ADDENDUM No. 1

To Financing Agreement
Republic of Moldova – "EU4Recovery and Resilience
Annual Measure in favour of the Republic of Moldova for 2021"
Cris No. NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2021/43052 (44614) – OPSYS ACT-60722 linked to JAD.956852

The European Commission, hereinafter referred to as "**the Commission**", acting on behalf of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as "**the EU**",

of the one part, and

the Government of the Republic of Moldova, hereinafter referred to as "**the Partner**", represented by the Prime Minister,

of the other part,

have agreed as follows:

The above-mentioned Financing Agreement, signed on 9.11.2022, is modified as follows:

Special Conditions

Article 1 – Nature of the action

Article 1.2 is replaced to read as follows:

"The total estimated cost of this action is EUR 23 000 000 and the maximum EU contribution to this action is set at EUR 23 000 000."

Annex I: Technical and Administrative Provisions for Implementation (TAPs)

The new version of Annex I is attached to this addendum.

All other terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement remain unchanged.

The addendum shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last party.

Done in two original copies, one copy being handed to the Commission and one to the Partner.

Done at Chisinau	Done at Brussels
For the Partner: Dorin RECEAN Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova Signature: Date: 27.06.2025	For the Commission: Adrienn KIRÁLY Director Neighbourhood East and Institution Building Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations Signature: Adrienn Király Date: 29/04/2025

Encl.: Annex I: Technical and Administrative Provisions EU4Recovery and Resilience (2 copies)

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title **CRIS/OPSYS** **Basic Act**	EU4Recovery and Resilience Annual Measure in favour of the Republic of Moldova for 2021 CRIS number: NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2021/43052 – OPSYS ACT-60722 linked to JAD.956852 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Moldova
4. Programming document	Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for the Republic of Moldova[1]
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	Priority 1: Resilient, sustainable and integrated economy Priority 3: Environmental and climate resilience Priority 5: Resilient, fair and inclusive societies
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Industry (321), Trade Policies & Regulations (331), General Environment Protection (410)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SGD 1: End poverty in all its forms SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower Women SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

[1] To be adopted first half 2022

	SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (i.e. technology, trade)
8 a) DAC code(s)	Main DAC code – sector- percentage 32130 - Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development 27 % Sub-code 2 – sector-percentage 33110 - Trade Policy and Administrative Management 10 % Sub-code 3 – sector-percentage 15110 - Public sector policy and administrative management 12 % Sub-code 4 – sector-percentage 41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management 51 %
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	*42000 - European Commission*
9. Targets	
	☐ Migration ☒ Climate ☐ Social inclusion and Human Development[2] ☒ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance

10. Markers (from DAC form)	**General policy objective**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
	Aid to environment	☐	☐	☒
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Trade development	☐	☐	☒
	Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction	☐	☒	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	☐	☒	☐
	Nutrition	☐	☒	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**

[2] For the Neighbourhood, activities related to education shall be marked as part of the "Social Inclusion and Human Development" target, in line with the NDICI-GE programming guidelines.

	Biological diversity	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation	☐	☐	☒
	Climate change adaptation	☐	☐	☒
11. Internal markers	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	☐	☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
	Connectivity Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	☒	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
	Migration	☐	☒	☐
	Reduction of Inequalities	☐	☒	☐
	Covid-19	☐	☒	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14.020111 – Eastern Neighbourhood Total estimated cost: EUR 23 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 23 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Implementation modalities (type of financing and management mode)	Project Modality **Direct management** through: - Grants - Twinnings - Procurement **Indirect management** with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 3.1.3.			

1.2. Summary of the action

This action will contribute to resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic development in the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter 'Moldova') and will pave the way for a fully-fledged green transition for the Republic of Moldova.

EN

Proposed actions will provide support for the implementation of the following two priorities, established in the European Union – Republic of Moldova Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027[3].

Priority A: 'Resilient, sustainable and integrated economy':

- Support SMEs, particularly in rural areas and women-owned, and ensure better access to finance for them. This will be achieved through the financial contribution to the relevant national SME support programmes and to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP).
- Improve the business climate through trade facilitation, supporting the accession of the Republic of Moldova to the Common Transit Convention based on the New Computerised Transit System (NCTS) phase 5 software.
- Increase national capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products, which will lead to increased food safety, market demand and access, with positive effects on the national economy.

Priority B: 'Environmental and climate resilience':

- Support a Transformative Green Agenda for the Republic of Moldova, building on the European Green Deal[4], to deliver a sound framework for a green and sustainable economy development. The action will scale up previous successful green initiatives with the view of delivering key enabling conditions, as well as raising awareness and increase capacity on circular economy, energy and climate change.
- Support the implementation of green initiatives and eco-innovative projects also with the view of attracting private investments. This action will also facilitate partnerships and possibly pilot new business models along the circular economy approach to value chains and eco-innovative green technologies.
- Support to build up capacity of public institutions in the implementation of the legislation under the Environment Chapter of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA), demonstrating several co-benefits of addressing pollution.

The action is aligned with national policies and targets as defined in key documents, such as the National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030"[5], and the draft of a new policy document on Air Quality Management.

