



ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the ENI East Regional Action Programme
2018

Action Document for EU4Youth – Phase II

ANNUAL¹ PROGRAMME

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	EU4Youth – Phase II, CRIS number: 2018 /041-505 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Eastern Partnership region The action shall be carried out at the following location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Partner Countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine; • EU Member States; • Erasmus+ Programme countries: EU Member States, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey. 	
3. Programming document	Regional East Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme 2017-2020 for the Neighbourhood East	
4. SDGs	Main SDG Goals: 8 – Decent work and economic growth; 4 - Quality of education; 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions Secondary SDG Goal(s): 5 - Gender equality.	
5. Sector of intervention/	Youth	DEV. Assistance: NO ²

¹ Within the maximum contribution of the European Union, the authorising officer responsible may adjust the allocation to the respective budget years subject to the availability of the commitment appropriations.

² Official Development Assistance is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

thematic area				
6. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 10.400.000 Total amount of EU contribution: EUR 10.000.000 This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by potential grant beneficiaries for an amount of EUR 400.000.			
7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement - Grants (managed by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency – EACEA).			
8 a) DAC code(s)	16010 - Social/ welfare services; 16020 - Employment			
b) Main Delivery Channel	Non-governmental organisations and civil society - 20000 ³ European Union institution - 42000 ⁴			
9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)⁵	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
	Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	Not relevant			

³ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/annex2.htm>

⁴ <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/annex2.htm>

⁵When a marker is flagged as significant/principal objective, the action description should reflect an explicit intent to address the particular theme in the definition of objectives, results, activities and/or indicators (or of the performance / disbursement criteria, in the case of budget support).

SUMMARY

The second phase of the EU4Youth programme will strive to foster the **employability and the active participation of youth in society and economy**, by developing their skills and supporting them in becoming leaders and entrepreneurs. A **new grants scheme (component 1)** will build on the previous EU4Youth grants scheme, but placing a greater focus on **social entrepreneurship**. As a result of actions under this component, young people working in the field of social economy will be supported in developing their entrepreneurial ideas, notably those that focus on tackling challenges for **disadvantaged youth**⁶. Consequently, social entrepreneurship will be promoted, as well as social cohesion, employment and inclusion. **Component 2 - the Youth Engagement Roadmaps** - will (1) support Partner Countries in developing and implementing **more effective, evidence-based policy responses to challenges to youth**, notably in the field of employment, and (2) foster the involvement of **young people in policy-making**. As a result of actions under this component, the design of national youth policies will be improved and young people from the Eastern Partnership (EaP) region will be provided with opportunities to engage with the local stakeholders, public experts and EU representatives. Lastly, **component 3** will ensure the **continuation of the EU4Youth capacity building actions** targeting youth organisations, youth workers and young leaders. As a result of actions under this component, young people will be empowered with key competences and skills supporting their **active participation** in democratic life and the labour market.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

Young people in the region are facing a number of common challenges. Although not always reflected in high unemployment rates, since the beginning of the transition to a market economy, the **youth situation in labour market has worsened and youth transition to work**⁷ **has lengthened and become more uncertain**.

A particularly worrying challenge in the field of youth employment is the growing number of **young people who are not in education, employment or training** (NEETs). The situation of inactivity of young people adversely affects their skills and their employability. The lesser use of these skills and a difficult school-to-work transition, may pose limits to their employment possibilities. The rate is generally higher for young women than for men, as they are more likely to be inactive and out of school in order to tend to family responsibilities.

6 All those young people experiencing personal difficulties/obstacles, limiting/preventing them from taking part in transnational projects. The obstacles/difficulties may be: mental, physical, sensory or other disabilities; education difficulties (learning difficulties, early-school-leavers, etc.); economic obstacles (low standards of living, low income, etc.); cultural differences (immigrants/refugees/their descendants, national/ethnic minorities, etc.); chronic health problems; social obstacles (discrimination due to gender, age, etc.); limited social skills, anti-social or risky behaviours, precarious situations, (ex-)offenders, (ex-)drug or alcohol abusers, young and/or single parents, orphans; geographical obstacles (people from remote rural areas, small islands or peripheral regions). Reference: *Erasmus+ Programme Guide*.

