



EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD
POLICY AND ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

EN

**Programming of the
European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020
Strategic Priorities and Multi-annual Indicative Programme
2018-2020
European Neighbourhood-wide measures**

Strategic Priorities and Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-2020

European Neighbourhood-wide measures

1. AIM

The aim of this paper is to present the priorities that will be implemented Neighbourhood-wide under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), including some limited adjustments relative to the priorities put forward in 2014, and identify a 2018-2020 Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) as a successor to the MIP for the 2014-2017 programming period. This document defines the priorities for EU support towards the region that are deemed to be best addressed with Neighbourhood-wide initiatives and provides an indicative level of funding¹ broken down by priority.

It draws on a Mid-term Review of the Neighbourhood-wide measures, conducted by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and European Commission services in the form of a desk review in 2017, which assessed whether the EU response is still appropriate in light of changing circumstances. The Mid-term Review concluded that the strategic priorities for the Neighbourhood-wide measures remain valid overall, provided a limited adjustment is made to align with recent developments in the policy framework, as set out below.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The political objectives of EU cooperation in the European Neighbourhood are set out in the ENI Regulation², Article 2: 'Union support shall focus on promoting enhanced political cooperation, deep and sustainable democracy, progressive economic integration and a strengthened partnership with societies between the Union and the partner countries and, in particular, the implementation of partnership and cooperation agreements, association agreements or other existing and future agreements, and jointly agreed action plans or equivalent documents.' In addition, Article 3 of the ENI Regulation sets out the appropriate policy framework for the use of ENI funds.

These articles provide a framework for all multi-country programmes including the Neighbourhood-wide ("ENI-wide") measures. Within the multi-country strategies, the ENI-wide programme serves as a framework for those actions which are deemed to be most effectively implemented across all countries of the Neighbourhood, in application of the subsidiarity principle. It supports initiatives which by their nature or size would be less effectively implemented through bilateral or regional programmes. As such, ENI-wide measures are separate from bilateral and regional programmes. They are however complementary to the bilateral and regional programmes by focussing on and directly targeting the entire Neighbourhood.

On the basis of the strategic priorities identified in this document, the Neighbourhood-wide 2018-2020 Multi-annual Indicative Programme presents the EU response in terms of technical co-operation and financial support.

¹ Based on figures set out on 14/04/2014 for the Financial Programming 2014-2020.

² Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, 11 March 2014.

3. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF MULTI-COUNTRY COOPERATION

Neighbourhood-wide measures will be implemented across the entire Neighbourhood region, and aim to support partner countries' reform efforts, as well as respond to their needs.

The measures should comply with the following four prerequisites: added value, comparative advantage of EU intervention, economies of scale and subsidiarity³.

The specific added value of the Neighbourhood-wide measures is that they should allow the EU to:

- deploy the same instrument in all partner countries, while maintaining the possibility to adapt the individual interventions to the particular needs they aim to address, in the spirit of the principle of differentiation;
- achieve economies of scale and ensure the most efficient delivery;
- advance priorities that are better implemented through Neighbourhood-wide measures rather than through regional or bilateral initiatives.

In addition to the ENI-wide measures and other ENI programmes, partner countries are also eligible for support under a number of other EU instruments that are global in their nature and not specifically tied to the geographical region of the European Neighbourhood.⁴

4. EVALUATION OF PAST AND ONGOING CO-OPERATION, INCLUDING LESSONS LEARNT

The Mid-term Review mentioned above assessed that the strategic objectives of the ENI-wide programme remain broadly appropriate to address challenges in the region, provided a limited adjustment is made to align with evolutions in the EU policy framework. In particular, the review found that a limited revision is due for one strategic objective, following developments in EU migration policy and the operationalisation of the European External Investment Plan, as described in sections 5 and 6 below.

As regards the implementation of the ENI-wide programme, the desk review concluded that results and progress since 2014 have generally been satisfactory. A short summary can be found below.

Support to Erasmus+ yielded significant benefits in terms of higher education reforms and in promoting mutual understanding, dissemination of experience and people-to-people contacts between the EU and the Neighbourhood countries. The budget allocated for the period 2014

³ Subsidiarity in this context means that priorities will not be addressed European Neighbourhood-wide if they are best addressed at regional level (East and South) and will not be addressed at regional level if they are best addressed at country level.

⁴ These include notably: the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), EU Humanitarian aid, CFSP measures and CSDP missions and operations, Migration Partnership Compacts, the Partnership Instrument (PI), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Co-operation, Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA), Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI) thematic programmes, loans from the European Investment Bank (EIB), as well as external actions under EU internal programmes e.g. research and innovation (Horizon 2020), energy, transport, education and youth, and culture (Creative Europe).

to 2017 amounted to EUR 400 million.⁵ The Erasmus+ component of the Neighbourhood-wide measures consists of Key Action 1 – Learning Mobility (split into degree mobility and credit mobility) and Key Action 2 – capacity building. Key Action 1 supports the mobility of students and staff between Europe and Neighbourhood countries whereas Key Action 2 is designed to assist Neighbourhood countries in modernising higher education institutions. During 2014-2017, following four calls for proposals regarding degree mobility, 314 Master students from the Southern Neighbourhood and 247 from the Eastern Neighbourhood received a scholarship in order to study for an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree. As regards the three calls for credit mobility, 1035 projects for the Southern Neighbourhood have been selected, facilitating the mobility of 15 200 students and staff for partner countries and 7200 from the EU. For the Eastern Neighbourhood, 1062 projects were selected, financing the mobility of 11 900 students and staff from partner countries and 5100 from the EU. For Russia, 757 projects were selected, financing the mobility of 6370 students and staff from Russia and 4500 from the EU. Following three calls for proposals for capacity building, 112 projects involving Southern Neighbourhood countries, 64 projects for Eastern Neighbourhood countries and 40 projects involving Russia were selected. Moreover, a network of National Erasmus+ Offices has been supported to effectively promote and monitor Erasmus+ in ENP countries and Russia. National Erasmus+ Offices coordinate as well the activities of the "Higher Education Reform Experts" (HEREs) which advance higher education reforms in the countries in line with European developments, through training, promotion and consulting.

The Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF) has demonstrated its ability to leverage funds from European Financial Institutions and other co-investors and a strong potential to contribute to the objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy. As set out in 2014 the financing provided to the NIF from the EU budget over the period 2014-2017 amounted to EUR 595.1 million. As the Facility has become a more established alternative to other more classical types of support, funding was added from other envelopes, adding EUR 664.4 million, which led to a total allocation during this period of EUR 1259.5 million. Between 2014 and 2017, the NIF has supported 59 projects and 13 project extensions for a total of EUR 1225 million, joined by an expected co-financing from European financial institutions and from other investors (private promoters, private banks, partner countries) of more than EUR 14 billion. This would leverage the NIF's contribution more than 12 times. The recommendations of the mid-term evaluation performed in 2013 and of the recent blending evaluation finalised in 2016, both very supportive of the NIF, were assessed and will be reflected in future strategic guidance.

The TAIEX tool (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) and SIGMA initiative (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) have been instrumental in complementing support for partner countries for promoting good governance and for regulatory approximation with the EU, contributing to a greater integration with the EU. The total budget allocated for the period 2014-2017 amounted to EUR 38.4 million. From 2014 to 2017, about 1360 projects were implemented through TAIEX in the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, with the mobilisation of 3231 experts from the Member States who provided their expertise to 29 742 participants. SIGMA was used to assess the state of play of national administrations against the principles of public administration in Moldova, Ukraine, Jordan and Georgia and a similar exercise is starting in Armenia. SIGMA also supported the

⁵ EEAS and COM Joint Staff Working Document: Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Strategic Priorities 2014-2020 and Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2017 European 4 Neighbourhood-wide measures

elaboration of Public Administration Reform (PAR) strategic frameworks in Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine and delivered hands-on assistance to support implementation of PAR in line with country priorities in all Neighbourhood partners. In addition, the partner countries have started to participate in the work of the EU's sectoral agencies including with the support of the previous Inter-Regional Programme 2007-2013.

During 2014-2017, the incentive-based approach has been used to increase support for ongoing activities in countries assessed as having made the greatest progress in building deep and sustainable democracy and the implementation of agreed reform objectives contributing to that goal. This approach has generally been successful in supporting reforms in the fields of good governance and strengthening institutions, democracy, the rule of law and human rights, where there was a commitment to such reforms.

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE EU RESPONSE IN 2018-2020

5.1. Policy framework

The specific policy framework for the European Neighbourhood-wide measures concerns in particular the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which was reviewed in November 2015⁶. The ENP Review put forward a new approach for building more effective partnerships between the EU and its neighbours, based on the key principles of differentiation and greater mutual ownership, and with a priority of supporting stabilisation. This is to be achieved by developing targeted actions in four refocused priorities: (i) good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights; (ii) economic development for stabilisation; (iii) security; and (iv) migration and mobility. The ENP Review also stressed the need for more effective delivery and greater flexibility in the use of the EU's financial assistance.

The ENP Review is well placed to help attain the objectives set out by the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy⁷ as regards its surrounding regions, in particular the need to enhance the resilience of states and societies in the Neighbourhood. The reviewed ENP also supports the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which provide a broader political framework in which to engage with partners.

The EU has put in place a policy framework on migration, which encompasses efforts to reduce irregular migration, to promote legal migration and mobility, to maximise the development impact of migration, and to effectively manage borders. In its Communication on the New Partnership Framework with third countries adopted in June 2016 under the European Agenda on Migration⁸, the EU declared this a priority and stepped up the cooperation on migration.

In addition, the new European External Investment Plan (EIP) will support investment in the Neighbourhood (and Africa). Its goal is to strengthen partnerships, promote a new model of

⁶ Joint Communication on the ENP Review (JOIN(2015) 50 final), adopted on 18 November 2015, welcomed by the Council Conclusions of 14 December 2015.

⁷ Presented to the European Council on 28 June 2016.

⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council and the European Investment Bank on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the 5 European Agenda on Migration, COM(2016) 385, 7.6.2016.

participation of the private sector in funding large investments of public interest in the region and to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals across the Neighbourhood and Africa, thus addressing root causes of migration.

Finally, in line with the ENP Review's principles of differentiation and mutual ownership, new frameworks for bilateral engagement with partner countries have been concluded or are being negotiated, in the form of Partnership Priorities or equivalent documents such as updated Association Agendas. At regional level, cooperation with the Eastern Neighbourhood is primarily taken forward under the auspices of the Eastern Partnership, with the recent Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels in November 2017 and its priorities set under "20 deliverables for 2020"⁹ as well as other regional initiatives¹⁰ such as the Black Sea Synergy, and the Sofia Declaration on sustainable resource management. For the Southern Neighbourhood, the Union for the Mediterranean, dialogue with the League of Arab States, and the Western Mediterranean Forum (5+5 Dialogue), among others¹¹, offer important platforms for cooperation. Enhancing people-to-people contacts between the European Union and Russia was endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Council in March 2016 as one of the five guiding principles of cooperation with the Russian Federation.

Articles 2 and 3 of the ENI Regulation also describe the EU objectives and policy framework that will guide the implementation of the European Neighbourhood-wide measures. The Neighbourhood is frequently discussed in Foreign Affairs Council meetings, including informal meetings.

5.2. Strategic Priorities

The section below sets out three strategic priorities that will be pursued through the Neighbourhood-wide programme and provides for the incentive-based approach. These priorities are in line with the strategic objectives set out in the EU Global Strategy, the ENP Review, Partnership Priorities and equivalent documents agreed with individual partner countries, ENI regional and bilateral strategies, and the Mid-term Review of the ENI-wide measures. Cross-cutting issues including good governance, security, migration, human rights, gender equality, climate change and the environment will be addressed and mainstreamed in these activities, where relevant.

Priority 1: Building a partnership for sustainable and inclusive economic development and integration: contribution to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) (61%)

This priority will specifically support investments in: (i) establishing better and more sustainable energy and transport interconnections; (ii) addressing climate change, as well as threats to the environment more broadly¹²; and (iii) promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including through support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs).

⁹ Joint Declaration of the Eastern Partnership Summit (Brussels, 24 November 2017), Council (2017) 14821/17, 24 November 2017.

¹⁰ Including also the Macro Regional Strategies, such as the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

¹¹ This includes also the cooperation framework set out in the Malta "MedFish4Ever" Declaration (Malta, 30 March 2017).

¹² This includes taking advantage of opportunities offered through a transition to a circular economy.

As concluded following the Mid-term Review of the Neighbourhood-wide measures, inclusive economic development should also contribute to sustainable job creation and to addressing root causes of migration, in line with the policy framework set out above and with the approach put forward in the context of the European External Investment Plan (EIP).

