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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Working Document Part I

#EUBudget

2023
FINANCIAL
YEAR

Programme Statements of
operational expenditure

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Budget

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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET
of the European Union
for the financial year 2023

Working Document
Part I

**Draft General Budget
of the European Union
for the Financial Year 2023**

Working Document Part I

Programme Statements of operational expenditure

Draft Budget Working Documents

The 2023 Draft Budget is accompanied by thirteen 'Working Documents', as follows:

Part I: Programme Statements of operational expenditure

Working Document I contains, pursuant to Article 41(3)(h) of the Financial Regulation, Programme Statements, which provide for each spending programme comprehensive information on the financial implementation and progress in achieving the programme objectives. This year, the Programme Statements present the status at the end of 2021 for two different multiannual financial frameworks (MFF): 2021-2017, and 2014-2020 for those programmes for which substantial payments are still being implemented.

Part II: Human Resources of the EU institutions and executive agencies

Working Document II presents information on the human resources of the EU institutions and executive agencies, and in particular for the Commission, both for the establishment plans and for external personnel and across all headings of the multiannual financial framework. Moreover, pursuant to Article 41(3)(b) of the Financial Regulation, it provides a summary table for the period 2020 – 2023 which shows the number of full-time equivalents for each category of staff and the related appropriations for all institutions and bodies referred to in Article 70 of the Financial Regulation.

Part III: Bodies set up by the European Union having legal personality

Working Document III presents detailed information relating to all decentralised agencies and Joint Undertakings, with a transparent presentation of revenue, expenditure and staff levels of various Union bodies, pursuant to Article 41(3)(c) of the Financial Regulation.

Part IV: Pilot projects and preparatory actions

Working Document IV presents information on all pilot projects and preparatory actions which have budget appropriations (commitments and/or payments) in the 2023 Draft Budget, pursuant to Article 41(3)(f) of the Financial Regulation.

Part V: Budget implementation and assigned revenue

Working Document V presents the budget implementation forecast for 2022, information on assigned revenue (implementation in 2021 and estimation for 2023) and a progress report on outstanding commitments (RAL) pursuant to Article 41(3)(d) of the Financial Regulation.

Part VI: Commission expenditure under the administrative heading of the multiannual financial framework

Working Document VI encompasses administrative expenditure to be implemented by the Commission under the administrative heading of the multiannual financial framework (heading 7) in accordance with Article 317 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as well as the budgets of the Offices (OP, OLAF, EPSO, OIB, OIL and PMO), pursuant to Article 41(3)(e) of the Financial Regulation.

Part VII: Commission buildings

Working Document VII presents information on buildings under Section III - Commission, pursuant to Article 266(1) of the Financial Regulation.

Part VIII: Expenditure related to the external action of the European Union

Working Document VIII presents information on human resources and expenditure related to the external action of the European Union, pursuant to Article 41(10) and (11) of the Financial Regulation.

Part IX: Funding to international organisations

Working Document IX presents funding provided to international organisations, across all MFF headings, pursuant to Article 41(3)(g) of the Financial Regulation.

Part X: Financial Instruments

Working Document X presents the use made of financial instruments, pursuant to Article 41(4) of the Financial Regulation.

Part XI: Budgetary Guarantees, Common Provisioning Fund and Contingent Liabilities

Working Document XI presents the implementation of Budgetary Guarantees, the Common Provisioning Fund and the assessment of the sustainability of the contingent liabilities arising from budgetary guarantees and financial assistance pursuant to Article 41(5) of the Financial Regulation.

Part XII: EU Trust funds

Working Document XII presents the activities supported by EU Trust Funds, their implementation and performance, pursuant to Article 41(6) of the Financial Regulation.

Part XIII: Payment schedules

Working Document XIII presents summary statements of the schedule of payments due in subsequent years to meet budgetary commitments entered into in previous years, pursuant to Article 41(3)(i) of the Financial Regulation.

INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose and structure

Purpose

The Financial Regulation (Art. 41(3)(h)) requires the Commission to prepare the Programme Statements to justify funding requested for each of the EU spending programmes. The Programme Statements are the first working document accompanying the draft budget proposal and support the Commission's requests for the annual budget allocations for operational expenditure. Reporting on the indicators defined in the legal basis of each of the programmes, these documents help to draw lessons from the past and provide answers to the following questions:

- Is the EU budget achieving its goals?
- Is it on track to reach its expected impact?
- What are the important factors impacting on the performance and what is the Commission doing to address any incipient problem?

The Programme Statements present the most comprehensive and up-to-date performance information for the operational programmes of the EU budget. They were first introduced to support the draft budget 2014 and are updated each year in the context of the preparation of the Commission's draft proposal for the budget of the following year. They are discussed in the annual budget hearings with the Commission services responsible for the spending programmes and revised based on the outcomes of these hearings.

The Programme Statements are also the main source of information for the the Programmes Performance Overview, which is Annex 4 (Volume III) of the Annual Management and Performance Report, published on Europa website.

Structure

As last year, the Programme Statements are organised following the programmes of the 2021-2027 MFF. For each programme, the reader will find first an introduction, including an explanation of how the programme is designed to work, the financial programming and the link to the 2014-2020 programmes. The documents then include information on the budget implementation, key indicators and the implemented and projected contribution to horizontal priorities. Regarding the NextGenerationEU temporary instrument, its centerpiece is the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The instrument is also reinforcing several EU programmes and the related top-ups are included in the programmes benefitting from the additional funds.

The Programme Statements report on the effective implementation of the EU budget operational expenditure. This year, for the first time, the report straddles the implementation of two different multiannual financial frameworks (MFF): the report presents the results achieved by the end of 2021, the first year year of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, and also includes the results of a selection of 2014-2020 programmes for which substantial payments are still being implemented. It is indeed important to highlight that there is not only a continuation of the EU budget intervention across MFF by policy but also that many EU programmes have a life-cycle that is longer than the 7-year MFF period. That means that the budgetary implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes will continue during the 2021-2027 MFF. Examples of this are programmes that finance infrastructure projects or other investments from which the results take time to materialise. This document also strives to keep the focus on these long-term investment programmes as they have important lessons learned to give for future decisions in their field. The sections on budget implementation, performance and indicators are therefore presented for both the 2021-2027 programmes and the selected 2014-2020 programmes. On the other hand, the key achievements are presented jointly for both periods.