7 ILO defines 'transition to work' as the passage of a young person (aged 15–29) from the end of schooling (or entry to first economic activity) to the first stable or satisfactory job. Stable employment is defined in terms of the employment (written or oral) contract and the duration of the contract (greater than 12 months) (ILO, 2015).

Overall, Eastern Partner Countries continue to face challenges in creating quality jobs with decent conditions and wages, especially for young people. Lack of domestic and foreign direct investment, restrictive or inefficient business environment, as well as political instability and uncertainty all contribute to the **weak job creation**. In this context, young people are more likely than adults to accept jobs that are low paid and offer limited labour market stability, social protection and opportunities for training and career progression.

Thus, despite improved educational attainment of the younger generations, **skills mismatch**⁸ and shortages have become a persistent problem in the region, also as a consequence of weak relations between schools and companies. Consequently, increasing youth unemployment has led governments to seek better involvement of employers by **encouraging local partnerships between educational institutions, employers and communities**.

All Eastern Partner Countries have established **Public Employment Services (PES)**, but their **outreach is very limited and registration rates across countries are low**. This is partly because young people do not trust public institutions and do not have sufficient information about PES, which, in addition, often lack resources to deliver a good service.

While considering **social economy** - including social entrepreneurship and social enterprise - of utmost importance, in all Eastern Partners Countries social entrepreneurs **do not receive sufficient support and lack the necessary legal regulation** to further develop, in spite the fact that the existing infrastructure for support for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) is easily adjustable for the specific needs of social entrepreneurs.

Finally, a comprehensive approach in supporting **disadvantaged youth** is still lacking in the EaP region, notably due to different definitions and understandings of which categories are to be considered as disadvantaged, and to the fact that only few organisations target exclusively disadvantaged groups⁹. Defining and supporting disadvantaged youth becomes even more complicated when new “ad hoc” categories emerge, for example when conflicts such as those in Georgia and Ukraine generate a high number of Internally Displaced Persons.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

Youth is a priority for the EU, which has developed a youth policy at EU level since 2001¹⁰. In May 2018 the Commission has proposed a **new EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027**¹¹, building on the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018¹². In particular, the new strategy will aim to foster youth participation in democratic life; bring young people together across the EU and beyond to

8 Skills mismatch means that there is a gap between the needs of the labour market and the professional qualifications of the work force, resulting in the lack of adequately skilled employees and/or a workforce misfit to the local or national market.

9 SALTO EECA study on “Inclusion in EaP countries and Russia”, April 2017. Reference: <https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-3639/StudyInclusionInEasternPartnershipCountriesAndRussia.pdf>

10 European Commission White Paper "A New Impetus for European Youth", COM(2001)681, 21.11.2001.

11 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, “Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy”, COM(2018) 269 final.

12 Council Resolution of 27 November 2009, Official Journal of the European Union, C311, 19.12.2009.

foster voluntary engagement, learning mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding; support youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

Under the current EU Youth Strategy, the **Youth Guarantee**¹³ and the **European Alliance for Apprenticeship**¹⁴ have been rolled-out to support young people's successful transition into work. Whilst these are not directly applicable to EU Neighbourhood countries, their objectives and approaches can be an inspiration for the Neighbourhood countries. Furthermore, the European Entrepreneurship Competence Framework (EntreComp) has been a positive step towards the development of entrepreneurship through formal and non-formal education and training within the EU.

In its 2015 **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Review**, the EU highlights youth as a priority area, and improving prospects for youth as a **key to stabilise societies**. This is why the **5th EaP Summit** of November 2017¹⁵ endorsed a new **Youth and Education Package** as one of the key EaP "**20 Deliverables for 2020**"¹⁶, which aims to create the conditions for youth to study, work, participate in society and fulfil their potential. The **3rd EaP Youth Forum in June 2017** in Warsaw also emphasised the need to focus on supporting and empowering the young generation through a **comprehensive youth policy framework**.

