships with their constituency.

All actions shall be assessed whether they may directly or indirectly lead to violence, even if they have been established for non-violent purposes. All actions must be

consistent with EU foreign policies, specifically with regard to a negotiated two-state solution.

All actions, regardless of the objective, must be implemented in Palestine and/or Israel, or in Jordan and/or Europe if directly involving Israeli and Palestinians. Specific activities, within the scope of the action and if duly justified, can be implemented in the region and/or abroad.

(b) Eligibility conditions

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

- be a legal person and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation, public sector operator, local authority, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 43 of the Rules of application of the EU Financial Regulation¹⁴ and
- be established¹⁵ in a Member State of the European Union or one of the ENI South countries¹⁶ or a country that is beneficiary of Pre-Accession Assistance¹⁷ or a Member State of the European Economic Area (EEA)¹⁸ (this obligation does not apply to international organisations) and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 300,000–750,000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (co-ordinator and co-beneficiaries). Where the lead applicant is not established in Israel or Palestine, then partnership with a local organisation co-operation is required.

¹⁴ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also recognised as international organisations.

¹⁵ To be determined on the basis of the organisation's statutes which should demonstrate that it has been established by an instrument governed by the national law of the country concerned. In this respect, any legal entity whose statutes have been established in another country cannot be considered an eligible local organisation, even if the statutes are registered locally or a “Memorandum of Understanding” has been concluded.

¹⁶ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia. The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013) shall apply to this call for proposals. This notice, entitled "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", can be consulted at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG.

¹⁷ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey.

¹⁸ Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 36- 50months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

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

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

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80% of the eligible costs of the action.

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

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

The call, combing funds from the EUPI Decision 2016 and 2017, was launched in February 2017 with a suspensive clause, in order to be able to respect the D+1 for the funds committed through the 2016 decision.

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Support measures (including communication and visibility)	Services	3	3 rd quarter of 2018

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in	Indicative third party contribution,

	EUR)	in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – EU Peacebuilding Initiative	4,500,000	1,125,000
5.3.2 – Procurement (direct management) – support measures	150,000	N.A.
5.10 – Procurement (direct management) – communication and visibility	350,000	N.A.
Totals	5,000,000	1,125,000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The programme will be co-managed by EU offices in Palestine (EUREP) and Israel (DELTA). The call for proposals will be administered by EUREP as the Contracting Authority.

EUREP and DELTA services will work jointly in managing the call for proposals as well for the organisation of joint events, if any. They will also attend events, meetings and monitoring visits together when relevant and keep each other regularly informed on the projects progress. Where, applications include actions implemented in Jordan or Jordanian applicants, the EU Delegation in Amman will be consulted.

As a general principle, the distribution between the different delegations in terms of contract/project management is made on the grounds of the nationality of the applicant: Palestinian and European applicants are processed by EUREP whereas Israeli ones are processed by DELTA. In case of a grants contract with a Jordanian beneficiary, the management of the action may be delegated to the EU Delegation to Jordan.

The management of the procurement contracts will be divided between EUREP and DELTA on the basis of the location of the activities and nationality of beneficiaries.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

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

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission

for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

An external evaluation of the programme is carried out at regular intervals. The latest one was conducted from December 2013 until January 2015 covering the period 2007/2013. Recommendations were duly taken on board in the design of the Programme and in the definition of the Call for Proposals.

The Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the beneficiaries.

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

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

5.9 Audit

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

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

5.10 Communication and visibility

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

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

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

EU staff will continue to communicate widely on the programme as a whole and on the various individual projects. With regard to the latter, EU press and communication services remain involved in the delivery of training on EU

communication and visibility requirements and assistance on any communication related activities. Finally, EU staff will ensure dissemination of projects' outputs among all E grant beneficiaries.

An estimated number of 2 procurement contracts for the above-mentioned communication and visibility purposes shall be concluded in the form of procurement of services under direct management with an indicative total budget of EUR 350,000.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (Reference year 2014-if data available)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	<i>To support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through civil society and citizens' positive engagement.</i>	Number of Palestinian and Israeli CSOs working to enhance public support and positive attitudes towards peace negotiation and conflict resolution.	In 2016, support for the two-state solution was around 60% in Israel and 50% in Palestine. No ongoing peace negotiations.	No further drop in support for two-state solution.	Public surveys. Political pro-peace campaigns. Media and social pro-peace campaigns. Published documents.	Perceptions of peace and two state solution is dependent on a political and social atmosphere.
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<i>1.1 To support practical and innovative actions that will have an impact in the political sphere with the aim to break the current political impasse and/or reverse current negative trends. 1.2 To support practical and innovative actions that can promote conditions for a negotiated settlement of the conflict through attitudinal change and inclusion of key</i>	Number of projects which support political efforts to the resolution of the conflict. Number of projects which work with new constituencies, such as religious communities.	TBD at inception phase TBD at inception phase	8 CSOs 2 CSOs	Annual project evaluation reports. Periodic beneficiary reports. Information, and data provided by beneficiaries. Published documents. Media reports. Public surveys.	Instability of the political situation as well as escalation of violence will not prevent activities from being carried out and reverse positive effects of projects. Anti-normalisation (affecting willingness to participate in joint activities) will be contained and mitigated by low visibility of selected events.

	<p><i>constituents.</i></p> <p><i>2.1 To support co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians and to create sectors of influence on policy arrangements in key areas of mutual interest, such as trade and business (including tourism), higher education, scientific and technological advancement, health and climate change among others, with the aim of building mutual confidence and helping maintain the conditions for the viability of the two-state solution.</i></p> <p><i>2.2 To strengthen the voice, capacity, advocacy and policy shaping efforts of Israeli and Palestinian peace oriented CSOs through the creation or consolidation of wider networks, platforms or fora, at cross border level.</i></p>	<p>Number of projects which support concrete co-operation between Israelis and Palestinians on practical issues.</p> <p>Creation or reinforcement of a peace platform to co-ordinate peace oriented civil society on both sides.</p>	<p>TBD at inception phase</p> <p>Two very weak CSO peace networks</p>	<p>5 CSOs</p> <p>One strengthened network of CSOs</p>		<p>Permits for Israelis and Palestinians to enter each other's territories are issued.</p>
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Outputs	<p><i>Expected outputs from projects:</i></p> <p>Effective lobbying and political advocacy activities implemented</p> <p>Research reports developed</p> <p>Material promoting peace available for public</p> <p>Media and social pro-peace campaigns organised and well attended</p> <p>Training, workshops and conferences organised and well attended</p> <p>Joint activities (cross-border activities) implemented</p>	<p>Number of events, campaigns, trainings, workshops and conferences.</p> <p>Number of participants in events, campaigns trainings, workshops and conferences.</p> <p>Number of reports and publications.</p> <p>Quantifiable media exposure and reach.</p> <p>Number of strategic cross-border partnerships.</p>	<p>TBD on information, and data provided by beneficiaries.</p>	<p>TBD on information, and data provided by beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Annual project evaluation reports.</p> <p>Periodic beneficiary reports.</p> <p>Media reports.</p> <p>Public surveys.</p>	<p>Continued co-operation of Israeli and Palestinian peace organisations</p> <p>Continued commitment of all partner organisations to co-operate under the regional programme in promoting the two-state solution</p> <p>Sustained final beneficiaries interest in the two-state solution</p>
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