These efforts are in line with the Association Agenda 2021-2027 (to be adopted), the Economic Recovery Plan for Moldova, and the 2 July 2021 Joint Staff Working Document on post-2020 Eastern Partnership priorities[6] with its Economic and Investment Plan and five Flagship initiatives for Moldova.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

2.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic development, as well as pave the way to a fully-fledged green transition for the Republic of Moldova.
It will also enhance Moldova's resilience to respond to urgent needs by the Moldovan central and local authorities as well as the population that are resulting or could result from the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

[3] To be adopted in the first half 2022
[4] COM(2019)640 of 11.12.2019
[5] Republic of Moldova GD. No. 377/2020
[6] SWD(2021) 186 final

The Specific(s) Objective(s) (Outcomes) of this action are to

1. Improve investment climate, trade opportunities, employability and conducive business environment for SMEs;
2. Increase awareness and capacity of the stakeholders to implement a Transformative Green Agenda, also delivering key green, energy and resource efficient and eco-innovative projects, as well as improved monitoring system for air quality and the environment.

Given the unfolding and unforeseeable consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the specific Objective (Outcomes) of this action are also

3. To address the immediate needs of population affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine:
   - building resilience of Moldova to deal with crisis situations such as large influx of people fleeing the war, as a result of the war in Ukraine, by developing infrastructures for sanitation, food, shelter, and to allow for orderly transit for those people wishing to leave Moldova;
   - addressing the needs of victims of the armed conflict in Ukraine who are temporarily settled in Moldova, to benefit from a minimum of socio-economic standards;
   - tackling irregular migration and forced displacement caused by the armed conflict.

4. To strengthen resilience and build capacities to respond to war-generated impacts:
   - enhancing capacities to respond to cyber-security and information security and hybrid threats by contributing to a resilient digital environment in line with human rights standards and principles;
   - strengthening economic resilience and supporting individuals, communities, institutions, and countries to quickly recover from the shocks of the armed conflict;
   - enhancing societal resilience including support to fight against disinformation and by promoting an enabling environment for media, civil society and the support to internally displaced people and people fleeing the war;
   - contributing to the enhancement of the country's energy resilience by restoring and strengthening its production capacity, including by enhancing energy security and diversification of energy sources;
   - enhancing the resilience of institutions at national and local level, and promoting international cooperation, including support to European integration.

2

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are

1.1 SMEs are supported in a gender-sensitive way, including in seizing new opportunities in high growth potential areas such as agriculture (on adaptation to consequences of climate change, sustainable agriculture and nature-based solutions in land use), industrial production, greening of the economy and digital markets, and to have improved access to finance;

1.2 Trade facilitation capacities of the Moldovan Customs service improved and preparatory work for the implementation of the Customs Single Window (SW) is supported;

1.3 National capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products increased;

2.1 The necessary enabling socio-economic framework for a Green transition with the view of a green transition for Moldova is in place;

2.2 Deployment of pilot green projects on energy and eco-innovation with the view of attracting private investments;

2.3 Increased capacity of public institutions in the implementation of legislation under the Environment Chapter of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA).

2.2. Indicative Activities

With regard to Priority A - Resilient, sustainable and integrated economy

Under Output 1.1 SMEs are supported in a gender-sensitive way, including to seize new opportunities in high growth potential areas such as agriculture, industrial production, greening of the economy and digital markets, and to have improved access to finance.

- Co-finance the gender-sensitive National sectoral SMEs support programmes the organisation is implementing;
- Policy dialogue with MEI and financial support for the implementation of the Strategy for an Inclusive, Sustainable and Digital Economy by 2030 and the related SME support programme.
- Financial support to selected beneficiaries under the National programmes, following competitive procedures, thus improving access to finance, with a focus on women entrepreneurs in sectors where they are underrepresented;
- Tailor-made trainings will be provided to the beneficiaries of the grants by the implementing partner, with a focus on women entrepreneurs in sectors where they are underrepresented.

This action will contribute to EIP flagship 1: 'Supporting a sustainable, innovative, green and competitive economy'

Under Output 1.2 Trade facilitation capacities of the Moldovan Customs service improved and preparatory work for the implementation of the Customs Single Window (SW) is supported

- Development of the National Transit System (NTS) compatible with NCTS;
- Trainings to the Customs officers to prepare them to work with the system and maintain it after the guarantee period;
- The NTS will be tested during one year. After the testing period, the Commission will assess it for NCTS compliance and will certify the country can accede to the CTC based on the new system.;
- Feasibility study on the Customs Single Window will be launched;
- Selected modules of the Customs Management Information system ASYCUDA World will be upgraded in line with the stipulations of the new Customs Code.

This action will contribute to EIP flagship 2 'Boosting EU-Moldova trade'

Under Output 1.3 National capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products increased

- Procurement of laboratory equipment (ANSA Central reference laboratories of Food safety, Phytosanitary, Veterinary Animal Health);
- Training of staff involved in testing / implementation of methods (laboratory, inspectors);
- Validation and accreditation of methods.
- Elaboration of the maintenance procedure of the purchased equipment, management of consumables, continuous training of the laboratory staff;
- Elaboration/revision of Annual residues monitoring plans;

- Communication and sensitisation of Food business operators also in light of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy[7].