Promoting opportunities, notably through the creation of decent jobs is also a priority under the **External Investment Plan (EIP)** which provides an integrated framework for capital mobilisation, technical assistance and investment climate reforms to encourage investments in Africa and in the EU Neighbourhood countries. In its 3rd Pillar, particular attention is given to the promotion of policy reforms to improve governance and investment climate in partner countries based on structured dialogue with the private sector. Specific attention will be given to ensuring that the implementation of the EIP takes duly into account the internationally agreed guidelines and principles, including the Principles for Responsible Investment and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region

Youth employment is a **priority of national governments'** youth policies in most Eastern Partner Countries. All countries have specific youth laws - with the exception of Armenia, which has a National Youth Policy Concept - targeted strategies and programmes up to 2020/2025, and state structures responsible for youth affairs, although only in Moldova the youth sector is represented by a separate state agency. What seems to be lacking is an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to youth policy formulation and implementation that takes into consideration the complex nature of youth.

13 Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2013/C 120/01).

14 Launched in July 2013 with a joint declaration by the European Social Partners (ETUC, Business Europe, UEAPME and CEEP), the European Commission and the Presidency of the Council of the EU; see also Council Declaration, 18 Oct. 2013.

15 Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit (Brussels, 24 November 2017) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31758/final-statement-st14821en17.pdf>.

16 Joint Staff Working Document "Eastern Partnership – 20 Deliverables for 2020, Focusing on key priorities and tangible results" https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/swd_2017_300_f1_joint_staff_working_paper_en_v5_p1_940530.pdf.

1.4 Stakeholder analysis

Key stakeholders include *inter alia*:

- Public/private and civil society organisations targeting youth: youth workers, youth centres, youth advice centres, youth councils (national and sub-national), youth/youth-led organisations, charities, businesses (including social enterprises), business associations, training providers, employment services (including at sectoral level, e.g. ICT, tourism, retail, etc.), professional organisations;
- Schools and educational institutions, out-of-school educational establishments, Vocational Education and Training (VET) centres;
- Relevant national, regional and local authorities, including from rural areas;
- Social partners (trade unions and employers organisations).

Key target groups include *inter alia*:

- Young women and young men;
- Low achievers, early school leavers, NEETs;
- Disadvantaged youth;
- Young leaders and entrepreneurs, notably in the field of social economy;
- Youth organisations and youth workers;
- Relevant national, regional and local authorities, including from rural areas.

Available information shows that institutions dealing with youth issues – notably youth organisations, employment services, local authorities - often have insufficient capacity and knowledge to develop appropriate responses or to engage with other actors. Moreover, actions targeting youth are often very fragmented, while there is a need for a cross-sectorial approach to achieve results in such complex area.

1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

Building on the above information, the second phase of the EU4Youth programme aims to: ***Support young people leadership, entrepreneurship and active participation in society:***

- Empower youth through the development of **entrepreneurial skills and competences**;
- Support youth in becoming **actors in national, regional and local policy-making**;
- Promote **social entrepreneurship** among young people;
- Support **skills development**, notably in line with labour market needs, through non-formal training and practical experiences;
- Create a **generation of young leaders** capable of developing constructive relations with public and private bodies.

Strengthening youth employment opportunities:

- Encourage the development of a **cross-sectoral approach** in **dialogue and actions** targeting youth, as well as youth **mainstreaming** in all relevant policy areas;

- Ensure the **private sector involvement** in dialogue and actions on youth employment;
- Support the **improvement of national youth policies**.