Priority 2: Investing in human development: contribution to Erasmus+ (35%)

This priority will specifically support modernisation and the opening up of higher education through mobility, academic cooperation and capacity building actions.

Priority 3: Building institutional capacities for good governance (4%)

This priority will specifically support enhancing public governance systems in accordance with the Principles of Public Administration, as well as the approximation of the regulatory framework of partner countries to EU norms, standards and commitments.

Incentive-based approach

The ENI Regulation provides for the use of multi-country 'umbrella programmes' to supplement the financial allocations to selected partner countries, on the basis of their progress towards deep and sustainable democracy and the implementation of agreed reform objectives contributing to that goal.

6. EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD-WIDE MULTI-ANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME (MIP) 2018-2020

The indicative allocation as set out in 2014 for 2014-2020 is EUR 3084 million – 3455 million of which up to EUR 1407 million for umbrella support.¹³

The indicative allocation for the programming period 2018-2020 is EUR 1361.4 million to EUR 1521.2 million of which up to EUR 642.7 million for umbrella support. Indicative priorities for support are as follows.

6.1 Building a partnership for sustainable and inclusive economic development and integration: contribution to the NIP (61%)

The European Neighbourhood-wide programme will contribute to the funding of the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)¹⁴, the key pillar of the European External Investment Plan. The EFSD¹⁵ will consist of a new EFSD guarantee fund to complement the existing regional blending platforms for the Neighbourhood and for Africa.

¹³ With reference to the 2014-2017 European Neighbourhood-wide measures, C(2014)5196.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 September 2017 establishing the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund.

¹⁵ The aim of the EFSD is to support investments in the Neighbourhood and in Africa as a means to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, in particular poverty eradication, as well as commitments under the ENP Review (and relevant EU Africa policies). It also addresses specific socio-economic root causes of migration, including irregular migration, and contributes to the sustainable 7 reintegration of migrants returning to their countries of origin, and strengthening transit and host communities.

Specifically, the Neighbourhood Investment Facility has been transformed into the Neighbourhood Investment Platform, which will retain its existing objectives and procedures, and which will continue to be funded by the Neighbourhood-wide programme. The NIP is a blending instrument used to leverage loans and risk capital from eligible counterparts and the private sector by means of providing EU subsidies (grants) or co-financing through financial instruments to large investment projects. The NIP will support projects prepared by the eligible counterparts in the Neighbourhood provided these are in line with at least one of the three strategic objectives below¹⁶. In addition, special attention will be given to investments leading to sustainable job creation and contributing to addressing root causes of migration.

As the implementation of the EIP unfolds in the next years, its integrated three-pillar approach and its overarching objectives are likely to affect the functioning and the objectives of the NIP. However, the scale of this impact remains to be seen. In addition, it may warrant the use of additional funding in order to support the full-scale implementation of the EIP in the future.

Strategic objective 1: *establishing better and more sustainable energy and transport interconnections* (between the EU and neighbouring countries and between the neighbouring countries themselves).¹⁷ In the energy sector this includes improving energy efficiency and demand management, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, strengthening energy security through diversification of energy sources and routes, energy market integration, and supporting investments related to the implementation of EU agreements, including Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs).

Strategic objective 2: *addressing climate change, as well as threats to the environment more broadly*.¹⁸

Strategic objective 3: *promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises, to the social sector, including human capital development, and to municipal infrastructure development*. Investments related to the implementation of EU agreements, including DCFTAs will also contribute to this objective.

The strategic orientations of the NIF will be fully integrated in the new NIP and in the design and development of the thematic investment windows for the EFSD guarantee.

Strategic objectives of the NIP will help to implement agreements and jointly agreed documents between the EU and partner countries under the ENP, such as Partnership Priorities or equivalent documents such as updated Association Agendas.

Priority will be given to projects that contribute to achieving EU policy objectives in the region. These are described inter alia in the ENP Review, EU Council Conclusions,

¹⁶ These strategic objectives are based on the EFSD Strategic orientations and priorities.

¹⁷ This includes completing the missing links of the south-south Trans-Mediterranean Network for Transport (TMN-T) in line with the EU TEN-T extension as foreseen in the UfM Regional Transport Action Plan 2014-2020.

¹⁸ Measures contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation are supported in line with the Paris Agreement and the related Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Reducing pollution, addressing the sustainable use of water and promoting sustainable production and consumption in favour of a green and circular economy are equally fundamental.

frameworks for bilateral engagement such as Partnership Priorities (or equivalent documents like Association Agendas) and EU agreements (notably AAs/DCFTAs). The priorities set out in the relevant programming documents, including the ENI regional and bilateral programming documents for the Neighbourhood, will be taken into account to ensure full coherence. In the Southern Neighbourhood, commitments in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean will be reflected. In the Eastern Neighbourhood, priorities will take into account objectives set in the 2017 Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit declaration and the "20 deliverables for 2020", and subsequently by Eastern Partnership platforms and panels, as well as policy declarations (such as the Sofia Declaration on sustainable resource management).

The NIP, as part of the EIP, should be seen as a modality for enhancing policy dialogue and implementing assistance to partner countries. The EIP through its second and third pillars will contribute respectively to providing technical assistance in partner countries and improving the investment climate through dialogue and cooperation.

Expected results: Higher level of investments in infrastructure¹⁹ and productive sectors; increased rates of energy efficiency and renewable energy; job creation and private sector development; achievement of EU foreign policy objectives including ENP objectives (e.g. integration into the EU's internal market); advancement of free trade areas; poverty reduction, climate action and sustainable economic, social and environmental development²⁰, thereby contributing to addressing root causes of migration.

The main indicators for measuring the aforementioned results are contained in the framework attached in Annex 2.

This priority will contribute to the implementation of SDGs 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation), 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts).

For the period 2018-2020, the EU has indicatively earmarked EUR 489.2 million for the NIP, which may be complemented by funds from ENI regional and/or bilateral programmes, and by direct contributions from Member States to the NIP trust fund, which is managed by the European Investment Bank.

6.2 Investing in human development: contribution to Erasmus+ (35%)

Education builds human development, which translates into economic growth. Through its effect on political engagement, education can create the building blocks for more inclusive institutions and societies.

The Neighbourhood-wide programme will promote modernisation and opening up of higher

¹⁹ Including greater implementation of the extended Trans-European Transport Network and of the Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network.