The reader will find below the mapping of the 2021-2027 programmes and their corresponding predecessor programmes (from the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework) on whose implementation continued reporting is warranted:

Programme Statements 2021-2027	Previous 2014-2020 programmes/interventions in the Programme Statements
Horizon Europe	Horizon 2020
Euratom Research and Training Programme	Euratom
ITER	ITER
InvestEU Fund	EFSI

Connecting Europe Facility (incl. Cohesion Fund contribution and military mobility)	CEF (except part on CEF Telecom which continuation is in DEP)
Digital Europe Programme	ISA 2 and CEF Telecom (except connectivity)
Single Market Programme	COSME
	European statistical programme
	Reporting and auditing
	Enhancing consumers involvement in the EU policy making in the field of financial services
	Food and Feed
	Consumer programme
EU Anti-Fraud Programme	AFIS
	Hercule III
Cooperation in the field of taxation	Fiscalis
Cooperation in the field of customs	Customs
European Space Programme	Egnos & Galileo
	Copernicus
Regional Policy (European Regional and Development Fund and Cohesion Fund) and REACT EU	ERDF
	CF
Support to the Turkish-Cypriot Community	Support to the Turkish-Cypriot Community
Recovery and Resilience Facility	<i>nothing to report from 2014-2020 period</i>
Technical Support Instrument	<i>previous interventions from the 2014-2020 period are not reported on</i>
Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting	Pericles
Union Civil Protection Mechanism	UCPM 3
	UCPM 4
EU4Health	Health programme
Emergency Support Instrument (Health crisis)	Emergency Support Instrument (2020 only)
European Social Fund + (incl. The Fund for the Most Deprived and Employment and Social innovation) and REACT EU	ESF
	FEAD
	EaSI
Erasmus+	Erasmus +
European Solidarity Corps	European Solidarity Corps +,
	EU Aid Volunteers
Creative Europe	Creative Europe
Justice	Justice (except drugs strand)
Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values	Rights, Equality and Citizenship (except consumer rights);
	Europe for Citizens
Communication	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Common Agricultural Policy (European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) 2023-2027	EAGF 2014-2022

	EAFRD 2014-2022
European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Programme for Environment and Climate Action	Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
Just Transition Mechanism	<i>nothing to report from 2014-2020 period</i>
Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
Integrated Border Management Fund	Internal Security Fund: Border and Visa strand
Internal Security Fund	Internal Security Fund: Police strand;
	Justice: drug strand
Nuclear Decommissioning (Lithuania)	Nuclear Decommissioning Lithuania
Nuclear safety and decommissioning (incl. for Bulgaria and Slovakia)	Nuclear Decommissioning Bulgaria and Slovakia
European Defence Fund	European Defence Industrial Development Programme
Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument	Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI),
	European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI),
	Partnership Instrument,
	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
	<i>no more report on the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) from the 2014-2020 MFF</i>
	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)
European Instrument for Nuclear Safety	Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation
Humanitarian Aid	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Common Foreign and Security Policy	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Overseas Countries and Territories (including Greenland)	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Macro-Financial Assistance	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)	Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II)
European Globalisation Adjustment Fund	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
European Union Solidarity Fund (part of SEAR)	<i>no more previous intervention to report on</i>
Innovation Fund	<i>nothing to report from 2014-2020 period</i>
Brexit Adjustment Reserve	<i>nothing to report from 2014-2020 period</i>

Content

Part 1 “**Overview**” contains the presentation of the 2021-2027 programmes, how the programme is designed to work with, notably, its objectives and delivery mode, the link with the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, and the 2021-2027 total envelope of the programme.

Part 2 “**Where are we in the implementation?**” explains the use of commitments and payments appropriations, both backward and forward looking. In particular, in the subsection “Cumulative implementation rate”, the reader will find the implementation rate in commitments and in payments of the 2021-2027 programmes and in payment for the selected 2014-2020 programme compared to the related total envelope, as well as a concise justification of the state of play. This section is meant to be read in relation to part 3 “how is the programme performing?”. For many of the 2021-2027 programmes, due to the late adoption of their legal base, the cumulative implementation rate after one year is quite low. For 2014-2020, the cumulative implementation

rate still shows that for a number of important 2014-2020 programmes a relevant share of the 2014-2020 envelope has not yet been spent, mainly due to their long investment period. Performance results for these programmes should be assessed in this light.

Part 3 “**How is the programme performing?**” contains an assessment of the performance of both the active 2021-2027 programmes and of the corresponding 2014-2020 programmes with substantial payments implemented in 2021 (see above correspondence table). For many of the 2021-2027 programmes, no results are available for the first year of implementation, also given the very difficult start of the implementation due to the delayed adoption of the MFF and the individual legal bases. Correspondingly, the performance assessment focuses mainly on assessing output indicators, where available. For 2014-2020, the performance assessment draws from multiple sources: evaluations, studies and reports, key achievements, and indicators. The reader will find a clear, balanced and robust analysis about to what extent the 2014-2020 programmes are reaching their objectives, as well as lessons learned applied in the design of the 2021-2027 programmes. This part also includes a selection of the key achievements related to both the 2021-2027 and related programmes 2014-2020. For most of the programmes, many achievements come from the implementation of the predecessor programmes under the 2014-2020 MFF. This is expected and due to the multi-annual life-cycle of EU programmes (and the projects they finance), where results often follow only after completion of the programmes.

Part 4 “**Programme 2021-2027 – Key monitoring indicators**” reports on the indicators from the adopted legal basis of the programmes for the 2021-2027 period along with their corresponding metadata. Each indicator is presented with an assessment of whether it is on track to achieve its final target, including a justification of this assessment in the field “justification of the trend”. This is meant to allow the reader to get a better understanding of how to interpret the indicator results and, ultimately, of how well the programme is performing.

Part 5 “**Programme 2014-2020 – Key monitoring indicators**” reports on the results of the relevant indicators for the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. Like for the 2021-2027 programmes, the indicators are presented with an assessment of whether they are on track to achieve their final target, with a concise justification. Given that many of the legal bases of the 2014-2020 programmes have expired, the strictly legal obligation to report on all indicators has ceased. Correspondingly, we have made a selection from the previous set of indicators that remain relevant – i.e. where we expect future development.

Part 6 “**Programme contribution to horizontal policies**” presents the quantitative and qualitative contribution of each programme (for both the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 periods) to climate mitigation and adaptation, the fight against biodiversity loss, clean air, gender equality, and the sustainable development goals. The content of this part is used to produce the report that provides an overview of the EU budget contribution towards these horizontal priorities, agreed by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission in the inter-institutional agreement accompanying the 2021-2027 MFF.

[Link to other performance reports](#)

The Programme Statements are the main source of information for the Commission’s Annual Management and Performance Report¹ (AMPR), and Annex 4 of its Volume III, namely the Programme Performance Overview. The AMPR is part of the Integrated Financial Accountability Reporting Package, an essential input for the annual ‘discharge procedure’, through which the European Parliament and the Council hold the Commission accountable for the way it manages the EU budget.