Reach-out to disadvantaged youth¹⁷:

- Ensure the **inclusion of disadvantaged young people** (including from rural areas), notably of **young women** in all the proposed activities.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level	Mitigating measures
Recent events have shown that there is a potential for instability in the EaP region. An escalation of such trends in one or more partner countries can have an impact on the delivery of the programme.	Medium/High	Throughout the programme implementation, the political situation will be regularly monitored , in order to adapt efforts to changing circumstances.
The low level of commitment by EaP national and local institutions may lead to low participation from EaP institutions in the activities promoted by this action.	Low/Medium	Youth employment and employability are high on the agenda of EaP countries. The participation of public officials will be ensured, e.g. in mutual learning activities.
Difficulties in reaching out to disadvantaged young people , risking that the programme will not be able to involve them.	High	A focus on disadvantaged youth will be ensured, notably by fostering social entrepreneurship , enhancing relevant public institutions and promoting local/regional partnerships involving key stakeholders with experience in targeting disadvantaged young people, as well as the early engagement of representatives of the main beneficiaries of the programme.
Uneven participation across the region and within countries , due to variations in the capacity and commitment of authorities and civil society organisations.	Medium	Equal access and opportunities will be ensured and monitored by the EU4Youth coordination component (component 3 under EU4Youth – Phase I), as well as through the steering committee and other policy dialogue fora (e.g. Platform 4 and Panel on Education, Culture and Youth).
Shrinking space for civil society operation in some Partner	Medium/High	A tailor-made approach will be sought when involving civil society organisations

¹⁷ See footnote 2.

Countries.		from the various Partner Countries.
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is some degree of political stability in the region; ➤ Youth employment, employability, participation are key priorities for public authorities; ➤ Key stakeholders, notably private sector, can be mobilised if interested in partnerships; ➤ Youth organisations are interested in engaging in policy dialogue and/or in youth projects and initiatives; ➤ It is possible to reach out to disadvantaged youth, amongst other in rural/remote areas. 		

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

This programme follows the EU4Youth programme (2016-2020) and strives to **achieve the same overall objectives with new, complementary actions**. The second phase of the EU4Youth, also builds on the **EaP Youth Window (EPYW)** of the Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013), the evaluation of which showed that the programme addressed some of its objectives – e.g. supporting youth participation, active citizenship, intercultural learning, mobility, employability and empowerment; and legitimising youth work and youth policy as credible and important sectors of civil society - while remaining short of reaching-out to disadvantaged young people, of engaging all beneficiaries in regional cooperation, and of ensuring coordination. It is also worth mentioning the **2016 Small Business Act (SBA)** assessment in the EaP, which concluded that support for youth entrepreneurship through education and training, as well as non-formal mentoring, is essential to build a more entrepreneurial economy.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

Erasmus + Programme (2014-2020)

The **Erasmus+** Programme is the EU programme supporting education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of EUR 14.7 billion provides opportunities for more than 4 million Europeans to study, train and volunteer abroad. 10% of the budget is allocated to youth non-formal learning activities, including in Neighbourhood countries. Cooperation with Erasmus+ bodies - e.g. **EACEA** and the **SALTO Youth Eastern Europe**¹⁸ - will be important.

European Training Foundation

The **European Training Foundation (ETF)**'s expertise in facilitating VET and employment systems reform, and in supporting entrepreneurial human capital, is key for this action. In 2017 the ETF has carried out **mapping of policies supporting youth transition to work** in Eastern Partner Countries (country analyses and a regional synthesis), which can serve to identify areas for future action and support Partner Countries in developing more

¹⁸ SALTO EECA currently located within the Polish National Agency Foundation for Development of Education System (FDES) which also deals with the eTwinning National Support Service (NSS), within the eTwinning Plus Programme.

comprehensive youth policies/strategies. Furthermore, the ETF **Make-It-Match Network** is a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue among Eastern Partner Countries, with a focus on skills anticipation and matching issues. Finally, in 2016 the ETF undertook an analysis of policy and eco-system support for the development of entrepreneurship across the education system as part of the SBA assessment.

The Youth Guarantee

Under the Youth Guarantee, EU Member States committed to ensure that all young people under 25 receive a **good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship** within four months since having become unemployed or left formal education. Some of the actions of the second phase of the EU4Youth have been inspired by elements of the Youth Guarantee, such as the creation of strong partnerships for employment and the substantial policy support and mutual learning activities.

