



Brussels, 21.9.2020
C(2020) 6276 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 21.9.2020

on the special measure in favour of Israel for 2020

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of a special measure in favour of Israel for 2020, it is necessary to adopt a financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The European Union and the State of Israel agreed on an Action Plan in April 2005 with the purpose of building a strong partnership and gradually integrating Israel into European policies and programmes⁴. In the absence of a multi-annual programming document a special measure is to be adopted on the basis of Article 2(1), third paragraph, of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.
- (4) The objective pursued by the special measure to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁵ is to continue developing closer relationships between the EU and Israel, aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening political co-operation.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ 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.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/eu-israel_action_plan_2005.pdf

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

- (5) The action entitled "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan" aims to promote legislative harmonisation (including with regard to the participation of Israel to the Union programmes) and strengthen the dialogue between the Union and the State of Israel at political, administrative and commercial levels.
- (6) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (7) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament and the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.
- (9) The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C- 205/05 shall apply for all actions under this special measure, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with Article 204 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) This Decision shall be implemented in conformity with the European Union's position that the territories which came under Israeli administration in June 1967 are not considered as being part of the State of Israel.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The measure

The special measure in favour of Israel for 2020, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action: "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan - Israel".

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the special measure for 2020 is set at EUR 2 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 22.040102 of the general budget of the Union.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases⁶ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 21.9.2020

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

⁶ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.



ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the special measure in favour of Israel for 2020
Action Document for “Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan – Israel”

SPECIAL MEASURE

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	Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan - Israel CRIS number:2020/042-757 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Israel The action shall be carried out at the following location: throughout the country. ¹	
3. Programming document	N.A.	
4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals	
5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area	All sectors	DEV. Assistance: NO ²
6. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 2 000 000 Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution EUR 2 000 000	

¹ The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013) shall apply to the call for proposals linked to this Action Programme. 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

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

7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality Direct management through: - Grants - Procurement			
8 a) DAC code(s)	43010 – MultisectorAid			
b) Main Delivery Channel	10000 – Public Sector Institutions			
9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)³	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal 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"/>
	Internal markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		COVID Response	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	N.A.			

SUMMARY

Israel is part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), yet, being a member of the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD), it receives limited funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The Institutional Twinning modality is used in the ENI co-operation with Israel.

There is no Single Support Framework for Israel. Co-operation is based on the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan⁴, agreed in 2005 and whose validity has been extended until January 2022. The set of common objectives and commitments laid out in the Action Plan provides the basis for

⁴ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/israel_enp_ap_final_en.pdf

increased co-operation and exchange of views, with an aim to explore the possibility of legislative and regulatory approximation in jointly identified priority areas. The actions, financed through special measures, reflect Israel's interest and capacity to implement the jointly agreed priorities and follow the rules set for the institutional Twinning instrument.

1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

1.1 Context Description

The European Neighbourhood Policy applies to Israel although the country receives limited funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument, as it is a member of the OECD. There is no Single Support Framework for Israel. Co-operation is based on the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan, agreed in 2005 and the validity of which has been extended ever since.

No Association Committee or Association Council meetings were held since 2012, however co-operation actions and policy dialogue in several areas continued actively throughout.

Institutional Twinning and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) are the modalities used in ENI co-operation with Israel. Israel has already made use of the TAIEX and Twinning instruments to increase legislative approximation in areas such as, among others: market regulation, statistics, agriculture policy, transport, health, welfare services and environment. All co-operation is subject to the requirements set out in the "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"⁵ from 2014 onwards.

Priorities for co-operation shall take into consideration, as appropriate, the conclusions of the EU's review of the modalities of action on the ground in support of a two-state solution.

1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)

Israel is among the EU's immediate neighbours included in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which offers the perspective of moving beyond co-operation to a significant degree of integration through a stake in the EU's Internal Market and the possibility to participate in key aspects of EU policies and programmes. Israel was among the first wave of countries to agree on an ENP Action Plan with the EU, which entered into force in April 2005.

While formal decision on the identification and adoption of new EU-Israel Partnership Priorities (PPs) in line with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy is pending, the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan has been extended until January 2022.