²⁰ Including sustainable development of natural resources.

education in the Neighbourhood region and in the Russian Federation through the Erasmus+²¹ Programme.

Specific objective 1: *Improve the skills and competences of students and staff, and the employability of graduates through mobility.*

Expected results: Improved and diversified curricula that incorporate studies abroad; enhanced skills and improved learning performance for students; improved competences of staff in their field of expertise and understanding of education policies, practices and systems; increased employability and career prospects for the selected students; reinforced institutional capacities of selected higher education institutions.

Specific objective 2: *Support the modernisation, internationalisation and accessibility of higher education in the partner countries.*

Expected results: Improved quality of higher education and enhanced relevance of higher education programmes for the labour markets and the society; improved level of competences and skills in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through the development of new and innovative education programmes; enhanced management as well as the internationalisation of HEIs; regional integration and cooperation across different countries through joint initiatives, sharing of good practices and cooperation.

The main indicators for measuring the aforementioned results for specific objectives 1 and 2 are contained in the framework attached in Annex 2.

The EU will look at possible ways to increase the impact on the education sector of partner countries and improve the linkages with the EU's bilateral assistance, strengthened policy dialogue, improved dissemination of project results to ensure a better mainstreaming of project results, in particular for the capacity building schemes.

This priority will contribute to the implementation of SDGs 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) and 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all).

The ENI contribution to Erasmus+ for 2018-2020 is indicatively set at EUR 277.5 million²², of which indicatively EUR 37.9 million will be allocated to activities with the Russian Federation. A detailed description of the Erasmus+ programme with regard to the Neighbourhood and the Russian Federation is included in Annex 1.

6.3 Building institutional capacities for good governance (4%)

The promotion of good governance, the rule of law and regulatory approximation are core components of EU political association and economic integration with Neighbourhood partner countries, as set out in frameworks for bilateral engagement such as Partnership Priorities or equivalent documents, as well as agreements such as AAs/DCFTAs.

²¹ To be read out as 'Erasmus Plus' - regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport.

²² EUR 25 million have been added to the Financial Programming in the period 2017-2020.

Promotion of good governance and strengthening resilience are specific objectives of Union support that can be promoted through building capacity in partner countries' public administration. The dialogue on mobility (including, where applicable, the prospect of visa liberalisation) may also require a similar approximation effort.

The EU has several tools that can provide targeted capacity building in support of improving public governance systems and in support of the rule of law and regulatory approximation (including standardisation) – which are available for those countries that wish to make use of them (respecting the principle of ownership). While most of this assistance is deployed and financed under ENI bilateral and regional programmes, multi-country programmes such as the TAIEX tool and the SIGMA Programme or other similar future multi-country support to good governance, will continue to operate on the basis of pooled resources at Neighbourhood-wide level, made available principally upon demand generated by expression of interest from Neighbourhood partner countries.

TAIEX will continue to provide support, including by conducting verification missions to confirm the proper implementation of approximated legislation. Regulatory convergence and proper implementation are conditions for granting market access in line with AAs/DCFTAs. As regards the approximation of legislation, funding under this priority may also support monitoring and assessment of the implementation of approximation to EU norms, standards and commitments.

According to the concrete needs of each partner country, SIGMA will continue to provide reform-driven assistance to enhance professionalism of the civil service, to improve policy development systems, to enhance effectiveness of the public administration and to improve public finance management, thus contributing to ensuring more implementable and financially sustainable reforms. In line with the new budget support guidelines, SIGMA will also contribute to strengthening national monitoring and reporting systems, thus enhancing accountability and ownership of reforms.

These horizontal tools are intended to address problems which are common to the overall Neighbourhood context through assistance which is tailored to specific country needs. In this way, these tools allow for greater consistency of the EU approach to good governance and EU approximation. They could also support the production of guidance on good practices.

To make the best use of the tools assisting in improving public governance systems, it is necessary to create synergies with regional activities such as the Eastern Partnership Panel on Governance & Public Administration Reform in the Eastern Neighbourhood, and any other relevant platforms or initiatives in the South and covered in ENI bilateral programmes, with a view to achieving results in relevant sectors across the entire Neighbourhood region. Synergies with regional initiatives involving countries beyond the Neighbourhood will also be sought, where relevant.

The combined funding for TAIEX and SIGMA in 2018-2020 is indicatively EUR 32 million.

Expected results: Improved public administration capacity and greater approximation of partner countries' regulatory frameworks to those of the EU will contribute to build more effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, to sustainable development of partner countries as well as to approximation with the EU.

The main indicators for measuring the aforementioned results are contained in the framework attached in Annex 2.

This priority will contribute to the implementation of SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

6.4 Incentive-based approach ("umbrella programmes")

The financial allocations of selected partner countries will be supplemented on the basis of these countries' progress towards deep and sustainable democracy and the implementation of agreed reform objectives contributing to that goal, as set out in Article 4 of the ENI regulation. An indicative budget of EUR 642.7 million is earmarked for the multi-country "umbrella programmes" over the period 2018-2020. Additional allocations granted through this mechanism will be allocated on a yearly basis, and will be used in line with the co-operation priorities of the partner country concerned.

Expected results: Contributing to promoting progress and reforms in the areas of deep and sustainable democracy and respect for human rights.

7. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The successful implementation of these measures will require the necessary level of commitment by partner countries, coupled with support by EU institutions, EU Member States, European Financial Institutions, academic institutions both in the EU and in partner countries, and by other relevant stakeholders.

Such commitments were mostly present in supported sectors during the implementation of the Neighbourhood-wide measures in the period 2014-2016. It is assumed that commitments in the coming programming period will continue, and therefore the risk associated with this is assessed as low. The EU will also maintain policy dialogue with partner country authorities and other stakeholders mentioned above so as to mitigate the risk.

Other risks include a further deterioration of the political situation and the fragile security environment in the Neighbourhood, as well as a degradation of the region's economic situation. These risks could complicate the implementation of ENI-wide measures, and will therefore be closely monitored by the EU. They can be partly mitigated by EU policy efforts contributing to the stability and resilience of the region by means of diplomatic, technical and financial resources (including through the use of the incentive-based mechanism), and by a risk-sensitive prioritisation of individual projects and investments.