2. The EU budget performance framework

Strengthening the effective implementation of the budget – its performance – is an overarching goal for the Commission. The notion of performance of the EU budget not only involves the extent to which EU programmes are well managed, but also the extent to which they deliver the intended results. The European Commission is fully committed to ensuring that the EU budget is implemented in full accordance with the highest standards of financial management, is as effective as possible in achieving its key objectives, and delivers value for all EU citizens. In other words, the Commission puts performance of the EU budget front and centre. For that, a sound performance framework is crucial.

The performance framework for the EU spending programmes is defined in each of the relevant legislative acts and consists of objectives, indicators to measure and monitor progress, as well as annual reporting and multi-annual evaluations.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/annual-management-and-performance-report-eu-budget-0_en

The EU budget has an advanced framework for measuring and reporting on performance. The OECD concluded that the system of performance budgeting under the 2014-2020 MFF² was best in class among OECD countries. The leading principles of this system are set out in the Financial Regulation, which requires the provision of information on the progress of specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives measured by indicators. The Better Regulation Guidelines provide instructions on setting indicators, their link with objectives and stage of implementation of a programme or policy area. These principles are implemented in a set of indicators set out in the legal basis of the respective spending programmes.

The work already done and the Commission's commitment to budgetary performance in the future are outlined in the [Communication on the EU budget performance framework for the EU budget under the 2021-2027 MFF](#).

The EU Budget Performance Framework under the 2021-2027 MFF

The 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework is at the heart of the EU's economic policy framework, more so today than ever before. The EU budget is powering the EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It will help to address the ongoing health emergency and the effects of the war in Ukraine, kick-start the recovery, steer our economies and societies towards a more sustainable, digital and resilient future, and strengthen the EU's geopolitical role.

Over the 2021-2027, unprecedented amounts of funding will be channelled through the EU budget to address these challenges. Together with NextGenerationEU – the EUR 750 billion (in 2018 prices) recovery instrument – the 2021-2027 MFF amounts to more than EUR 1.8 trillion. This is close to double the size of the budget for 2014-2020 and is the largest investment package ever financed through the EU budget.

The preparation of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework provided the opportunity to further improve the performance framework, taking into account lessons learnt from the past in order to construct a fully-fledged performance framework for the EU budget. The Commission has made a major effort to identify a high-quality set of indicators for the 2021-2027 programmes. The overall number of indicators has been reduced from over 1 100 in the 2014-2020 period to around 750 for 2021-2027. The indicators have been carefully selected to provide a representative indication of performance on an annual basis throughout the cycle and have been included in the basic legal texts for each programme. The Commission has worked closely with the European Parliament and the Council to make sure that these improvements were reflected in the final programmes that were adopted.

Part 4 “Programme 2021-2027 – Key monitoring indicators” of the Programme Statements presents the performance indicators included in the legal bases of the programmes, and which will be used to monitor the performance of the programmes during the 2021-2027 period.

To make sure the indicators provide data that are reliable, trustworthy and comparable, the Commission is also clarifying, for each indicator the source of information, what exactly the indicator measures, together with other supplementary information. This way, all interested parties will have at their disposal all the necessary information to check the robustness of the results. The Programme Statements include a selection of this technical information, while the complete set of technical information is published in the programmes' performance webpages.

The indicators set out in the legal bases will, in most cases, be complemented with a more comprehensive set of indicators as part of the monitoring and evaluation framework for each programme. This reflects the importance of robust data measuring the impacts of EU spending programmes, which the recent Commission Communication on Better Regulation highlighted again. These indicators will allow for deeper analysis of performance in the interim and ex-post evaluations of the programmes, the results of which are an essential input to the design of future programmes. When available, the Commission will report on the results of the multi-annual evaluations of budgetary spending programmes also in the Programme Statements.

Indicators perform several functions: measure progress towards the programme objectives; monitor the implementation and performance of the programme providing an early warning on potential deviations; and allow to communicate and inform about the performance of the EU budget.

The performance framework of the 2021-2027 MFF includes more than **750 indicators** measuring the performance against more than 170 specific objectives. However, not all indicators measure EU budget performance directly. Some provide either high-level contextual information (e.g. "the Europe R&D target of 3% GDP" or process-related information (e.g. "quality of project applications", or "number of participants"). Additionally, not all indicators are available immediately after the start of the

² www.oecd.org/gov/budgeting/budgeting-and-performance-in-the-eu-oecd-review.pdf

programme. The reporting on performance indicators varies from one programme and type of indicator to another and is influenced mainly by the following factors:

- The type of performance indicators³ chosen determines when the performance information starts to be available. Input indicators, used rarely in the PS, and output indicators are available much sooner than result and impact indicators, which require an intervention to be finalised – sometimes large-scale investments.
- For some interventions the outcomes take place in a relatively short time (e.g. participants in learning mobility activities under Erasmus+), while for other interventions (e.g. infrastructure investment programmes like CEF) the results will only be known when the projects reach the necessary maturity.
- The mode of implementation (i.e. shared, direct, or indirect management) influences the way performance information is collected, aggregated and transmitted to the decision makers. Around three quarters of the EU budget is implemented by Member States under shared management. The rest is implemented by the Commission directly or via the executive agencies (direct management), or via agreements with third parties such as the European Investment Bank or other international financial institutions (indirect management). The results from shared management programmes are more complex to aggregate and validate, and are usually reported with at least a one year lag.
- Cost of collection: some indicators for which the collection of data is expensive or complex are collected at a lower frequency (every 2 or 3 years for example). As a result, for some objectives the performance indicators allow progress to be tracked on an annual basis while for others only the mid-term interim evaluations deliver tangible indications on performance.

Indicators in the DB 2023 Programme Statements

In budgetary terms, 2021 was the first year of implementation of the 2021-2027 financial framework. However, many of the 2014-2020 EU spending programmes have a life-cycle that is longer than the 7-year MFF period, extending their budgetary implementation for a number of years into the 2021-2027 MFF, and setting targets to be achieved later than in 2020 (e.g. 2023, given the “n+3” rule applied in shared management programmes, where Member States are allowed to use the committed amounts up to three years after the original commitment).

For many of the 2021-2027 programmes, the implementation is only just starting and no results are available for the first year of implementation. The general statement is even more appropriate in this MFF, given that MFF and legal bases were adopted late, which made a timely implementation start difficult if not impossible. For most of the 2021-2027 indicators, targets (as well as baselines when applicable) have been defined. The methodology to set the targets, baselines and milestones for each indicator can be found in the indicator metadata Excel file (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en). For some programmes, the definition of the targets require the prior approval of implementation arrangements. This is the case for example for the operational programmes for the European Structural and Investment Funds, and the guarantee agreements for the InvestEU programme. Given that it was not possible to adopt even a single operational programme in any of the shared management programmes prior to the end of 2021, given the limited time frame following the adoption of the CPR, targets for some programmes, including many of those under shared management, will be published in the programme statements for the draft budget 2024.