This action will contribute to EIP flagship 1: 'Supporting a sustainable, innovative, green and competitive economy'

With regard to priority B "Environment and climate resilience"

Under Output 2.1 The necessary enabling socio-economic framework for a green transition for Moldova

Possible activities:

- Creation of Stakeholders' platforms to enable a green transition also with the view of establishing pipelines of projects (i.e. Stakeholder Platforms on Energy and Resource efficiency, Circular Economy, Renewables, Climate Change and Bio-economy);
- Creation of an institutional multilevel coordination mechanism on economic, business and environmental policies (i.e. Alliance for a Green transition).);
- Provide technical support to complete the enabling framework to facilitate the introduction of market-based incentives that will successfully reduce pollution, GHG emissions and that will generate tax revenues for furthering green investments.;
- Provide technical support to promote sustainability and greening activities (e.g. Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) to improve environmental and sustainable development performance of the organisations and public institutions, eco-labelling system or green public procurement);
- Awareness raising on the green transformative agenda and sustainable development and need of adaptation to consequences to climate change (including inaction) for decision-makers, academia, private sector, media and citizens, with a great focus on gender aspects as well as including children and youth.; to develop sustainable consumption behaviours / sensitise around issue of climate change, carbon footprint and consumer choices
- Networking activities and technical support to deliver an enabling environment for green partnerships and green jobs where sustainability, innovation, digitalisation, environmental and social justice are the key cornerstones.;
- Create capacities at the national, sectorial and private sector level to advocate for and advance the green development agenda in Moldova.
- Developing climate adaptation awareness, possibly some pilot projects on adaptation in cities/ some analysis of climate resilience of existing and planned infrastructure.
- Financing participation of Moldova in EU knowledge sharing platforms / programmes related to climate change / health nexus.

This action will contribute to EIP flagship 3: 'Increasing energy efficiency'

Under Output 2.2 - Deployment of pilot green projects on energy and eco-innovation with the view of attracting private investments

Implementation of the most relevant projects stemming from the pipelines developed under the stakeholders' platforms will be supported. The preferred approach will be to facilitate Public-Private partnerships (PPPs) with the view of attracting private investments and at the same time address key environmental challenges.

Possible activities:

[7] COM(2020) 381 final

EN

- Creation of PPPs to expand the use of renewable energy technologies and systems in the key areas of the country with the view to contribute to GHG emissions reduction. ;
- Demonstration of sanitation innovative approaches to reduce pollution in the mostly exposed districts;
- Set up new business models along the circular economy value chain and in line with the clean and resource efficient production approach, making sure to integrate also a gender dimension;
- Implement the most relevant projects stemming from the pipeline also with the view of attracting private investments ;
- Deliver the first pilot stations of the Moldovan Air quality monitoring system as well as support the implementation of innovative technologies/equipment to reduce the air pollution.

This action will contribute to EIP flagship 3: 'Increasing energy efficiency'

Under Output 2.3 - Increased capacity of public institutions in the implementation of legislation under the Environment Chapter of the EU-MD Association Agreement (AA).

With regard to the air quality and environment, necessary support will be provided to increase the capacity of the relevant stakeholders, as well as contribute to setting up the first automatic stations of the network for monitoring of the air quality.

Possible activities:
- Capacity building of operators, private sectors and civil servants in the application and implementation of the principles and requirements of environmental legislation;
- Capacity building activities for relevant stakeholders and public authorities are implemented, making sure that a gender equality is also addressed.

2.3. Mainstreaming

Outcome of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project).
The CRA screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment). Environment aspects will be addressed during the design of the projects.

Gender Equality and empowerment of women and girls.
As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that the principles of gender equality and women empowerment are significant objectives to this action.

The principle of gender equality will be embedded in the activities related to SME support. A minimum share of female beneficiaries will be fixed in the indicators targets to be achieved. Women make 33.9 % of entrepreneurs in Moldova (2018). It translates into gender professional segregation at the labour market.

The action will hence have a direct impact on women as main final beneficiaries. The implementation of this action will be guided by the principles and objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan III[8]. The outputs and outcomes of the action will be disaggregated along gender lines. Specifically, all the data that relate to persons will be collected with sex disaggregation, and impact of the action on the status of men and women will be analysed.

Human Rights

[8] The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III is a Joint Communication of the European Commission and the High Representative JOIN(2020) 17 final

In the implementation of the programme the human rights based approach will be applied and it will be based on the principles of good governance, equality and the inclusion of socially or economically deprived groups.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that the inclusion of persons with disabilities is a significant objective to this action.

Democracy

The capacity building aspects of this programme will focus on supporting and strengthening the commitment of the Moldovan Government to the principles of public administration developed by the European Commission in close cooperation with the OECD/SIGMA.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Conflict sensitivity of the action will be ensured by allocating part of the budget to activities allowing the Transnistria region to benefit from the support of this action applying the EU confidence building measures approach.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction will be addressed under the Priority B from the perspective of adaptation to climate change in line with the Sendai Framework. The capacity building activities will also incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction as part of the systemic green transformation.

Other considerations if relevant

Innovation will be encouraged. A participative approach should be used as much as possible to embed final beneficiaries in the modernisation process. Innovation will also be encouraged in the implementation of the concrete activities of this action (e.g. innovative business models, including digitisation, innovative products and services, new sales markets, innovative teaching methods, etc.).