Attachment: Indicative allocation Neighbourhood-wide measures programming period 2018-2020

<i>Indicative allocation as set in 2014 for 2014-2020</i>	€3,084,000,000 – €3,455,000,000 of which up to €1,407,000,000 for Umbrella support
<i>Indicative allocation for the 2nd period (2018-20)</i>	€1,361,440,000 – €1,521,160,000 of which up to €642,700,000 for Umbrella support
<i>Breakdown for 2018-2020 – Indicative allocation for the 2nd period (2018-20)</i>	
Umbrella programmes	€642,700,000
<i>Indicative allocation for the 2nd period (2018-20) - Priority 1, 2 and 3</i>	€718,740,000– €878,460,000
Priority 1: Building a partnership for sustainable and inclusive economic development and integration: contribution to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP)	61%
Priority 2: Investing in human development: contribution to Erasmus+	35%
Priority 3: Building institutional capacities for good governance	4%

Annex 1

Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-2020 for Priority 2 of European Neighbourhood-wide measures

Investing in human development: contribution to Erasmus+

(ENI Funds allocated to the Erasmus+ Programme)

0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human resource development, people-to-people contacts, mobility and a **strengthened engagement in the area of education** have become important elements in the EU's external relations and assistance. In order to achieve the aims of the **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)** - to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the EU's values as enshrined in Article 8 of the Treaty on European Union - a strong and educated human capital is a crucial factor. The strengthening of people-to-people links is also a key principle of the EU's policy towards the Russian Federation.

In the field of higher education, the external dimension of Erasmus+ aims to support partner countries to address the challenges facing their institutions and systems, including those of quality, relevance, equal access, planning, delivery, management, governance and internationalisation by offering a balanced mix of actions addressing individuals, institutions and higher education systems. Objectives and principles underlying development cooperation such as national ownership, social cohesion, equity and proper geographical balance and diversity have to be ensured.

Through its two types of mobility actions ("credit" and "degree" mobility), **Erasmus+** contributes to the personal development and employability of students and staff but also has a structured and sustainable impact on universities.

"Credit mobility" prompts universities to develop better services to send and receive foreign students and staff, compare and upgrade curricula, improve teaching and strengthen their institutional leadership and management to gain international visibility. This type of mobility is a vector of internationalisation and is therefore good for the quality of higher education and represents an important catalyst in the reform of higher education systems. Universities participating in Erasmus+ will have an opportunity to open up to new influences and new ways of thinking and functioning. Doing a full degree in Europe contributes to enhance students' capacities and employability.

The capacity building in higher education action supports joint projects based on multilateral partnerships between Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to fund curriculum development and modernisation, such as new joint/double degrees, or diploma, modern teaching and learning practices, upgrading of facilities and equipment, improving university governance and creating better links between higher education and the world of work. This action also finances structural projects targeting national systems, through the involvement of national authorities, alongside universities. Both joint and structural projects aim to enhance 14

sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth in partner countries. Erasmus + provides opportunities for economically and socially disadvantaged individuals as well as for students coming from regions and countries in conflict.

In 2014 the budget for Erasmus+ under the ENI instrument was **indicatively** set at **EUR 252.5 million** for the period 2018-2020, out of which indicatively **EUR 37.9 million** was earmarked for the Russian Federation. In 2017 it was decided to increase the budget with EUR 25 million to bring the **total 2018-2020 budget to EUR 277.5 million. Out of the additional EUR 25 million, EUR 16.7 million is earmarked for ENI South and EUR 8.3 million for ENI East.**

1. THE OVERALL LINES OF THE EU SUPPORT TO ERASMUS+ UNDER ENI INSTRUMENT

1.1 RATIONALE

The European Union and its partners have long recognised the importance of higher education for economic and social development. The Bologna Process and the EU Agenda for the modernisation of higher education have provided a shared framework for national reforms. This has been supplemented at international level by policy dialogues (exchanges of best practice in higher education policies), at regional level and with strategic partner countries under international higher education programmes.

Effective higher education systems are among the basic prerequisites for social and economic development. They are a powerful lever for achieving internationally agreed development goals and act as catalysts in the construction of sustainable systems of knowledge and innovation in the partner countries. Universities also educate the leaders of tomorrow. Through teaching, research and mentoring, they make crucial contributions towards strengthening all levels of the educational system.

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport for the period 2014-2020. The Erasmus+ Programme is designed to support Programme Countries' efforts to efficiently use the potential of Europe's talent and social assets in a lifelong learning perspective, linking support to formal, non-formal and informal learning throughout the education, training and youth fields. The Programme also enhances the opportunities for cooperation and mobility with partner countries, especially Neighbouring partner countries, notably in the fields of higher education and youth.

The Erasmus+ programme builds on a demand-driven bottom up approach encouraging ownership by partner country institutions. In order to participate in the programme, institutions must comply with a number of quality requirements embedded in the Erasmus Higher Education Charter and participate in calls for proposals. Erasmus+ is based on cooperation between academic peers. As demonstrated through previous programmes, this type of cooperation often leads to long lasting academic exchanges, staff and student mobility and the development of joint degrees and joint research projects, even after the end of EU funding.

Capacity building in higher education projects aims to have a substantial impact on the participating higher education institutions, on the development and modernisation of higher education, to assist them in opening up to society at large, to the labour market and the wider world and to support their capacity for international cooperation. Projects are expected to

produce multiplier effects outside the participating organisations at local/regional/national or international level.

Under Erasmus+, mobility takes place in the framework of institutional agreements, which ensure a high level of quality both in terms of preparation, mentoring and recognition of the outcomes for the individuals by the institutions involved. Credit and degree mobility builds up the organisations' capacity to manage international cooperation. The simple process of sending partner country students to the EU within an inter-institutional cooperation agreement helps to further the reflection on the recognition of credits initially between universities and ultimately with the world of work. Mobility promotes the design of internationalisation strategies and has a positive impact on systems (notably through the widespread use of transparency and recognition tools). It can be an important catalyst in the reform of higher education systems.

It is expected that graduates having upgraded their skills through Erasmus+ will contribute to change processes in their countries, applying their new competencies in their professions and provide the foundation for a lasting effect.

1.2 FIRST RESULTS OF THE 2014-2017 PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

The external dimension of Erasmus+ builds on the achievements of these previous higher education programmes (Erasmus Mundus and Tempus) and support partner countries in meeting the challenges in their higher education systems via a mobility component (Key Action 1) and through the funding of capacity building aimed at modernizing higher education institutions and systems in the partner countries (Key Action 2).

In spite of initial delays with the implementation of international components of the Erasmus+ programme, the results of four calls for proposals for the degree mobility action and three calls for the credit mobility and capacity building actions are available.