VET and/or employment projects

VET plays a key role in fostering economic development, productivity and competitiveness. Complementarity will be sought with VET and/or employment projects implemented as part of **EU bilateral programmes**, aiming to address challenges such as skills anticipation and matching, youth employment and employability, work-based learning, private sector involvement in VET, modernisation of VET systems and increase of VET attractiveness.

Project on Supporting Southern Neighbours on youth employment

The Policy Labs under component 2 of this action have been inspired by the project “**Supporting Southern Neighbours on youth employment**”: a regional workshop on employment policies for NEETs, based on participatory leadership and stimulating open conversations and engagement among local stakeholders, experts and EU representatives.

International organisations

Coordination with other international organisations - in particular the **United Nations** (UN) (i.e. the UN Youth Envoy), the **International Labour Organisation** (ILO), the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP), the **World Bank** (WB) and the **International Organisation for Migration** (IOM) – shall be sought. This will include inviting relevant representatives to events and sharing information with them to promote greater synergies.

EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership

Youth Engagement Roadmaps activities will take into account the information gathered by the **European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy** (EKCYP) and its correspondents. EKCYP provides an on-line database intended to enhance knowledge transfers between the fields of research, policy and practice in youth policy in Europe and beyond. It also contributes to Youth Wiki online encyclopaedia in the area of national youth policies of participating countries.

Linkages with political dialogue

The range of issues that affect youth calls for cross-sectoral approaches and coordination with all relevant sectors. The role of the EaP **Platform 4** is instrumental in enhancing coordination and coherence among actions and stakeholders in different areas. In particular, synergies will be sought with actions under **EU4Business**, **EU4Innovation** and **EU4Digital**, which can further support young people in making direct use of their entrepreneurial potential and skills. The biannual **EaP Youth Forum** is a great opportunity to deepen the dialogue on youth matters, at the presence of young people, youth workers and policy makers.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities

Overall objective: foster the **employability and the active participation of youth in society and economy**, by developing their skills and supporting them in becoming leaders and entrepreneurs.

Specific objectives:

- *Component 1 – grants scheme on social entrepreneurship:* foster young people's **entrepreneurial potential** in the field of **social economy**, notably with a view to contributing to social cohesion, employment, inclusion and **reduction of inequalities**;
- *Component 2 – Youth Engagement Roadmaps:*
 - On the basis of already existing policies and strategies, support Partner Countries in developing and implementing **comprehensive, more effective, evidence-based policy responses** to challenges to youth, notably in the fields of employability and employment (including self-employment).
 - foster the involvement of **young people in policy-making**.
- *Component 3 - Continuation of EU4Youth capacity building actions implemented as part of Erasmus+ and targeting youth organisations, youth workers and young leaders:* empower youth with key **competences and skills** supporting their **active participation** in society and in the labour market.

Expected results:

- *Component 1 – grants scheme on social entrepreneurship:* young men and women working in the field of social economy are supported in developing their entrepreneurial ideas, notably those that focus on tackling challenges for **disadvantaged youth**. As a consequence, **social entrepreneurship** is promoted, as well as social cohesion, employment, inclusion and equality.
- *Component 2 – Youth Engagement Roadmaps:*
 - **improved design of youth policies**, on the basis of the enhanced capacity to identify challenges and design appropriate responses.
 - young men and women from the EaP region are **aware** of policy developments in their countries, are more **empowered** and are provided with **opportunities to engage** with the local stakeholders, public experts and EU representatives;

- *Component 3 - Continuation of EU4Youth capacity building actions implemented as part of Erasmus+ and targeting youth organisations, youth workers and young leaders:*
 - **youth organisations** are more capable of providing young men and women with **key competences and skills**¹⁹
 - **young people** are better equipped to become leaders and entrepreneurs, actively participating in society and labour market.