2.4. Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is as follows:

Impact: To contribute to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic development, as well as pave the way to a fully-fledged green transition for the Republic of Moldova.

Assumptions

The following external necessary and positive conditions must hold in order for the result chain to be valid:

Assumptions under Outcome 1:

- There is political will to improve business climate, implement the AA/DCFTA and continue support to the SME sector.
- Assumptions under Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 :
  - Relevant national SMEs support programmes are in place;
  - Willingness and available capacity of the Customs Service to implement the NCTS compatible NTS;
  - Customs Service collaborates with the TA provided on the Customs Single Window drafting;
  - Laboratory financial and human resources are increased accordingly to ensure testing capacities (esp. for newly accredited methods, equipment procured).

Assumptions under Outcome 2:

- There is political will to embrace a green transformative agenda for the Republic of Moldova;
- Relevant line ministries and institutions are cooperative and open to support the changes.

Specific assumptions under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2:

- Key stakeholders are open to receive awareness and capacity;
- There are no hidden obstacles against inter-institutional coordination mechanisms.

Specific assumptions under Outputs 2.3:

- The Ministry for Environment is committed as well as the relevant local institutions.

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the action will contribute to the impact because the following three Outcomes will materialise as a result of its successful implementation:

Outcome 1: Improved investment climate, trade opportunities, employability and conducive business environment for SMEs

The Outcome 1 will be realised through the achievement of the following four outputs:

Output 1.1 SMEs are supported in a gender sensitive way, including to seize new opportunities in high growth potential areas such as agriculture, industrial production, greening of the economy and digital markets and to have better access to finance

Output 1.1.will be achieved through the financial support to the National SMEs support Programmes as described in section 2.2 above. At least 600 SMEs, including at least 250 women-owned SMEs, will receive support through grants following competitive procedures. At least 50 % of them will be able to seize new opportunities in high growth potential sectors. SMEs greening, digitalisation and internationalisation will be supported, together with innovation. Companies with problems resulting from the COVID-19 crisis will be supported through the SME Second Chance Programme. Re-industrialisation will be supported through the Re-tech programme. Migrants' productive investments will be further encouraged under the continuation of the PARE 1+ 1 Programme. Women entrepreneurship will be further boosted under the Women in Business Programme, with a focus on IT, STEM, industry and other business niches where women are underrepresented. Rural tourism development will be supported under the upcoming Eco tourism Programme, paying special attention to the promotion of sustainable economic model that entails protection of natural resources. The EU support will result in at least EUR 15 million new investments in different sectors of economy (assuming that EUR five million will be allocated to this output (leverage 1:3). The beneficiaries of the grants will also have access to the needed consulting services and mentoring. The support provided will be reflected in the progress in the innovation policy dimension of the SMEs policy index, as well as in the internationalisation and access to finance dimensions.

Output 1.2 Trade facilitation capacities of the Moldovan Customs service improved and preparatory work for the implementation of the Customs Single Window (SW) is supported.

Output 1.2 will be achieved through the establishment of National Transit System (NTS) compatible with the NCTS. The Republic of Moldova has plans to join the Common Transit Convention (CTC) at the earliest opportunity. This is also envisaged under the AA/DCFTA. A previous EU Twinning project has prepared the draft legal framework for the implementation of the NCTS and for joining the CTC. It is now necessary to create the software based on the new NCTS – phase 5 specification. The NTS will be integrated into the existing Customs Management System ASYCUDA World (AW), with the possibility to be used separately from it. The IT application will be developed based on the following minimum conditions:

0. The NCTS P5 module should be developed so that it could be used separately from AW, therefore it should not be developed on the SoClass platform;
1. The module should be "open source", so that its functionality is not conditioned by any licenses;

2. Developers should train experts from Customs Service IT Division to be able to provide maintenance of the NCTS P5 module in the future, on their own.

It is expected that the system will be developed and tested in a period of 24 months. If funding is available by the end of 2021 and some preparatory work is done in the meantime, Moldova can have an operational NTS (NCTS compatible) in 2023 and join the CTC in 2024 .The benefits of it are numerous both for Moldova and the EU, to mention just the much better possibilities to counter fraud and smuggling, as well trade facilitation.

Furthermore, a feasibility study on the implementation of the Customs Single Window will be commissioned, to inform about its practical implementation.

Output 1.3 National capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products increased

Domestic laboratory testing capacities (food safety, phytosanitary and veterinary/animal health) shall be expanded to fully implement the national Residue Monitoring Plans to ensure compliance of agro-food products with maximum permissible limit of pesticides and veterinary drugs. Strengthened national capacities will allow to extend the range of residues and sample quantities (number of samples) by accredited reference methods in the national laboratory, while reducing the time for obtaining the results of samples tested (compliance testing), but also a possibility to generate access for the food business operators to a modern laboratory network allowing performing self-controls and residue monitoring programs of suppliers and along value chains. Increased capacities of the National Food safety agency and its decentralised structures will not only contribute to national consumer safety and access to safe, healthy and nutritious foods, but prepare for the access of new markets for these products, including the authorisation to transit and export additional products to the European Union.