Key Action 1

Degree mobility

Masters students may apply for scholarships directly to the programme(s) of their choice. They study in at least two of the participating institutions and are awarded a joint or double/multiple degree at the end of their studies. EU-funded scholarships cover the participation costs, travel to Europe, a living allowance and insurance.

So far a total of 314 scholarships were awarded under the Erasmus+ programme to Master students from the South Mediterranean region to follow an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, 149 of which through the ENI-wide Heading 4 additional funding. 247 scholarships were awarded to Master students from the Eastern Partnership region to follow an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree, 78 of which through the ENI-wide Heading 4 additional funding. Between 2014 and 2017, 142 Erasmus Mundus scholarships were awarded to Russian nationals (none through the ENI-wide Heading 4).

Credit mobility

1035 mobility projects linking European and Southern Mediterranean countries were selected under the 2015, 2016 and 2017 calls for proposals for a global amount of EUR 78 million. The mobility of around 22 400 students and staff (15 200 from South Med countries, and 7200 from Europe) are being financed.

1062 bilateral mobility projects linking European and Eastern Partnership countries were selected under the 2015, 2016 and 2017 calls for proposals for a global amount of EUR 57 million. The mobility of around 17 000 students and staff (11 900 from Eastern Partnership countries, and 5100 from Europe) are being financed.

757 mobility projects linking European countries and Russia were selected under the 2015, 2016 and 2017 calls for proposals for a global amount of EUR 36.7 million. The mobility of around 10 800 students and staff (6370 from Russia and 4430 from Europe) is being financed.

Key Action 2

Under the 2015, 2016 and 2017 call for proposals:

- 112 capacity building projects involving Southern Mediterranean countries were selected, 35 of them coordinated in the region;
- 64 capacity building projects involving Eastern Partnership countries were selected, 13 of them coordinated in the region; the projects included 320 participations of institutions from the region (mainly universities);
- Russian institutions take part in 40 international capacity building projects, involving more than 150 participations of higher education institutions.

1.3 ERASMUS+: OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS, INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

The overall objective of the programme's external dimension is to promote people to people contacts, intercultural awareness and understanding, develop capacity and contribute to modernising higher education in partner countries.

The Erasmus+ programme aims to attain the following strategic objectives in the ENP region and Russia in the field of higher education:

- Improve the skills and competences of students and staff, and the employability of graduates
- Support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in the partner countries

Specific objective 1: Improve the skills and competences of students and staff, and the employability of graduates through mobility

The main expected results to be achieved are:

1. Improved and diversified degrees that incorporate studies abroad
2. Enhanced skills and improved learning performance for students
3. Improved competences of staff in their field of expertise and understanding of education policies, practices and systems
4. Improved level of competences and skills of Master graduates
5. Increased employability and career prospects for students
6. Reinforced institutional capacities of higher education institutions
7. Significant participation of students and staff from the least developed regions of partner countries

Indicators:

- 1.1. Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved and/or associated in Joint Master degrees
- 1.2. Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved in credit mobility
- 1.3. Number of students (gender disaggregated) with credits (mobility) recognized as part of their home degrees
- 1.4. Average duration of mobility actions (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, study field, action, gender, and students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background)
- 2.1. Number of graduates (gender disaggregated) who have received a joint Master degree with Erasmus+ support
- 3.1. Number of partner country staff (gender disaggregated) trained through the mobility actions
- 3.2. Evidence of Career advancement for staff (gender disaggregated) participating in Erasmus+ (e.g. number of promotions), monitored in the framework of the mid-term evaluation
- 4.1. Number of drop outs as a share of the total number of students having received a scholarship for joint Master degrees (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, sector, action, gender, students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socioeconomic background)
- 5.1. Returnee rate of mobile students (gender disaggregated) back to sending country (as ¹⁸

reported on a sample basis through a graduate impact survey)

- 5.2. Employability rate (gender disaggregated) of Erasmus+ students (as reported on a sample basis through a graduate impact survey)
- 6.1. Number of inter-institutional agreements signed by partner country institutions and participating in Erasmus+
- 7.1. Number of students and number of staff participating in the Erasmus programme (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, study field, action, gender, students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background). This objective is implemented by supporting credit mobility and degree mobility/joint degrees.

Key Action 1 under Erasmus+ programme - Credit mobility: short-term credit mobility of students and staff between Erasmus+ Programme and partner countries

The external dimension of Erasmus+ funds **credit mobility** i.e. student mobility -from Bachelor to Doctoral level- between 3 and 12 months to obtain credits in a host institution, which are then recognised by the partner country home institution. Traineeships will be introduced as of the third year of operation of the programme. The external dimension of Erasmus+ will also fund staff mobility in both directions which is essential as university staff are expected to be agents of change in their home institutions.

The credit mobility action will be managed by the network of National Agencies located in Erasmus+ 'Programme countries'.

Degree mobility

Erasmus+ includes an excellence action that will fund **joint Master degrees** offered by consortia of universities from the Programme and possibly partner countries. They provide high- level scholarships to excellent students and staff worldwide. This action is funded from Heading 1 (supplemented by ENI funds) and allows students outside 'Programme countries' to receive a joint Master of the highest level and study in at least two different European 'Programme' countries.

Specific objective 2: Support the modernisation, internationalisation, accessibility and of higher education in the partner countries

The main expected results to be achieved are:

1. Improved quality and access to higher education and enhanced relevance of higher education programmes for the labour market and society
2. Improved level of competences and skills in HEIs through the development of new and innovative education programmes
3. Enhanced management, governance and innovation capacities, as well as the internationalisation of HEIs

4. Increased capacities of national authorities to modernise their higher education systems, by supporting the definition, implementation and monitoring of reform policies
5. Regional integration and cooperation across different countries through joint initiatives, sharing of good practices and cooperation

Indicators:

- 1.1 The number of higher education institutions (universities) from partner countries involved in capacity building projects (disaggregated by country, focus area of project, subject area for curriculum development, type of disadvantage (e.g. institutions located in less developed regions or post-conflict countries))
- 1.2 Number of new or updated curricula developed and running in partner countries universities, supported by Erasmus+
- 1.3. Number of programmes in the partner countries which have introduced new teaching learning and assessment methods and related materials supported by Erasmus+
- 1.4 The number of joint projects involving public and private enterprises, professional associations, civil society organizations and governmental entities
- 2.1 Number of staff retrained in the framework of Erasmus+ capacity building projects
- 2.2 Number of programmes in the partner countries which have introduced new teaching learning and assessment methods and related materials supported by Erasmus+
- 2.3 Number of degree programmes which have introduced practical placements in enterprises as an integral part of the programme
- 3.1 Number of university services/units established as a result of Erasmus+
- 3.2 Number of inter-institutional agreements signed by partner country institutions
- 3.3 Number of new bilateral agreements for cooperation in the field of education and/or research established as a result of cooperation in Erasmus+ monitored on a sample basis in the framework of the mid-term evaluation
- 3.4 Number of structural projects which have introduced new management/organizational processes, practices, procedures and guidelines in partner country universities
- 4.1 Number of structural projects which have introduced /reformed policies at national level for their higher education systems
- 5.1 Number of projects involving partner country institutions from several countries within a region
- 5.2 Number of projects involving partner country institutions from different regions

Monitoring mechanisms have been put in place in order to keep track of these indicators. Two categories of capacity building projects are supported:

Joint Projects produce outcomes that benefit directly the organisations from partner countries involved in the project. These projects focus on 3 different categories of activities:

- curriculum development
- modernisation of governance, management and functioning of HEIs
- strengthening of relations between HEIs and the wider economic and social environment

Structural Projects produce an impact on higher education systems and promote reforms at national and/or regional level in the partner countries. These projects focus on 2 categories of activities:

- modernisation of policies, governance and management of higher education systems
- strengthening of relations between higher education systems and the wider societal and economic environment

1.4 GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE AND PRIORITIES

Special attention will have to be paid to internal geographical balance in the distribution of funds among partner countries inside the two sub-regions of the ENP East and ENP South, so that there is a balanced use of funds across partner countries. The repartition will also follow political priorities formulated under the ENP globally, as well as specific external action priorities for individual ENP partner countries.

A **regular monitoring and adjustment mechanism** will ensure twice-yearly reports and evaluation of the fulfilment of the indicators listed under Heading 1.2, and that geographical balance under all key actions is upheld. Particular attention should be paid to geographical balance under Action 1 (mobility), which is implemented by National Agencies in European Programme countries. Monitoring should be done regularly, and at least once a year, and, if required, adjustments made before the beginning of the following academic year.

In order to achieve equity, in a first instance it should be established that **academic performance is the primary and essential criterion for selection of the Erasmus+ students**. In line with the foreign policy priorities of the EU, some positive discrimination, within clearly set and communicated limits towards the EU and towards potential candidates, could be allowed:

- on the basis of specific EU foreign policy priorities
- in favour of economically and socially disadvantaged individuals in partner countries, with a view to promoting inclusive development. Based on evaluation, these groups are still vastly under-represented in partner countries among selected students under the previous action 2 of Erasmus Mundus, when taking into account the primary selection criterion of academic excellence

- to foster gender balance, while taking into account the overall number of active university students of each gender in the partner country
- in favour of the disabled
- in favour of individuals belonging to vulnerable groups in conflict regions/countries, such as internally displaced persons and refugees

2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2018-2020 (financial allocation per region and distribution of funding between actions)

ENI funds will be used in line with the overall priorities of the **EU's external action**, notably **priorities under the European Neighbourhood Policy** and bilateral relations with partner countries covered by this programme, including Russia²³, and the particular focus on reform and mobility in higher education.

Over the period **an indicative amount of EUR 277.5 million** (out of which indicatively **EUR 37.9 million** for Russia) **of ENI funds will be allocated to the Erasmus+ programme** in order to finance higher education exchanges and projects with ENP countries and Russia.

The geographical distribution of ENI funds for 2018-2020 is as follows:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 159.8 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 79.8 million**
- Russia: indicatively **EUR 37.9 million**

The actual figures will be set out in the Erasmus+ Work Programme, which is the basis for the financial decision.

2.1 LEARNING MOBILITY (Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme)

Specific Objective 1 is implemented through Key Action 1 - Learning Mobility, which comprises two types of mobility for students as well as staff mobility.

- Credit mobility
- Degree mobility / Joint degrees

For ENP partner countries, approximately **50%** of available funds will be allocated to Key Action 1. A maximum of 10% out of the funds for Action 1 can be used for the creation of ENI windows for scholarships for Erasmus+ joint Master degrees.

For Russia, approximately **60%** of available funding will be allocated to Key Action 1.

²³ In line with Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of March 2016.

2.1.1 CREDIT MOBILITY (Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme)

An indicative amount of **EUR 139 million** shall be reserved for this specific objective. It will be split between the following sub-regions:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 72 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 44 million**
- Russia: **EUR 23 million**

The credit mobility action will be managed by National Agencies in the Erasmus+ Programme countries.

2.1.2 DEGREE MOBILITY/ JOINT DEGREES (Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme)

It is open to students and universities from all over the world, based on criteria of excellence. It is a highly successful programme comprising for the time being more than 100 Master courses which are much in demand. The success rate for applicants is about 3% and there is a large reserve list of highly qualified candidates from partner countries who cannot be funded.

The ENI funding windows aim at increasing the success rate of highly qualified candidates from partner countries to attend Erasmus+ joint Master degrees. There will be a clear added value in terms of capacity building, and improvement of quality and attractiveness for non EU universities participating in joint Masters degrees.

For indicative purposes, **approximately EUR 12 million** shall be reserved for this specific objective. It will be split between the following sub-regions:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 8 million**
- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 4 million**

The “degree mobility/joint Master degrees” action will be implemented by the EU Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency.

2.2 CAPACITY BUILDING (Key Action 2 of the Erasmus+ programme)

Specific Objective 2 is implemented by means of supporting Key Action 2 ‘Capacity building’ in the field of higher education.

For ENP partner countries, approximately **50% of available funds** will be allocated to Key Action 2, and for **Russia**, approximately **40% of the available funds**.

For indicative purposes, **approximately EUR 126.5 million** shall be reserved for this specific objective. It will be split between the following sub-regions:

- ENP South: indicatively **EUR 79.8 million**

- ENP East: indicatively **EUR 31.8 million**
- Russia: **EUR 14.9 million**

The capacity building action will be managed by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency.

Other criteria

Special attention will have to be paid to staff mobility.