Building on the institutional framework set up by the EU-Israel Association Agreement, the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan sets out in more detail a comprehensive set of jointly developed priorities with a programme of specific activities to which both sides are committed. The areas for greater co-operation under the ENP Action Plan include: upgrading political co-operation; promoting peace in the Middle East; approximating Israeli legislation to that of the

⁵ EU policy is formulated in Commission Notice Nr.2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013), which can be consulted at:http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2013:205:FULL

EU as a way of facilitating bilateral trade; pursuing greater liberalisation of trade, services and agriculture; the fight against organised crime; co-operation in health, transport, energy, communications; promote further cooperation in science and technology and people-to-people contacts in education, culture and civil society.

Those areas will be further explored through the lens of the 2019-2024 European Commission's agenda, focusing on promoting the European Green Deal, advancing a safe digital age, and maintaining the promotion of shared democratic values.

Since the entry into force of the ENP Action Plan, signature of sectoral agreements between Israel and the EU have further defined specific policy frameworks, for instance on conformity of industrial products or in the air transport area.

1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region

The socio economic aspects of the present analysis is likely to substantially differ from Israel's situation in the course of 2020 onward due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As an indication, the unemployment rate that was below 4% in January, reached the level of 26% in April. The United Kingdom exit from the EU will have also an impact on Israel's trade data, at the end of the transition period.

Israel is a small country, with a population of 9.1 million inhabitants and an economy with a strong high tech industry that has not faced recession in the last 15 years. The country has few natural resources, although a decade ago important natural gas reserves were found in Israeli off-shore waters and their exploitation is now underway with an ambitious programme for exportation, including to Egypt and Jordan. However, Israeli economy remains largely dependent on international trade. Given the geopolitical situation in the region, trade mainly takes place with overseas partners, notably the EU which remains Israel's largest trading partner and currently represents almost 30% of Israel's total trade. The country's recent macroeconomic context represents a mix of good economic indicators, including some increase in exports of goods and services, and continued economic growth on the one hand, and the growing economic and social inequalities, relatively high consumer prices, the increasing shortages in high-skilled labour, the growing budget deficit in 2018 and 2019 and the weakening competitiveness in some sectors on the other.

Israel's high-tech/start up economy offers opportunities for enhanced EU investors and co-operation in the area of research and innovation. Energy co-operation has significant potential in Israel too. Important measures were approved by the government in the areas of environmental protection, money laundering and education. The EU has been actively engaged in supporting ongoing market and policy reforms including through sharing of best practices. As Israel is relatively behind in environmental policies, waste management, and circular economy, new opportunities can emerge in Israel for Europe to take a leading role and pursue its Green Deal priority.

Since late December 2018, the country has been engulfed in a protracted political crisis, without a clear political majority in the Knesset, with a caretaker in charge for nearly 18 months. The holding of three consecutive general elections in April 2019, September 2019 and March 2020 failed to produce a clear winner between competing political blocks. After more than 500 days without a stable coalition Israel's 35th government was finally sworn in on 17 May 2020. The COVID-19 spread had a sizeable impact on the political scenario, including by facilitating the creation of a national unity government between B. Netanyahu and B. Gantz.

The reaction of the Israeli government to the COVID-19 outbreak has been relatively strict and fast. However, it did not prevent a resurgence of the number of the cases in the summer of 2020. Israel's health situation is inextricably linked to that of Palestinians and, at the beginning of the outbreak in spring 2020, coordination between Israeli and Palestinian authorities was effective. However due to a mutual effect of the suspension of agreements by President Abbas and the increased risk of annexation, the political will for coordination decreased and in summer 2020, both policy decisions made the coordination much less effective.

Specific objectives to be identified under this action are likely to contribute to one or more of the following SDGs:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

1.4 Stakeholder analysis

The direct beneficiary of the programme is the Israeli public administration, while the indirect beneficiary is the population of Israel.

Israeli public institutions have strong technical capacity and high interests in approximation to EU legislation. The absence of an elected political government and of political direction has weighted on the institutions during the past months and has hampered the ministries' ability to further define sectoral policies and pass on new legislation. The focus on addressing the consequences of the COVID-19 is likely to impact the capacity of the public administration to resume its normal functioning and might delay the adoption of legislation that has been pending in the absence of an empowered government. On the other hand, new administrative and legislative priorities in line with the EU's agenda are likely to emerge.