The project shall include procurement of the necessary equipment and training of staff involved (Laboratory and inspection). Selected activities to strengthen the linkage between the public authorities and private entities (incl. SMEs) will be integrated. Quality control procedures and validation practices of all residue-testing methods shall be aligned with the relevant requirements of the EU, including the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Outcome 2: Increased awareness and capacity of the stakeholders to implement a Transformative Green Agenda also delivering key green and eco-innovative projects as well as improved monitoring system for air quality

The Outcome 2 will be realised through the achievement of the following three outputs:

Output 2.1: The necessary enabling socio-economic framework for a Green transition with the view of a green transition for Moldova is in place

A Transformative Green Agenda aims at delivering the "enabling conditions" and build the foundation for a Green Deal in the Republic of Moldova to unleash long lasting and sustainable economic development. The Transformative Green Agenda, in line with the European Green Deal, will be framed around the following pillars:

I. Circular economy and Energy and Resource efficiency: with a specific focus on business models, practices and eco-technologies along the circular value chain so to deliver the enabling conditions in the areas of waste management, industrial and food production, processing and marketing, circular use of natural resources but also construction and buildings, mobility sectors and eco-innovation, also making sure that a gender dimension is duly considered. In particular, efficient management of natural resources, including water, and innovative ways of keeping raw and secondary materials into economically meaningful value chains could be strong driving forces for the Moldovan economy.

II. Climate Change: Addressing climate change with both mitigation and adaptation actions. The focus will be on Smart Regional and Territorial development and citizens empowering, including use of information and communications technology (ICT) for improved spatial planning and monitoring systems and possibly enhance data-driven provision of local public services, with specific focus on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

III. Eco-innovation and Bio-economy: with a specific focus on green energy, eco-innovation and the potential for bio-based economy/bio-technology, ideally defining a Strategy for Moldova. This might also include integrated and participatory land use and spatial planning to support informed decision making process, also taking in due consideration a gender dimension,

The enabling framework for Inclusive Green Economy, aimed by the Transformative Green Agenda, aims to ensuring coherence between economic and environment policies across relevant areas such as the business environment, finance and investments, employment. The Transformative Agenda will build in the existing gaps between sectoral or national policies and strategies, and work beyond to specific projects' pipeline, looking at strategic interventions, linked to regulatory measures and financial incentives.

The Transformative Agenda will serve, among others, to:

- Improve institutional coordination on economic, business and environmental policies.
- Increase awareness and capacities of policy makers and stakeholders on inclusive green economy.
- Increase stakeholders participation in green economy policy development
- Facilitate the transition towards sustainable production and consumption models
- Facilitate the setup of pipeline of green and eco-innovative projects (some of which will be implemented under the Output 3.2 below)

The Transformative Green Agenda for Moldova will create the umbrella for the several existing but yet scattered initiatives and develop the framework for a successful transition towards a greener economic development. Once in place, the enabling framework might allow also the introduction of further market-based incentives for reducing pollution while simultaneously generating funds as well as targeting subsidies and/or incentives for crowding in of private investments.

Output 2.2 Deployment of pilot green projects on energy and eco-innovation with the view of attracting private investments

Innovation is an essential element of a green transition and business opportunity for the private sector to increase their efficiency while reducing the environmental footprint. It is also underpinning the achievement of key objectives of the European Green Deal, such as zero pollution and carbon neutrality. In Moldova the energy sector has the greatest potential for mitigation policies, therefore implementation of sustainable energy solutions in various sector of the economy provides an opportunity not to only reduce the GHG emissions but to create sustainable partnerships empowered to deliver new energy technologies and systems. Waste is another top ranking GHG emitter and also a major polluter along with the industrial processes but which at the same time can generate new streams of secondary materials and new economic opportunities related to that.

The green energy and eco-innovative projects could be designed around the same pillars described under the Output 3.1, by way of example:

I. Low-carbon energy technologies and systems: with specific focus on renewables and their potential to address the energy security and poverty while contributing to climate change mitigation.

II. Circular economy: with specific focus on investing into redesigning of the current business models and practices of production and consumption as well as supporting the emerging business opportunities that eco-innovation and circular economy has to offer to be more resource efficient, cleaner and environment-friendly.

III. Environmental monitoring, also by using digital technologies, with a view to increasing efficiency and reducing pollution. As an example, the first pilot of the air quality monitoring stations will be synergistic with the twinning described below.

The pipeline of projects delivered under the Output 3.1 will help preparing a number of green eco-innovative projects aimed at delivering new and/or significantly improved solutions that optimizes the use of resource, avoid or reduce environmental harmful emissions and minimise material and energy flow. The green and eco-innovative projects will also support:

- adoption of leading-edge technologies in the key economic sectors to achieve a resource-efficient growth;
- private sector embankment onto the green transformative agenda and leverage of private and public funds channelled towards climate and environmental issues, making sure that a gender dimension is properly represented in this process;
- stimulate demand, investment and awareness on eco-innovative approaches among public and private sectors and of the environmental entrepreneurship with a specific focus on women-led businesses.

The green and eco-innovative projects will lay a foundation for further adoption of low-carbon, energy and resource efficient practices and pave the way for further investments in a future Moldovan Green Deal.

Output 2.3 Increased capacity of public institutions in the implementation of legislation under the Environment Chapter of the EU-MD Association Agreement (AA).