Particular attention will be devoted to **disadvantaged youth** and to the inclusion of **women**. This programme is relevant for the **Agenda 2030**. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goals: 8 – Decent work and economic growth; 4 - Quality of education; 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions. Secondary SDG Goal(s): but also promotes progress towards Goal 5 - Gender equality. This does not imply a commitment by the Eastern Partner Countries benefiting from this programme.

4.2 Intervention Logic

Intervention logic for Component 1

These actions serve the general objective of further increasing the employability and the active participation of youth in society and economy by supporting young people working in the field of **social economy** in developing their **entrepreneurial ideas**, creating new value for the young people themselves and their communities and networks, notably those that focus on tackling challenges for **disadvantaged youth**.

Intervention logic for Component 2

These actions will serve the general foster the employability and the active participation of youth in society and economy, by developing their skills and supporting them in becoming leaders and entrepreneurs, by:

- Enabling **thematic reviews of policies**, practices and instruments in place in Partner Countries;
- Supporting the creation of **youth employment partnerships** among key stakeholders in the youth employment sector, with special emphasis on partnerships with women organisations (e.g. business).
- Establishing regional workshops on youth policies, notably with a focus on youth employment, will be organised in the form of **Policy Labs**.

Intervention logic for Component 3

These actions serve the general objective of further increasing the employability and the active participation of youth in society and economy by empowering youth with key

¹⁹ See Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning [Official Journal L 394 of 30.12.2006].

competences and skills supporting their **active participation** in society and in the labour market, through capacity building actions targeting youth organisations, youth workers and young leaders.

4.3 Mainstreaming

The second phase of the EU4Youth will contribute to the EaP priority of **good governance**, by including a broad range of societal stakeholders in the programme activities, and by promoting youth active participation in policy-making and community-based projects.

The projects funded under this action will be designed and implemented in line with the rights-based approach methodology, as per the *2014 Tool-box "a Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, for EU development cooperation"*²⁰. The projects will give due regard to the working principles of applying all rights, participation and access to the decision-making process, non-discrimination and equal access, accountability and access to the rule of law, transparency and access to information.

Gender equality is identified as a priority and **key cross-cutting theme**. Young women from the EaP region tend to face problems during their transition from education to work, *inter alia* due to gender stereotypes and lack of childcare opportunities. As a consequence, in some Partner Countries there is still a statistically significant employment gap between young men and women and women are often the first to face unemployment when jobs are lost. The EU4Youth – Phase II will support gender equality through i) actions identifying young women as a priority target group; ii) aiming at gender balance among the participants to the various actions; iii) mainstreaming gender in all components and actions.

Disadvantaged youth²¹, will be a key target in all the actions of the programme and notably in the grants scheme on social entrepreneurship.

4.4 Contribution to SDGs

This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDGs 8 – Decent work and economic growth; 4 - Quality of education; 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions; while also contributing to SDG 5 - Gender equality²².

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.

20 Tool-box “A Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, for EU development cooperation” and the respective Council Conclusions of 19 May 2014, available here: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/rights-based-approach-development-cooperation_en

21 See definition in footnote 2.

22 If a partner country has established country specific SDGs targets (as foreseen by the UN Resolution on SDGs agree in September 2015), the text may also refer to those country specific SDG targets, assuming data for the corresponding indicators are available and of adequate quality.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 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 Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

5.3 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 measures²³.

5.3.1 Grants (direct management): Component 1 - Call for proposals on social entrepreneurship

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

As defined under section 4.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Eligible applicants, amongst others, will be social cooperatives, private companies, mutual organisations, non-profit associations, voluntary organisations, charities and foundations. Essential selection criterion: operational capacity of the applicant. Essential award criteria: relevance, design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Not applicable.

(d) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Not applicable.

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management): Component 2 – Youth Engagement Roadmaps

Subject	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative launch of the procedure
Component 2	Services	1	2nd quarter of 2019

²³ 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.