All activities under this programme will integrate the mainstreaming of the right-based approach and the SDGs' framework.

A variety of relevant stakeholders are involved in relation to each sector of co-operation, from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society, associations of industries, academics, or trade unions. This involvement takes place mainly either thanks to EU's ongoing or punctual sectoral consultations, or through ensuring all relevant stakeholders direct involvement in a given Twinning intervention.

1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support

Considering that the identification and adoption of new EU-Israel Partnership Priorities (PPs) in line with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy is pending, the areas of joint EU-Israel interests to be pursued under the 2020 Special Measure will fall at the conjunction of the existing 15 specific sectors identified in the EU-Israel Action Plan and the new European Commission's priorities.

Hence, identification efforts will focus in priority on the promotion of the European Green Deal, advancement of a safe digital age and maintaining of the promotion of shared democratic values. Other sectors of interests for co-operation include the energy and transport sectors as well as the health sector (including food safety and consumer protections). In addition, discussions remain ongoing in areas such as customs, trade, statistics, regulatory co-operation as well as migration-related issues, including trafficking in human beings, and judicial co-operation.

It is worth recalling that Twinning interventions can only answer to requests for co-operation issued by Israeli ministries. The EU will accompany their initial identification of needs in the framework of policy dialogues, by EU's follow up on past co-operation (including TAIEX activities), and by raising awareness among ministries on the existence of the Twinning instrument.

Finally, the EU Delegation will continue using the TAIEX tool to widen the scope of the current EU-Israel co-operation in emerging sectors of mutual interests, as well as continue exploring potentials for new twinning projects.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
The inclusion of the clause defining “territoriality” may delay the signing the Financial Agreement.	M	On the basis of past experience, an exchange of letters accompanying the Financing Agreement could be envisaged.
Preparation of the twinning fiches could possibly be delayed due to limited experience on the Israeli side in dealing with EU programmes and the lack of resources attributed to the subject.	M	The EU Delegation will timely assess the need to deploy EU external experts to draft the Twinning project fiches and/or contracting services to support Israeli ministries in the formulation of Twinning Fiches.
Due to COVID-19 pandemic 70% of Israeli officials have been on forced leave from March to May 2020. Their return to work coincides with the nomination of the first non-transitional government in 16 months, and they will be quickly and heavily mobilised on the long awaited budget exercise. The combination of those two situations is likely to hamper their interest and/or capacity to work on developing Twinning interventions.	H	The EU Delegation will identify departments within ministries less involved in the budget exercise and explore possibilities of collaboration with them. The Delegation will strengthen its working relationships with departments of international relations of ministries
Unsuccessful call for proposals.	M	This risk will be mitigated by jointly identifying areas of intervention highly relevant to both Israel and EU Member States as well as by increasing the

		awareness of EU Member States Embassies in Israel. In addition, in the aftermath of the pandemic in Europe, it will also be important to assess the capacity of EU Member States to answer Twinning calls in light of their national priorities and constraints.
The possible annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank, as provided for in the draft coalition agreement concluded on 20 April 2020 by the two main parties, creates political risks for EU-IL cooperation.	H	The EU political leadership is actively sending deterring messages to prevent unilateral moves that could jeopardise the viability and sustainability of the two-state solution.
Ensure implementation of EU's differentiation policy in the design of Twinning projects	H	The Delegation will enhance due diligence in the implementation of the differentiation policy and ensure closer follow up in the implementation of the projects.
Capacity issues relating to the identification, the formulation and monitoring of Twinning activities	H	Mitigation will come from close coordination with HQ on some political, legal and human resources dimensions.
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The degree of Israeli interest in and commitment to the Twinning instrument at the political level remains high, despite possible political disagreements - Israel and the EU can identify areas of joint interests for the implementation of Twinning projects. 		

3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1 Lessons learnt

Since 2008 and the first bilateral allocation in support to the ENP Action Plan, 13 Twinning projects have been successfully implemented and three are ongoing; one with the Ministry of Education, to set up the basis for the establishment of an Israeli National Qualification Framework (NQF); one with the Israeli Ministry of Communications, to strengthen the regulatory capacity of Israel in the field of telecommunications, with a focus on service provision over networks owned and operated by others; and one with the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection to support improvement of the municipal solid waste management sector.