With regard to air quality and environmental legislation the necessary support will be provided to increase the capacity of relevant stakeholders as well as contribute to put in operation the first automatic stations, described under output 2.2 among the possible eco-innovative projects, as part of the network for monitoring air quality.

2.5. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities

Results	Results chain (): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	***To contribute to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economic development as well as pave the way to a fully-fledged Green Deal for the Republic of Moldova***	*1.Global Competitiveness ranking of the Republic of Moldova* *2.Global Competitiveness score of the Republic of Moldova* *3.Carbon productivity (tCO_2eq per unit of GDP)*	86 (2019) 56,7 (2019) 2.3 *tCO_2eq/GDP (2019)*	70 (2026) 61 (2026) <2.3 *tCO_2eq/GDP (2026)*	Global Competeveness Report of the World Economic Forum Report of the Republic of Moldova under the UNFCCC	*Not applicable*
Outcome 1	***1. Improved investment climate, trade opportunities, employability, and conducive business environment for SMEs***	*1.1 GDP growth* 1.2 Employment rate by sex (%, 15+)	-7,2% (2020) 44 % - men 37 % - women (2019)[9]	3,6 %(2026) 50% - men 40% - women (2026)	National Statistics	There is political will to improve business climate, implement the AA/DCFTA and continue support to the SME sector

[9] https://statbank.statistica.md/PxWeb/pxweb/ro/30%20Statistica%20sociala/30%20Statistica%20sociala__03%20FM__03%20MUN2019__MUN010/MUN110200.px/table/tableViewLayout1/?rxid=b2ff27d7-0b96-43c9-934b-42e1a2a9a774

Outcome 2	***2. Increased awareness and capacity of the stakeholders to implement a Transformative Green Agenda also delivering key green, energy and resource efficient and eco-innovative projects as well as improved monitoring system for air quality and the environment***	*2.1 Adoption of the National Energy and Climate public policy document* *2.2 Number of high level policy events on the green agenda organised by key stakeholders* *2.3 Volume of investments in the green economy*	No NECP (2021) 0(2021) 0(2021)	NECP is in place (2024) 3(2024) 30 m EUR (2024)	OECD GGKP Project reports	There is political will to embrace a green transformative agenda for the Republic of Moldova Relevant line ministries and institutions are cooperative and open to support the changes
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	*1.1 SMEs are supported in a gender-sensitive way, including to seize new opportunities in high growth potential areas such as agriculture, industrial production, greening of the economy and digital markets and to have better access to finance*	*1.1.1 Progress in the internationalisation dimension of the SME policy index* *1.1.2 Progress in the innovation policy dimension of the SME policy index* *1.1.3 Volume of grants provided to SMEs, by sex of SME owner* *1.1.4 Volume of new investments by SMEs supported with the EU grants, by sex of SME owner* *1.1.5 Share of grants beneficiaries which seized new opportunities in high growth potential areas, by sex of SME owner*	2,74 (2020) 2,99 (2020) 0(2020) 0(2020) 0(2020)	3,00 (2026) 3,3 (2026) 8 m EUR (2024) 15 m EUR (2026) 50% (2026)	SME Policy index report Project reports	Relevant national SMEs support Programmes are in place

		1.1.6 Total number of SMEs supported, by sex of SME owner, out of which women-led	0(2020)	310 (2026)		
		1.1.7 Number of SMEs which went digital with EU support, by sex of SMEs owner	0(2020)	At least 70(2026)		
		1.1.8 Progress in the access to finance dimension of the SMEs policy index, by sex of SMEs owner	3,61 (2020)	4,00 (2024)		

Output 2 related to Outcome 1	***1.2 Trade facilitation capacities of the Moldovan Customs Service improved and preparatory work for the implementation of the Customs Single Window (SW) is supported***	*1.2.1 National Transit System (NTS) compatible with the NCTS established*	NCTS compatible NTS not available (2020)	The NTS compatible with NCTS is implemented, tested and positively assessed (2023-2024)	DG TAXUD assessment of Moldova's readiness to join the Convention	Willingness of the Customs service to implement the NCTS compatible NTS
		1.2.2 Feasibility study on the implementation of the SW is drafted	Feasibility study not available in 2020	Feasibility study available by mid - 2023	Project report	Customs Service collaborates with the TA provided
		1.2.3 The Customs Management Information System ASYCUDA World is upgraded in line with the stipulations of the new Customs Code	The Customs Management Information System ASYCUDA World is not fully compatible with the new Customs code (mid-2023)	ASYCUDA upgraded in line with the stipulations of the new Customs code by end 2023	Project report	