Within Key Action 2, **partnership requirements** should be based on the following principles:

- The overall number of institutions involved in the partnerships should be kept at a manageable level, taking into account the need to ensure sufficient impact of the specific project in the partner country/countries
- Institutions from partner countries will be allowed to act as lead applicants, so as to increase the programme's impact on the institutional development of higher education institutions from partner countries

Annex 2: Expected results and performance indicators ('Sector of intervention framework')

Priority 1: Building a partnership for sustainable and inclusive economic development and integration: contribution to the NIP		
Strategic objective 1: <i>establishing better and more sustainable energy and transport interconnections</i>		
Expected Results	Indicators	Means of verification
Higher level of investments in infrastructure and productive sectors; Transport and energy interconnectivity improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disbursements under the NIP in favour of the objective • Status of implementation of missing links on the extended core TEN-T network and the Trans-Mediterranean Transport Network. • Status of implementation of key gas and electricity interconnection projects 	<p>NIP reporting on financing</p> <p>EaP project database and Panel reporting</p> <p>Project-specific reporting</p> <p>IFI annual reports</p>
Increased rates of energy efficiency and renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy intensity levels in the countries • Share of renewable energy in electricity and total energy consumption • Degree of adaption and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation 	<p>EaP Panel reporting</p> <p>Energy Community reporting</p>
Strategic objective 2: <i>addressing climate change, as well as threats to the environment more broadly</i>		
Expected Results	Indicators	Means of verification

Climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO2 emission impacts 	UNFCCC data and reports Project-specific reporting
Promoting sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of infrastructure projects developed in compliance with EU environmental or natural resources benchmarks 	Project-specific reporting
<p>Strategic objective 3: <i>promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth through support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises, to the social sector, including human capital development, and to municipal infrastructure development</i></p>		
Expected Results	Indicators	Means of verification
Job creation and private sector development	<p>Jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of jobs created or sustained <p>Private Sector Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of firms served benefitting from loans 	Project reports
Achievement of EU foreign policy objectives including ENP objectives (e.g. integration into the EU's internal market)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDP growth rate • Unemployment rate • Number of EU directives adopted • EU standards adopted 	National statistics Project reports
Advancement of free trade areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in value of export sales within the free trade area by firms supported 	Project reports
Poverty reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries living below the poverty line and whose living conditions are improved by the project 	Project reports

Priority 2: Investing in human development: contribution to Erasmus+

Specific objective 1: *Improve the skills and competences of students and staff, and the employability of graduates through mobility and capacity building.*

Expected Results	Indicators	Means of verification
Improved and diversified curricula that incorporate studies abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved and/or associated in Joint Master Degrees • Number of higher education institutions from partner countries involved in credit mobility 	<p>EACEA Statistics</p> <p>EAC Statistics (Dashboard)</p>
Enhanced skills and improved learning performance for students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of students (gender disaggregated) with credits (mobility) recognized as part of their home degrees • Average duration of mobility actions (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, study field, action, gender, and students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background) • Number of graduates (gender disaggregated) who have received a joint Master degree with Erasmus+ support • Number of drop outs as a share of the total number 	<p>Participants report (EAC Dashboard)</p> <p>EAC Statistics (Dashboard)</p> <p>EACEA Statistics</p> <p>EACEA Statistics</p>

	of students having received a scholarship for joint Master degrees (disaggregated by sending and receiving country, sector, action, gender, students with special needs and students coming from disadvantaged socio-economic background)	
Improved competences of staff in their field of expertise and understanding of education policies, practices and systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of partner country staff (gender disaggregated) trained through the mobility action • Evidence of Career advancement for staff (gender disaggregated) participating in Erasmus+ 	EAC Statistics (Dashboard) Participants report
Increase employability and career prospects for the selected students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability rate (gender disaggregated) of Erasmus+ students 	Erasmus Mundus Graduate impact survey Erasmus Impact Study
Reinforced institutional capacities of selected higher education institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of inter-institutional agreements signed by partner country institutions and participating in Erasmus+ 	EAC Statistics (Dashboard)
Specific objective 2: <i>Support the modernisation, internationalisation and accessibility of higher education in the partner countries.</i>		
Expected Results	Indicators	Means of verification
Improved quality of higher education and enhanced the relevance of higher education programmes for the labour markets and the society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of higher education institutions (universities) from partner countries involved in capacity building projects (disaggregated by country, focus area of project, subject area for 	EACEA Statistics

	<p>curriculum development, type of disadvantage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of joint projects involving public and private enterprises, professional associations, civil society organizations and governmental entities • Number of structural projects which have introduced /reformed policies at national level for their higher education systems 	<p>EACEA Statistics</p> <p>EACEA Statistics</p>
Improved level of competences and skills in HEIs through the development of new and innovative education programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new or updated curricula developed and running in partner countries universities, supported by Erasmus+ • Number of programmes in the partner countries which have introduced new teaching learning and assessment methods and related materials supported by Erasmus+ 	<p>EACEA Data</p> <p>EACEA Statistics</p>
Enhanced management as well as the internationalisation of HEIs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of inter-institutional agreements signed by partner country institutions • Number of structural projects which have introduced new management/organizational processes, practices, procedures and guidelines in partner country universities 	<p>EACEA Statistics</p> <p>EACEA Statistics</p>
Regional integration and cooperation across different countries through joint initiatives, sharing of good practices and cooperation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects involving partner country institutions from several countries within a region • Number of projects 	<p>EACEA Statistics</p> <p>EACEA Statistics</p>

	involving partner country institutions from different regions	
Priority 3: Building institutional capacities for good governance		
Expected Results	Indicators	Means of verification
Improved public administration capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of PAR related strategies/action plans reviewed/supported in their development • Number of laws/secondary laws/guidelines in governance institutions reviewed/supported in their development; • Number of regional conferences on PAR related issues delivered • Number of Baseline Measurement/Assessment Reports timely delivered 	<p>European commission annual Progress reports</p> <p>SIGMA mission reports and output of technical assistance</p> <p>Training/Seminars/Conferences materials</p> <p>Multi-country policy papers</p> <p>SIGMA assessments</p> <p>Country legislation</p> <p>SIGMA reviews</p>
Greater approximation of partner countries' regulatory frameworks to those of the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of statistics it is estimated that more than 1,000 TAIEX activities will take place, mobilising about 25,000 EU/regional experts and ENI participants over the period 2018 – 2020 	<p>European Commission Annual Progress reports</p> <p>Multi-country papers</p> <p>TAIEX Evaluation reports</p> <p>DG NEAR statistics</p>