Lessons have been drawn from the implementation of the past and ongoing Twinning projects on issues such as drafting of Twinning fiches, negotiations with both Israeli ministries and EU Member States implementing institutions on contract preparations, as well as on communication and visibility on Twinning activities.

Moreover, valuable input was gained from end of projects and ongoing Results-Oriented monitoring exercise, which clearly illustrated the need to ensure the adoption of a strong theory of intervention and project-management methodology in twinning projects.

Finally, the final report of the Evaluation of the Twinning Instrument in the period 2010-2017 carried out in 2018, contributed to improve the understanding of weaknesses and strengths of the instrument.

In parallel, lessons have also been learned from the use of the TAIEX instrument. Hence, in the period 2017-2019 TAIEX organised 47 events, mainly in the field of energy, environment, transport and telecommunication.

A joint Israel-EU exercise of initial identification of common sectoral priorities ended at the beginning of 2020, with the objective to enhance the effectiveness of the TAIEX instrument in Israel. To the extent possible, TAIEX activities will answer in priority to policies identified which are in the mutual interest of both parties.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination

Given Israel's high-income level, most donors do not provide any funding to Israeli governmental institutions. This is a unique action.

Complementarity and synergies are nonetheless insured with other instruments such as the CBC, the Partnership Instrument and relevant EU regional programmes such as EuroMed TSP, SAFEMED, EUMedRail and EuroMed aviation (Transport), Support to East Med Gas Forum, Water and Environment support (WES), SwitchMed and others. Synergies could be found also on occasional basis with other EU funded programmes such as InnovFin Small and medium enterprises (SME) Guarantee, trade facilitation support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) or Public-Private partnerships activities funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

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

The general objective is to develop an increasingly close relationship between the EU and the State of Israel aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening of exchanges and co-operation, thus supplementing and facilitating EUMS active cooperation in several areas, including economic cooperation.

Specific objectives:

- 1) to strengthen the dialogue and exchanges between the EU and Israel at political, administrative and commercial levels;
- 2) to promote legislative and regulatory approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes and policies).

The expected results are:

- 1) the implementation of the priority actions agreed in the ENP Action Plan;
- 2) the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

Main activities:

- 1) Twinning grant contract(s)

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8 "Decent Work and Economic

Growth" and 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions", but also promotes progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 9 "Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure", 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production" and 13 "Climate Action".

This does not imply a commitment by Israel toward those SDGs within the framework of this Special measure.

This Special measure supports the approximation of Israeli legislation to EU norms and standards with a view to facilitating and improving co-operation and paves the way to the participation in the EU programmes and policies.

Final identification of specific areas of intervention will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan.

4.2 Intervention Logic

The Intervention Logic is based on the two main assumptions: the first being that Israeli ministries will maintain a level of interest in the EU regulatory framework that will be translated into concrete request of co-operation through the Twinning instrument; and the second being that Israeli requests are addressing sectors that are of mutual interests for Israel and the EU.

In that context, support to a given ministry will achieve outcomes contributing to an increased approximation of Israel legal framework with the EU *acquis* and/or EU good practices while also contributing to strengthened sectorial dialogues, in turn feeding into the general objective of deepening the political co-operation.

Outcomes will be achieved thanks to a variety of outputs that will be identified directly at the Twinning project level.

4.3 Mainstreaming

During all phases of this programme, particular attention will be devoted to the principle of equality of treatment and opportunity in both gender issues and minority rights. Other relevant cross-cutting issues, including climate change, environment, and conflict sensitivity will be part of both the identification and formulation phases.

4.4 Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This intervention is relevant for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Projects will duly incorporate a rights-based approach and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. All actions under this intervention will contribute primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 17– Partnerships for the goals. In addition, this intervention will also contribute to other significant SDGs (see 4.1 above), which will be identified in line with the sectors of intervention.

Israel is in the process of establishing country specific SDGs targets, which will be taken into consideration whenever relevant.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with Israel.

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 entry into force of the financing agreement.

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 measures⁶.

5.3.1 Grants: (*direct management*)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Specific objectives:

- 1) to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political, administrative and commercial levels;
- 2) to promote legislative and regulatory approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes and policies).