Output 3 related to Outcome 1	***1.3 National capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products increased***	*1.3.1 Number of additional laboratory testing methods at National reference laboratories validated/accredited with EU support* *1.3.2 Percentage increase in test samples for selected residues* *1.3.3 Time reduction in obtaining test results for selected residues* *1.3.4 Number of laboratory staff and inspectors trained*	0(2020) 0(2020) 0(2020) 0(2020)	2 (2024) 20% (2024) 50% (2024) >30 (2024)	ANSA National residues monitoring plan; ANSA/Laboratories Annual report	Laboratory financial and human resources are increased accordingly to ensure testing capacities (esp. for newly accredited methods, equipment procured).
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	***2.1 The necessary enabling socio-economic framework***	*2.1.1 Number of meetings for policy dialogue under the*	0 (2021)	*30 (2024)*	Project Progress Reports	Key stakeholders are open to receive

	for a Green transition with the view of a green transition for Moldova is in place	*Stakeholder Platforms supported by the project* *2.1.2 Public policy document on green policies (e.g. Draft Strategy on Bio economy) produced by stakeholders in place* *2.1.3 Institutional multilevel coordination mechanism on economic, business and environmental policies established with project support and number of actors engaged in these mechanisms (disaggregated by sex)* *2.1.4 Inclusive Green Economy policy instruments developed* *2.1.5 Number of public officials, and other stakeholders equipped with skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary for the green transition, disaggregated by sex*		*3 (2024)* *12 (2024)* 3 (2024) *100 (2024)*		awareness and capacity There are no hidden obstacles against inter-institutional coronations mechanisms
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	***.2 Deployment of pilot green projects on energy and eco-innovation with the view of attracting private investments***	*2.2.1 Amount of additional private investments attracted on green and eco-innovative projects*	*0 (2021)*	*1.000.000 EUR (2024)* *5 (2024)*	Project Progress Reports	Key stakeholders are open to receive awareness and capacity

		2.2.2 Number of green and eco-innovative projects launched *2.2.3 Number of air quality automatic monitoring stations in place*		*4 (2024)*		There are no hidden obstacles against inter-institutional coronations mechanisms
Output 3 related to Outcome 2	***2.3 Increased capacity of public institutions in the implementation of legislation under the Environment Chapter of the EU-MD Association Agreement (AA)***	*2.3.1 Number of stakeholders trained by the project , disaggregated by sex*	*0 (2021)*	*50 (2024)*	Project Progress Reports	The Ministry for Environment is committed as well as the relevant local institutions

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

3.1. 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 measures[10].

3.1.1. Direct Management (Grants)

4.3.1.1 Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant will contribute to the achievement of Specific Objective (Outcome) 1: Improved investment climate, trade opportunities, employability and conducive business environment for SMEs and concretely of Output 1.1 - SMEs are supported in a gender-sensitive way, including to seize new opportunities in high growth potential areas such as agriculture, industrial production, greening of the economy and digital markets and to have better access to finance.

Grants may be awarded for the purpose of implementing activities contributing to the achievement of any of the cross-cutting specific objectives. Such grants may be considered as complementing and integrating any of the activities already under implementation under any of the components of the present action.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Targeted applicant will be a public body with proven experience and sufficient operational capacities to implement complex SMEs support Programmes.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Organisation for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development (ODA).

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- the nature of the action
- operational capacity
- value added

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because of the beneficiary's technical competence and specialisation, in particular its unique experience in implementing national SMEs support programmes and exceptional operational capacities (cf. Financial Regulation 2018, art. 195(f)).

4.3.1.2 Twinnings (Direct management)

(a) Purpose of the Twinning(s)

The Twinning will contribute to the achievement of Specific Objective (Outcome) 2 - Increased awareness and capacity of the stakeholders to implement a Transformative Green Agenda also delivering key green ,

[10] 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.

energy and resource efficient and eco-innovative projects as well as improved monitoring system for air quality and the environment and concretely of Output 2.3 - Increased capacity of public institutions in the implementation of legislation under the Environment Chapter of the EU-MD Association Agreement.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Applicants will be EU Member State administrations or their mandated bodies.

3.1.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to the achievement of Specific Objective 1 - Improved investment climate, trade opportunities, employability, and conducive business environment for SMEs and concretely of Output 1.2 Trade facilitation capacities of the Moldovan Customs service improved and preparatory work for the implementation of the Customs Single Window (SW) is supported.

3.1.3. Indirect Management with Pillar Assessed entities[11]

4.3.3.1 A part of this action will be implemented in indirect management with the international organisation UNCTAD. This implementation entails the contribution to the achievement of Specific Objective (Outcome) 1 - Improved investment climate, trade opportunities, employability, and conducive business environment for SMEs and concretely of Output 1.2 Trade facilitation capacities of the Moldovan Customs service improved and preparatory work for the implementation of the Customs Single Window (SW) is supported.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- the nature of the action which aims at achieving trade facilitation.
- operational capacity and experience required to implement the National Transit System software in line with the New Computerized Transit System.
- value added in terms of large previous experience in the Republic of Moldova and record of excellent collaboration with the Customs Service.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has been selected because the organisation meets the selection criteria. Output 1.2 will be achieved through the establishment of National Transit System (NTS) compatible with the NCTS. The NTS must be able to function with the existing Customs management system – ASYCUDA World developed by UNCTAD. Recently it was upgraded with UNCTAD's support which is a proof of their capacity to deal with complex IT systems. The development of the new system requires thorough knowledge of ASYCUDA World and full access to it, to which UNCTAD responds ideally. Besides, UNCTAD is implementing practically the same project in Georgia. Experience gained with it can provide a value added and namely shorter period of implementation and, potentially, lower costs. The established very good working relations between UNCTAD experts and the Customs service of the Republic of Moldova are an additional value added. UNCTAD is also the best positioned to introduce necessary changes in the ASYCUDA World in order to allow the use of the system under the adopted new Customs code.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

4.3.3.2 A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity(ies), which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

[11] The signature of a contribution agreement with the chosen entity/ies is subject to the completion of the necessary pillar assessments

- proven knowledge and expertise in the agricultural area,
- operational and technical capacities required to efficiently deliver trainings and supplies,
- value added,
- transparency,
- absence of conflict of interest

The implementation by this(ese) entity(ies) entails strengthening the national capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products (Output 1.3) and also the achievement of Specific Objective (Outcome 1) Improved investment climate, trade opportunities, employability and conducive business environment for SMEs.