For the 2014-2020 programmes the implementation is more advanced, there are more indicator data available than in previous years, allowing for a better assessment of the performance of the indicators and the programmes. The most recent data are available for the programmes directly managed by the Commission (reporting results as at the end of 2021 in most cases). The programmes under shared management present values recorded and reported by the Member States as at the end of 2020. The programmes under indirect management present a mixed picture; some have results reported up to 2021, while others depend on the reports or surveys carried out by the international organisations.

Practical limitations of performance indicators

Indicators should, to the extent possible, provide the most direct evidence of the effects they are measuring. However, it is important to stress that the indicators alone are not sufficient to draw conclusions on whether a policy or programme is successful, or on track to achieve its objectives.

³ The type of performance indicators is defined in the ‘Guidelines on monitoring’ from the Better Regulation Guidelines: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/better-regulation-guidelines-monitoring.pdf>

A comprehensive performance assessment for any programme requires analyzing the indicators in conjunction with other quantitative and qualitative information, such as budget implementation data, external factors impacting the programme, key achievements, project pipeline, etc. While some of that contextual information is presented in the PS, a really comprehensive assessment is typically only possible in the context of the programme evaluations, where the information available is maximized.

FINANCING OF HORIZONTAL POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE EU BUDGET

1. Introduction

This section provides information on the financing of actions related to climate change, biodiversity, gender and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – all horizontal policy priorities in the EU budget - as foreseen in point 16 (d,e,f,g) of the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA).

Climate and environment policy are at the core of EU policymaking in line with the Treaty¹. The Paris Agreement, formally ratified by the EU in 2016, sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C, and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It also aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impact of climate change and support them in their efforts. The United Nations' Agenda 2030 also drives and informs EU policy, through the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Commission has made the green transition one of its main priorities for the period 2019-2024, as declared by the President in her political guidelines². The [European Green Deal](#), adopted in 2019, confirms this ambition. The Green Deal places dealing with climate and environmental challenges at the centre of EU activity with a view to transforming the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims, under the “do no harm” (DNH) and the “leave-no-one-behind” principles, to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. In line with the Green Deal, the European Climate Law, adopted in 2021, specifically prescribes that the EU become climate-neutral by 2050 and sets an intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to their 1990 levels.

To achieve these goals, in July 2021 the Commission adopted a package of legislative proposals named “Fit-for-55”. The package consists of a set of ambitious, inter-connected proposals, balancing between pricing, rules, standards, and support measures, and building on already existing measures (such as the EU Emissions Trading System, ETS) and new instruments (such as a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism). The proposal for a new Social Climate Fund will further reinforce the social dimension of the EU budget by addressing social and distributional impacts of Fit-for-55, and more specifically the proposal to extend emissions trading also to buildings and road transport. The Social Climate Fund proposal is fully coherent with and complements existing measures under the Just Transition Mechanism and the European Social Fund+.

In 2020, the European Commission adopted the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The strategy is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. It contains actions and commitments to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030. It also paves the way for the EU's contribution to the international negotiations on the global post-2020 biodiversity framework. As a core part of the European Green Deal, it also supports a green recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategy aims at establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas of 30% of land and seas, implementing an EU nature restoration plan including by proposing binding nature restoration targets in 2022, and enabling the necessary transformative change through enhanced funding for biodiversity – including through the EU budget - and a strengthened EU-wide biodiversity governance framework. The Strategy also aims at tackling the global biodiversity challenge by playing a key role towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

To underscore its commitment to its climate and environmental goals, the EU has also set quantitative targets on the shares of its 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework and NextGenerationEU that it devotes to them. In particular, the EU has committed to dedicate at least 30% of its augmented MFF to climate-relevant expenditures and 7.5% of the 2024 annual budget and 10% of the annual budgets 2026 and 2027 to protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

2. Green Budgeting

The Commission uses “[green budgeting](#)” as an instrument to enhance transparency of the EU budget in terms of funding to support climate and environmental objectives, in line with the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal. In March 2022 the Commission [committed](#) to further pursuing its work on this tool together with the French Presidency and several Member states.

The EU ‘green budget’ is established around four areas: climate adaptation, climate mitigation, biodiversity and clean air. It also includes a strong “do no harm” component that covers both climate and environmental objectives.

In the period 2021-2027, the Commission foresees to spend the following amounts on these four areas. More work is underway to provide a differentiated estimate between climate mitigation and adaptation, where possible:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
EU BUDGET + NGEU	427 163 €	318 046 €	291 487 €	178 796 €	182 304 €	174 060 €	179 539 €	1 751 395 €
Climate	137 543 €	112 091 €	93 382 €	56 365 €	53 681 €	51 386 €	51 988 €	556 880 €
% Climate	32%	35%	32%	31%	29%	29%	29%	32%
Biodiversity	18 350 €	16 310 €	16 226 €	14 548 €	15 086 €	15 621 €	16 077 €	112 218 €
% Biodiversity	4%	5%	6%	8%	8%	9%	9%	6%
Clean Air	51 593 €	25 714 €	24 284 €	6 780 €	5 756 €	5 925 €	6 075 €	126 127 €
% Clean Air	12%	8%	8%	4%	3%	3%	3%	7%

At the same time, the focus on results is higher than ever. Through the actions of the MFF 2014-2020:

Climate	Biodiversity	Clean Air
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2019, a reduction of over 4.4 million tons of CO2 equivalent per year had been achieved with the help of regional funds. • A decrease of over 1.9 billion kWh of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings was achieved with the help of regional funding. • Until 2020, an increase over 2 735 MWh of additional capacity of renewable energy production was achieved thanks to regional funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2019, nearly 4.1 million additional people had been served by improved wastewater treatment with the help of regional funds. • By 2019, nearly 6.8 million hectares of habitats have achieved better conservation status with support from regional funds. • By 2020, more than 15 000 km² of habitats are being restored or are improving their conservation status thanks to LIFE funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2020, more than 1.8 million people were benefitting from better air quality thanks to LIFE funding

The new performance framework for the 2021-2027 embedded in each budgetary programme’s regulation puts a sharper focus on climate and environmental challenges. This will allow to present more information in the upcoming years. The Commission is also working towards a “[cross-sectional indicator](#)” on climate mitigation, to estimate the aggregate impact of the various interventions funded by the EU budget.