5.3.3 Grants (direct management with EACEA) Component 3 - Call for proposals for Erasmus+ capacity building action in the field of youth

Component 3 will be implemented via direct management by the **Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)**, in accordance with Article 62(1)(a) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1046/2018. This is justified because EACEA is responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus+ Key Action 2²⁴, and component 3 will be implemented as a Window of the Erasmus+ Programme. This will provide for the fastest and most effective implementation, based on existing activities and structures. The EACEA will be responsible for the management of this Component and for the selection/evaluation/award procedure in line with the Erasmus+ Programme Guide and particularly with Erasmus+ Key Action 2.

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

As defined under section 4.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Eligible applicants, amongst others, will be youth organisations, civil society organisations and/or private companies, including social enterprises and consortia of such organisations. Essential selection criterion: operational capacity of the applicant. Essential award criteria: relevance, design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Not applicable.

(d) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Not applicable.

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, subject to the following provisions:

- a) The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility 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	Indicative third party contribution
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²⁴ Capacity Building in the field of youth.

5.3.1.1 Grants: Component 1 - Call for proposals on social entrepreneurship , implemented by DG NEAR (direct management)	EUR 6 million	EUR 0.3 million
5.3.1.2 Procurement: Component 2 – Youth Engagement Roadmaps , service contract (direct management)	EUR 2 million	N.A.
5.3.1.3 Grants: Component 3 – Call for proposals for capacity building actions , implemented by EACEA (direct management)	EUR 2 million	EUR 0.1 million
5.8 – Evaluation 5.10 - Audit	Covered by another decision	N.A.
5.10 – Communication and visibility	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	EUR 10 million	EUR 0.4 million

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A project steering committee will be created and **meet once per year**, including representatives of relevant **Commission** services (DG NEAR, DG EAC, DG EMPL), of the **EACEA** and the **ETF**. **Authorities from Partner Countries** will be invited on a needs basis. The projects will be implemented in close cooperation with the **EU Delegations** in the Partner Countries. Results achieved will be presented at the EaP platform and panel meetings, as well as in other high-level meetings. The steering committee will be organised by the EU4Youth coordination component, as prescribed under the first phase of the EU4Youth. Given its role as initiator and final monitoring body, DG NEAR will chair the steering committee and discuss with implementing partners issues and concerns regarding their activities within this action.

The **steering committee** shall: (a) provide an opinion on the work programmes of the components of the action; (b) discuss objectives, activities and expected results; (c) discuss progress, impact, and challenges to implementation; (e) share information on other relevant actions in the region and on Partner Countries' efforts to reform their policies, in line with policy recommendation provided within the action; (f) ensure donors and stakeholders coordination. The components work programmes will be presented by the implementing partners and approved by the Commission, in line with discussions at the steering committee.

5.7 Performance and Results 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. The implementing partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial **monitoring system** and elaborate regular **progress reports** (at least annual) and final reports. Reports shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of results, as measured by corresponding indicators in the Logframe matrix. Report shall be laid out in a way to allow the 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 implementation. Commission services may undertake **additional project monitoring visits** through its own

staff or independent consultants recruited by the Commission for independent monitoring. For **components 1 and 2** performance monitoring will be supervised by the EU4Youth coordination component, as prescribed by the first phase of the EU4Youth.

Performance indicators will relate to, *inter alia*: (a) impact of the programme in terms of **personal and skills development**, through personal interviews or questionnaires on a sample, as well as review of employment status; (b) **number of projects and project participants** supported by the programme, with a focus on projects committed to support **disadvantaged youth** (indicatively, minimum **40%**) and **gender equality** (participation of young men and women: indicatively **50% and 50%**); (c) impact on **Partner Countries' national youth policies and strategies**; (d) national **youth unemployment, NEETs, and VET enrolment rates**, as well as improved matching of youth qualifications with their employment (as per mismatch measurement indicators, in cooperation with ETF).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a final ex-post evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission. It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), 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 Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)²⁵