The expected results are:

- 1) the implementation of the priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plan;
- 2) the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

The size of the grants will be decided based on the type of EU *acquis* sector identified, needs of the beneficiary administration and duration of the project in the specific field of the project.

Discussions with the Israeli authorities show that the main indicative priority areas for future Twinning projects are energy, transport, health, justice, public services, statistics, social and legal affairs. Final identification of specific areas and actions will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

In line with Article 4(10) (b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, participation in Twinning calls for proposals is limited to EU Member States administrations or their mandated bodies.

The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Number 2013/C- 205/05 shall apply for all actions under this special measure 2020⁷, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries.

⁶ 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.

⁷ With regard to Israeli entities: follow 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 (OJ C 205, 19.7.2013, p. 9).

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

Procurement will contribute to achieve the specific objectives set in section (4) by assisting the Israeli institutions in developing the Twinning fiches.

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 provisions of Commission Notice Number 2013/C 205/05.

In accordance with EU policy, this agreement shall not apply to the geographic areas that came under the administration of the State of Israel after 5 June 1967.

5.5 Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Objectives 1 and 2 composed of:	1,875,000	N.A.
- Grants – total envelope under section 5.3.1	1,700,000	N.A.
- Procurement – total envelope under section 5.3.2	175,000	N.A.
Evaluation (cf. section 5.9)	75,000	N.A.
Audit/ Expenditure verification (cf. section 5.10)		
Communication and visibility (cf. section 5.11)	50,000	N.A.
Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Total	2,000,000	N.A.

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Organisational set-up and responsibilities are defined in accordance with the applicable Twinning Manual, Section 4: Main actors. They include in particular the Member State National Contact Points, the Member State Project Leader, the Resident Twinning Adviser and Short-term experts.

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. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix (for project modality) or the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan(for budget support).

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators as for instance per Joint Programming document should be taken into account.

Reports 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

Having regard to the nature of the action, a Twinning Review Mission will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants through the Commission's Twinning Co-ordination Team, in line with the provisions of the Twinning Manual.

In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

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.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

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.

It is foreseen that audit services may be contracted [under a framework contract.

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. Communication and visibility activities

shall be implemented in accordance with the EU communication and visibility requirements in force

It is foreseen that a contract for communication and visibility may be contracted using procurement procedures.

6 INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

See appendix.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

	Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact(Overall Objective)	<p>1) Strengthened relationship between the EU and the State of Israel</p> <p>2) Increased economic integration and co-operations between the EU and Israel</p>	<p>Nature and content of political statements</p> <p>Holding of regular subcommittee meetings and potential Association Council</p> <p>Trade exchange with the EU</p>	<p>Policy dialogues in 2021</p> <p>Macro-economic data 2021</p>	<p>To be defined during policy dialogues</p>	<p>Minutes of Association council</p> <p>OECD reports</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))	<p>1) Strengthened the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels</p> <p>2) Increased legislative approximation (including with participation in European Union programmes)</p>	<p>Nature and content of policy dialogues</p> <p>Integration of Israel in EU policies or programmes</p> <p>Status of approximation of legislation</p>	<p>Minutes of policy dialogues in 2021</p> <p>Legislative framework in 2021</p>	<p>To be defined during policy dialogues</p>	<p>Minutes of sectoral sub-committees under the EU-IL ENP Action Plan</p> <p>Reports on legislative activity</p>	<p>Reasonable stability of the regional framework.</p> <p>At least stable Israeli political and administrative interest in the <i>EU acquis</i>.</p>
Outputs	<p>1) The Israel legal framework is approximated to the EU regulatory framework</p> <p>2) The administrative capacity of Israel public administrations has been reinforced in line with the <i>EU acquis</i> and/ or EU best practices</p>	<p>Indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework and to the SDGs indicators will be identified in relevance to the sectors targeted</p> <p>Results of Twinning projects</p>	<p>To be defined at the level of Twinning interventions</p>	<p>To be defined at the level of Twinning interventions</p>	<p>Reports from Israel Central Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>Reports from Twinning projects and Twinning Review Mission</p>	<p>EU MS interests in applying to Twinning projects in Israel does not decline</p>