Furthermore, Green Budgeting is also about greening the revenues of the budget. The Commission’s 2021-2027 MFF proposal tabled in 2018 inter alia included an EU own resource based on [non-recycled plastic packaging waste](#). It entered into force in 2021 and is expected to generate around EUR 6 billion per year. In the Interinstitutional Agreement of December 2020 the

Commission committed to propose two additional green own resources: one based on the [EU Emission Trading System \(ETS\)](#)⁴ and one on the [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#)⁵. These proposals were tabled in December 2021⁶.

The Commission has also introduced in September 2021 the EU Green Bond Framework, under which it plans to finance **30% of the NGEU package**, as announced by the President in her State of the Union address in 2020⁷. The above-referenced framework, which has been validated by an external assessor, provides assurances to the investors that proceeds raised through EU green bonds will finance only climate or environmentally relevant expenditures.

3. Climate mainstreaming

The fight against climate change is, by its very nature, a fight that transcends national boundaries. In order to achieve our climate goals, develop new clean technology, deploy the best solutions and drive our economies towards a more sustainable path, action at EU level is needed. EU action can exploit significant economies of scale, pull together resources to reach critical mass, and contribute to strengthening the EU in the international arena.

The EU budget makes a crucial contribution to the fight against climate change. **Over the course of the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework, the EU delivered on its ambition of spending 20% of available funds on climate-related measures.**

What do we do?

In the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission implemented an innovative approach in order to dedicate resources to the fight against climate change: ‘climate mainstreaming’. This requires EU programmes in all policy areas to consider climate priorities in their design, implementation, and evaluation phases. With a climate change spending target of 20% applying to the overall EU budget, all EU spending programmes were designed to implement two types of measures:

- **Adaptation.** This involves finding solutions to and ensuring preparedness for adverse effects of climate change, enhancing resilience, taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage such effects can cause, and taking advantage of any opportunities that may arise.
- **Mitigation.** This refers to actions that limit the magnitude of long-term climate change. Climate change mitigation generally involves reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

In the context of the **2021 - 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework**, the Commission has further developed its approach to climate mainstreaming, including through:

- increasing the **overall climate spending target** to 30% and including sectorial targets in relevant legislation;
- embedding EU budget action in the **European Green Deal policy framework**, through the adoption of the biodiversity strategy and the farm-to-fork strategy, which will impact the way programmes are designed;
- enhancing the “climate responsiveness” of programmes and actions financed under the EU budget that do not directly tackle the climate challenge, through reinforced **climate proofing** and the application of the “**do-no-harm**” principle;
- A strong shift from the OECD’s Rio markers, which are intent-based, to the **EU climate coefficients**, which are instead result-oriented and based on a predefined list of activities and coefficients;

⁴ Some of the proceeds from the ETS will be used to finance two funds, the Modernisation Fund and the Innovation Fund. Both of these funds are entirely focused on supporting the transition to a carbon-neutral economy. The **Innovation Fund** will provide around EUR 25* billion of support over 2020-2030, depending on the carbon price (* at EUR 50 / tCO₂), for the commercial demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies, aiming to bring to the market industrial solutions to decarbonise Europe and support its transition to climate neutrality. The **Modernisation Fund** is a dedicated funding programme to support 10 lower-income EU Member States in their transition to climate neutrality by helping to modernise their energy systems and improve energy efficiency. It is financed by revenues from the auctioning of 2% of the total allowances for 2021-30 under the ETS Trading System. Both funds are outside of the 2021-2027 MFF and therefore do not count towards the 30% target.

⁵ [COM\(2021\)564final](#), Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

⁶ [Own resources legal texts](#)

⁷ [State of the Union 2020](#)

- A “**climate adjustment mechanism**” which will enable the Commission to take ‘compensatory’ action to address possible gaps in the achievement of climate spending targets of individual EU spending programmes, either by ensuring that the deficit is addressed within the same programme in the following years of its implementation, or by other programmes, so that the overall 30% climate spending target for the EU budget as a whole can be achieved as planned;

How much do we spend?

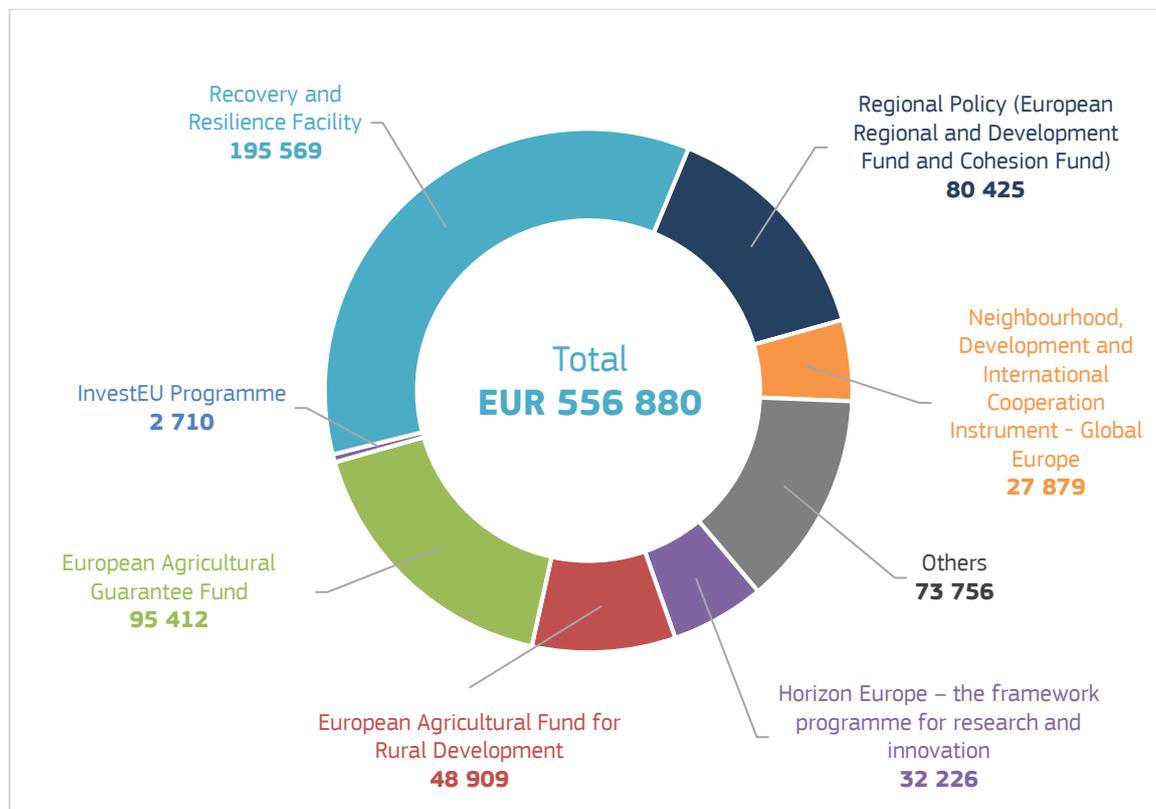


Chart 1 - Climate contribution in 2021 to 2027, in million EUR

Source: European Commission.