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, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Enhanced the employability and the active participation of youth in society and economy.	<p>Number of policies and strategies supporting youth employment and youth transition from education to work developed/improved.</p> <p>Share of young people, including young women and disadvantaged young people, actively participating in society.</p> <p>More involvement in employability and training by young people.</p>	Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant baselines will follow accordingly.	Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant targets will follow accordingly.	<p>Changes in national policies.</p> <p>Official national statistics.</p> <p>Interim reports from implementing partners.</p>	<p>There is some degree of political stability in the region.</p> <p>Youth employment, employability, participation are key priorities for public authorities.</p>
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	To foster young people's entrepreneurial potential in the field of social economy, notably with a view to contribute to social cohesion, employment, inclusion and reduction of inequalities.	<p>Number of projects supported in the field of social economy.</p> <p>Number of supported projects targeting disadvantaged young people.</p>	Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant	Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant	<p>Changes in national policies.</p> <p>Official national statistics.</p>	Key stakeholders, notably private sector, can be mobilised if interested in partnerships.

²⁵ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

	<p>To support Partner Countries in developing and implementing more effective, evidence-based policy responses to challenges to youth, notably in the field of employment, on the basis of already existing policies and strategies.</p> <p>To empower young people with key competences and skills supporting their active participation in democratic life and the labour market.</p> <p>To foster the involvement of young people in policy-making.</p>	<p>Number of evidence-based national policy responses to challenges to youth, notably in the field of employment, developed/improved.</p> <p>Number of young people, including young women and disadvantaged young people, actively participating in society and policy-making.</p> <p>Number of young people – notably young women and disadvantages young people - with an improved knowledge of national policy-making and of national youth policies in particular.</p> <p>Number of supported projects targeting young women and/or gender equality.</p> <p>Improved personal and skills development for young people.</p>	<p>baselines will follow accordingly.</p>	<p>targets will follow accordingly.</p>	<p>Interim reports from implementing partners.</p> <p>Attendance lists to the programme's activities.</p> <p>Surveys, opinion polls.</p>	<p>Young people are interested in engaging in policy dialogue.</p> <p>It is possible to reach out to disadvantaged youth, amongst other in rural/remote areas.</p> <p>Disadvantaged young people are interested in participating to the proposed actions.</p>
<p>Outputs</p>	<p>Young people working in the field of social economy are supported in developing their entrepreneurial ideas.</p> <p>Social entrepreneurship is promoted, as well as social cohesion, employment, inclusion and equality.</p> <p>Improved design of youth policies, on the basis of the enhanced capacity to identify challenges and design appropriate responses.</p> <p>Young men and women are aware of policy developments in their countries, are more empowered and are provided with</p>	<p>Number of projects supported in the field of social economy.</p> <p>Number of supported projects targeting disadvantaged young people.</p> <p>Number of Youth Employment Partnerships established.</p> <p>Number of key stakeholders involved in the partnerships.</p> <p>Number of peer-learning activities, trainings and workshops on youth</p>	<p>Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant baselines will follow accordingly.</p>	<p>Activities will have to be defined at project level and the relevant targets will follow accordingly.</p>	<p>Fact-sheets for every component's activity.</p> <p>Interim reports from implementing partners.</p> <p>Visit to implementation sites.</p> <p>Reports from</p>	<p>Key stakeholders, notably private sector, can be mobilised if interested in partnerships.</p> <p>Young people are interested in engaging in policy dialogue.</p> <p>It is possible to reach out to disadvantaged youth, amongst other in rural/remote areas.</p>

	<p>opportunities to engage with the local stakeholders, public experts and EU representatives.</p>	<p>policies carried out.</p> <p>Number of regional workshops in the form of Policy Labs carried out.</p> <p>Number of young people taking part to the Policy Labs.</p> <p>Number of young leaders trained.</p> <p>Number of supported projects targeting young women and/or gender equality.</p>			<p>the EU Delegations.</p> <p>Attendance lists for each component's activity.</p>	<p>Disadvantaged young people are interested in participating to the proposed actions.</p>
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