The implementation entails provision of capacity building, training and coaching activities to local public authorities and entrepreneurs, communication and sensitisation activities, accreditation of laboratory methods and procurement of supplies.
If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

4.3.3.3 A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity(ies), which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- operational capacity, especially in terms of outreach and interacting with local stakeholders
- value added in terms of thematic expertise on circular economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation and low-carbon eco-innovation

The implementation by this(ese) entity(ies) entails improving the necessary enabling socio-economic framework for a Green transition with the view of a Green Deal for Moldova (Output 2.1) and the deployment of pilot green projects on energy and eco-innovation with the view of attracting private investments(Output 2.2). It will also contribute to the achievement of Specific Objective (Outcome 2) Increased awareness and capacity of the stakeholders to implement a Transformative Green Agenda also delivering key green, energy and resource efficient and eco-innovative projects as well as improved monitoring system for air quality and the environment.

3.1.4. Changes from indirect to direct management (and vice versa) mode due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

The preferred implementation modality under section 4.3.3.1 and 4.3.3.2 is indirect management with international organisations. In the event that no agreement can be reached with the related international organisation, direct management (procurement) will be used as per section 4.3.2

3.2. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

EN

3.3. Indicative Budget

Indicative budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Output 1.1 – Support for SMEs, composed of	
Grants (direct management) - section 4.3.1.1	N/A
Output 1.2 - Trade facilitation, composed of	
Procurement – section 4.3.2	N/A
Indirect management with UNCTAD - section 4.3.3.1	**1 200 000**
Output 1.3 - National capacities for residues monitoring in agri-food products, composed of	
Indirect management with an international organisation - section 4.3.3.2	**1 500 000**
Output 2.1 - Socio-economic framework for a green transition, composed of	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – section 4.3.3.4	**3 000 000**
Output 2.2 - Deployment of pilot green projects on energy and eco-innovation, composed of	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – section 4.3.3.4	**7 000 000**
Output 2.3 – Air quality and environment, composed of	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1.2	N/A
Total grants – section 4.3.1	**10 000 000**
Total procurement – section 4.3.2	**200 000**
Evaluation – section 5.2 **Audit** – section 5.3	**100 000**
Communication and visibility – section 6	N/A
Totals	**23 000 000**

3.4. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Moldova, represented by the relevant programme officers from the Delegation's Cooperation section, will be responsible for supervising the implementation of the projects.

The implementing entities will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the projects and mobilisation of all needed resources. The implementing entities will assist the project beneficiaries in establishing the Project Steering Committees to guide the project implementation. The Project Steering Committees will oversee and validate the overall direction and policy of the project (or other responsibilities to be specified). The implementing entity will report regularly to the Project Steering Committee, which will review the project progress and give guidance on key issues. The Project Steering Committees shall meet on a regular basis, indicatively once or twice a year. Ad-hoc meetings can be convened in case of need. The Project Steering

EN

Committee shall be made up of representatives of key stakeholders. As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the EU Delegation may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

4.1. 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, sex-disaggregated as relevant, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- Baselines setting: Baselines, targets and sources of data have been defined in the logframe. These will be reconfirmed or amended if necessary at the time of the contracting. If needed, additional studies will be commissioned.
- Data collection and reporting: Data collection and reporting will be under the responsibility of the implementing partners.
- Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Capacities: M&E capacities of the partner country are strengthened through a dedicated intervention. While this action doesn't foresee specific support on M&E, it will certainly require active involvement of the country M&E system.
- Active and meaningful participation of stakeholders: This action has been designed based on consultations with a large group of stakeholders, including the Government, the business sector and the civil society. It is in line with many of the priorities identified as a result of the consultation and with Government strategies and programmes. Its successful implementation will be meaningful contribution to a resilient, sustainable and inclusive economic development of the Republic of Moldova. It will also pave the way to a fully-fledged green transition. It is thus expected that a large number of stakeholders will benefit from it and will be actively supporting it. Due care will be taken to raise awareness about the action and its benefits to ensure active stakeholders' participation.

4.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation(s) will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes, in particular with respect to the level of achievement of the outcomes.

The final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that follow up actions may be launched under some of the priorities.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.
The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination 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.

4.3. Audit and Verifications

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 audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

5. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility is a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to advertise the European Union's support for their work to the relevant audiences.

To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the *Communication and Visibility Requirements* of 2018 (as updated by the communication and visibility requirements in force under the current programming period 2021 - 2027), notably with regard to the use of the EU emblem and the elaboration of a dedicated communication and visibility plan, to be completed for every action at the start of implementation.

These obligations apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries or entrusted entities. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

Communication and visibility measures may be funded from the amounts allocated to the action. For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.
Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.
Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and concerned EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before work starts. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication actions as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.

EN