In 2022, the Commission is continuing to revise and update all the data available, including further consolidating existing data and applying a more granular methodology where possible.

Using the most up to date information for the 2014-2020 period and correcting a past mistake, EUR 220.9 billion of the EU budget was dedicated to the fight against climate change, i.e. 20.60%. On that basis, the Commission confirms that the 20% target for the 2014-2020 period has been reached.

For the period 2021-2027, the EU budget – including NGEU - is projected to deliver EUR 557 billion or 31.5% of climate spending.

To achieve this, the relevant basic acts include a set of targets that underpins the overarching 30% climate spending target under the EU budget. A complete overview of climate expenditure is presented at the end of this document and in each Programme Statement.

Using the percentage of climate spending per programme calculated on a commitment basis, both for the MFF period 2014-2020 and 2021-2027, it is possible to make a first estimate for the amount of **climate related spending at the payment level**. This can be achieved by applying the average commitment percentage of climate relevant spending by programme by MFF period to the outstanding payments (the “RAL”) by programme by MFF period at the end of 2021. This methodology leads to an estimated climate contribution at the **payment level of around 26.7%**. This estimate excludes the debt-financed Recovery and Resilience Facility. Going forward, the Commission will work to further refine this estimate.

Climate Methodology

In the 2014- 2020 period, to track green expenditure under the EU budget the Commission used EU markers based on the OECD’s Rio markers. The methodology consisted of assigning a coefficient of 0%, 40% or 100% to each intervention to reflect the extent to which climate considerations had been integrated into its design. These markers were assigned at the lowest level of granularity possible by the design of the programme.

Given the risk that the same action may be categorised differently depending on the reason why it was financed⁶, already during the 2014-2020 period the Commission started moving towards a system of more systematic classification based on an “activity-approach”. For the 2021–2027 MFF, the Commission developed that approach further, further reinforces a classification of types of action based on their expected effects on climate, and does so in a consistent manner across the EU budget.

The Commission has published a “Climate Mainstreaming Architecture” SWD to explain in details the approach of climate mainstreaming in the EU budget.

Climate Adjustment Mechanism

The Climate Adjustment Mechanism provision is structured so as to guarantee that the different budget-wide 30% target will be reached. This will be ensured through:

- The specification of sectorial targets, underpinning the overall 30% budget-wide target. These targets have been included in articles of the legislation for the programmes where strong pre-programming is present, to limit the risk of deviation (e.g. RRF, CPR);
- Enhanced monitoring and reporting, through a more granular tracking in the financial system of the Commission and a specific section in the Programme Statement for each individual spending programme taking stock of progress achieved vis-à-vis the target for the respective programme;
- A mechanism whereby the Commission will propose corrective actions in line with the specific basic act provisions in case of deviations in the programming that could endanger the 30% target;

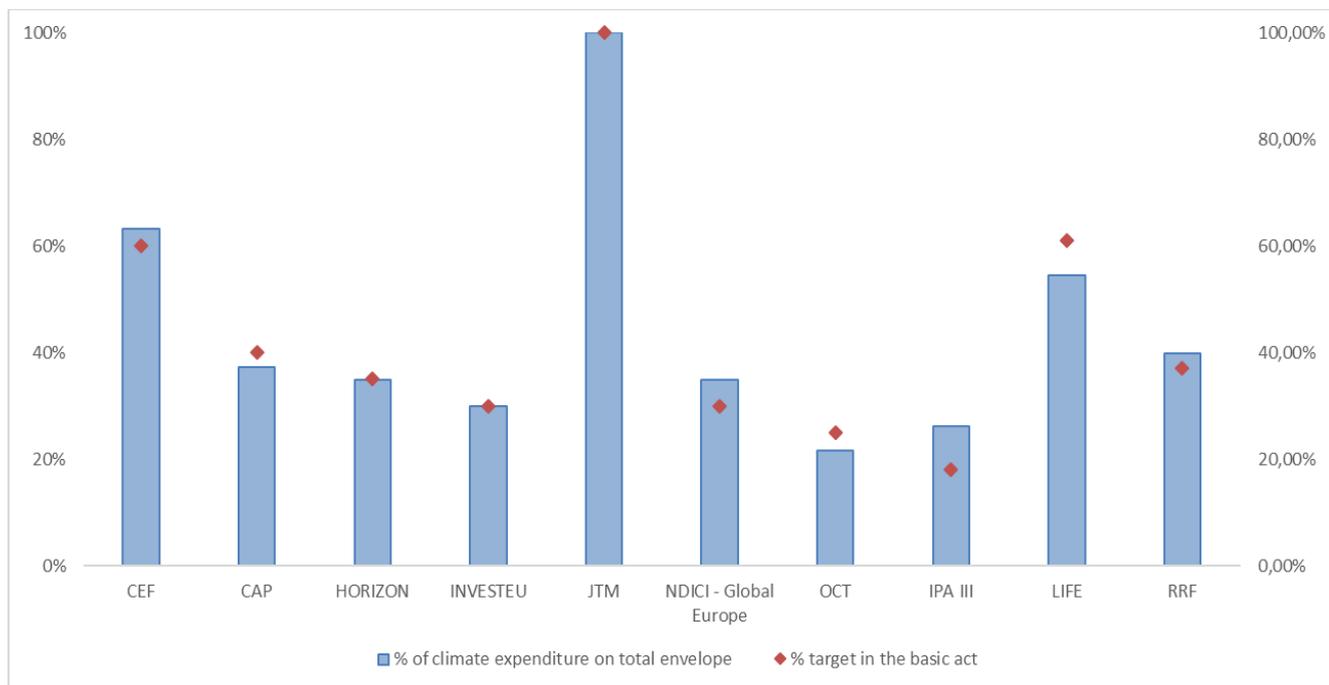


Chart 2 - Comparison of ex-ante targets and foreseen expenditures in 2021-2027

Source: European Commission.

As presented, the EU Budget is on track to fulfil both the overall 30% target and its sectorial target. Each programme statement includes specific section presenting the climate contribution per programme specifying which action are undertaken to ensure proper financing.

This section will be updated every year on the basis of the most up-to-date data and information available and will explain any deviations from the expected performance, as needed, and remedial plans.

Some examples of what we achieved

Under the InvestEU programme

- A EUR 70 million loan was allocated to “Talasol Solar” energy power plant based in Spain, with a total capacity of 300 megawatt-peak. In Romania, the same programme supported a loan to “GreenFiber International SA”, to finance a recycling and circular economy project, who contributed to the creation of 280 full-time jobs and increased the amount of waste collected and processed by over 50 000 tonnes per year.
- The innovative project “sonnen batterie” is a lithium-based energy storage system that enables the storage and optimization of self-generated solar power and the creation of an interconnected energy community where members can share their energy with each other, working towards true energy autonomy for residents. At the same time, the “sonnen app” allows close monitoring, analysis and control of energy usage and production at the level of the household.

Under the space programme, the **Copernicus Climate Change Service** works together with businesses across the globe to turn raw climate data into sector-specific information aimed at users within the field, such as businesses, researchers and policymakers. One of these projects is the global biodiversity service, which aims to support those working to preserve species, to protect the areas that are most climate sensitive, to increase the resilience of ecosystems and to reduce biodiversity loss around the world by providing the information needed to create plans to sustain ecosystems in present and future climate conditions.

Under cohesion policy, the city of Utrecht developed the project “The Smart Solar Charging”, a bi-directional charging system for shared electric cars, where car batteries can charge or deliver energy back to the electricity grid. The EU Budget has contributed to installing 200 smart bi-directional charging points so far and this programme is still scaling up.

Under Erasmus+, the Centres of Vocational Excellence have supported various projects in the field of Green Skills, including GREENOVET fostering the development of Vocational Excellence in Green Innovation across Europe, enabling an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy. It provides a platform to interconnect the European VET schools at regional, national and transnational level together with key partners in the local innovation and skills ecosystem. For example, it includes EPLUG, a European Platform for Urban Greening aiming to increase the knowledge and skills required to address biodiversity, climate adaptation and well-being in the urban green living environment, and to broaden the expertise among professionals in Europe.

Under the **programme for environment and climate action** the LIFE “FORECCAsT” project provided forest owners and managers of the Parc Naturel Régional du Haut-Languedoc in France with different means to tackle the challenges of climate change, through a mobile phone application to help evaluate and manage the risk of forest die-back. The project was implemented in 25 test sites.

Under NDICI, climate adaptation and/or mitigation is progressively integrated as part of several annual action plans in favor of pre-accession countries (Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey). For example, in Serbia, the EU for Connectivity and Green Agenda action is focused, among other goals, on promoting the Green Agenda by reinforcing environmental protection (e.g. supporting the construction of the regional sanitary landfill in Novi Sad by 2025), contributing to energy efficiency (e.g. increasing the financial potential of the National Energy Efficiency Fund up to EUR 10 million in 2025), accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon and circular economy, and improving transport sector (e.g. supporting modernisation of 120 km of the Belgrade-Nis railway corridor by 2025).

Climate-related administrative expenditure is not included in the mainstreaming estimates. However, the European Commission is committed to sustainability. Thus, through the eco-management and audit scheme system, the Commission implements a monitoring programme to assess, measure, monitor and reduce the environmental impact of its daily activities. The Commission has achieved significant results, including the following (results refer to the Brussels site during the 2005-2020 period)⁸:

Energy for buildings = – 72% (MWh/person),

CO₂ emissions for buildings = – 88% (tonnes/person),

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emas_registrations/emas_in_the_european_institutions_en.htm

Office paper = – 90% (sheets/person/day),
Water use = – 73% (m³/person),
Non-hazardous waste = – 69% (tonnes/person).

4. Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Preservation of biodiversity ensures the long-term stability of ecosystems and enables the sustainable preservation of natural resources for future generations. Tackling biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems require significant investments, including to ensure a more resilient society and to combat the emergence of diseases linked to ecosystem degradation and wildlife trade.

What do we do?

Halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity in the EU is a major objective of the EU, as confirmed in the political guidelines from Commission President von der Leyen and is reflected in the European Green Deal and its 2020 investment plan. Protecting biodiversity is a global issue that requires transnational intervention and coordination.

In line with the **European Green Deal**, the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union decided in the interinstitutional agreement (IIA) that biodiversity should be mainstreamed in the EU programmes, to **allocate at least 7.5% in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and in 2027 of annual spending, respectively under the MFF to biodiversity objectives**, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals' ⁽⁹⁾. This is in line with the statement in the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that biodiversity action requires at least EUR 20 billion per year stemming from 'private and public funding at national and EU level' ⁽¹⁰⁾, of which the EU budget will be a key enabler. The Biodiversity Strategy also sets out that, as nature restoration will make a major contribution to climate objectives, a significant proportion of the EU budget dedicated to climate action will be invested on biodiversity and nature-based solutions

How much do we spend?

⁹ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433, 22.12.2020, p. 28) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2020.433.01.0028.01.ENG>).

¹⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives (COM(2020) 380) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1590574123338&uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0380>).

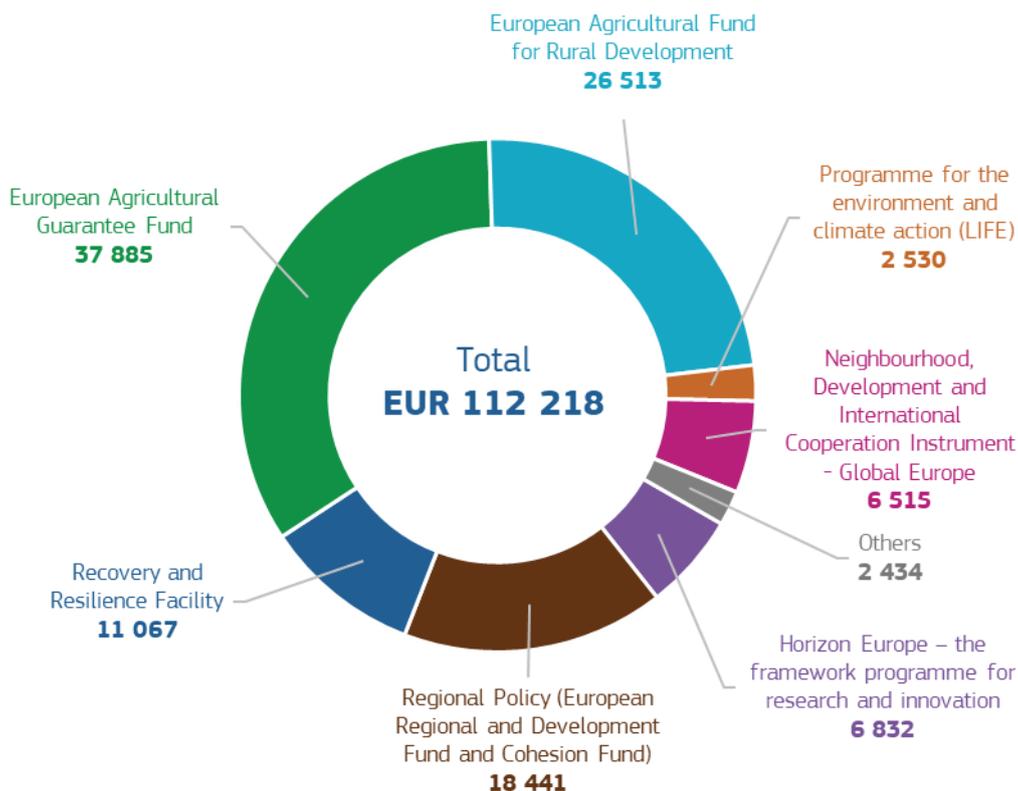


Chart 2 - Biodiversity contribution in 2021 to 2027, in million EUR

Source: European Commission.

For the 2014-2020 period, the EU budget dedicated EUR 85 billion, or 8% of the multiannual financial framework, to the fight against biodiversity loss. For the period 2021-2027, the EU budget is projected to allocate EUR 112 billion (or 6% of the budget as agumented by the NGEU) to biodiversity-relevant interventions. Further data is available in an annex to this section.

Biodiversity Methodology

To track the EU budget expenditure for biodiversity, an internationally recognised methodology (the Rio markers) is used. The methodology involves applying a coefficient of 0%, 40% or 100% to each project/objective/strand/programme, reflecting the degree to which biodiversity considerations have been integrated in their design. The Commission has worked to update the Biodiversity methodology for the 2021-2027 period, to properly implement an enhanced system for tracking biodiversity expenditures.

The Commission has launched a study¹¹ to help developing a sound methodology for Biodiversity tracking. The main conclusions of the study are that the new tracking methodology should aim to:

- Slightly adapt the current approach, where necessary to improve accuracy, to reflect differences in the legislation underpinning programmes and their operation, or in the case of new programmes; in particular, this means that the Rio Markers approach should be maintained for now.

¹¹ [Biodiversity Financing and Tracking](#), Trinomics, May 2022.

- Focus on expected impacts, wherever possible, rather than only on the stated objectives of expenditure (although where evidence on impact is limited or unavailable, the stated objectives may still need to be used as a guide to the coefficient applied);
- Aim for consistency, wherever possible, with the methodology adopted for climate tracking in the 2021-2027 period, except where this is not feasible or does not allow for accurate and consistent results.
- Based on the findings of the assessment of the 2014-2020 methodology, great care needs to be taken on the use of the 40% expenditure marker, with an increased focus on ex post evaluation of its accuracy. There are two main categories of expenditure where this marking is used, both of which justify further information-gathering through the course of implementation of programmes under the 2021-2027 period.
- Using the total of expenditure tracked with the 100% marker, and the 40% of expenditure tracked with the intermediate marker, and referring to it as “expenditure on biodiversity” is potentially misleading. Commission communications material generally refers more cautiously to “contributing to” or “addressing” biodiversity, and this approach should continue. The Interinstitutional Agreement calls for the Commission to report on expenditure “contributing to” halting and reversing biodiversity decline. A distinction could also be drawn between the 100% tracked expenditure (where, generally, there should be a high level of confidence that it is spending “on” biodiversity), and expenditure under the 40% marker, which is a relatively crude estimate.

The methodology for Biodiversity has been largely updated in line with this study. As regards the EAGF and the EAFRD, the forecasts provided for 2023-2027 are still established on the basis of the previous methodology and are still to be updated, in line with the CAP strategic plans as finally approved.

The study also aimed at assessing funding needs to implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, current levels of funding and the remaining finance gap. The study finds that the scale of financing needs to deliver the Strategy, including baseline expenditure, is estimated at around EUR 48.15 billion annually between 2021 and 2030. It also estimates expenditure on biodiversity at ca. EUR 29.46 billion annually over 2021-2030 including from the MFF and Member States expenditure. Considering that estimated annual expenditure for 2014 – 2020 averaged at around 24 billion annually, there would be an estimated EUR 5 billion annual increase in biodiversity expenditure. This leaves an estimated financing gap of around EUR 18.69 billion per year from 2021 to 2030.

Some examples of what we achieved

Under the Common Agriculture Policy, the EAFRD and EAGF support biodiversity-friendly practices such as agroecology, ‘close to nature’ forestry, farming practices supporting conservation in particular in Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas, coexistence of farmers with large carnivores, farming practices compatible with farmland birds protection. Financial support is also provided to maintain high-diversity landscape features e.g. hedgerows, trees and ponds, building upon the Biodiversity Strategy target of bringing back at least 10% of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features. These funds also support organic farming and the Biodiversity Strategy target to reach 25% of organic farming by 2030. Support is also provided to pollinators as a way of maintaining the importance services provided by pollination to the agriculture sector and food production, e.g. encouraging a group of farmers to work at landscape level to ensure heterogeneity and connectivity of pollinator habitats, and implementation of integrated pest management to mitigate the potential negative impacts of pesticides.

Cohesion policy funds enabled to support creation of the Emscher landscape park and restoration of the Emscher river in Germany. The project enabled transformation of vacant land of the former coal and steel industries and their transport infrastructures in the Ruhr region into a connected system of urban landscapes, new parks, industrial and natural heritage and a network of bike paths. The project enabled to implement cost-effective alternative solutions to decontamination. The project is estimated to have created ca. 1 400 direct jobs per year from its inception to 2020 and to have significantly contributed to improving quality of life in the area and the region’s attractiveness.

Furthermore, by 2020, 5 000 inhabitants of the island La Réunion, in France, were protected against floods in two district that are regularly inundated during heavy tropical and cyclonic rains.

The **Horizon 2020 project on the biosystematics, informatics and genomics of the big four insect groups** studied the four largest insect groups, to investigate hotspots of largely unknown insect diversity to better comprehend its potential for helping tackle economic and societal needs. The project employed a wide spectrum of modern, innovative approaches to uncover the evolutionary history of several insect lineages.

Another example is the **EU4Environment project** within the Eastern Partnership. This project helps partner countries to preserve their natural capital and to increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and establishing mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts including on biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

The **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** complemented other funding sources by supporting actions for the protection and restoration of marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, including in inland waters. This included actions to achieve or maintain a good environmental status and the implementation of spatial protection measures under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the management, restoration and monitoring of Natura 2000 areas and the protection of species under Habitats and Birds Directives. To restore natural balance to ecosystems on the Swedish archipelago, an EMFF financed project supported an initiative aimed at reinstating coastal wetlands in an effort to increase pike stocks. Key predators in the Baltic Sea, pike are essential to maintaining biodiversity and healthy waters in the area. Under the project, a new manmade wetland system that replicates the natural spawning grounds of pike was developed. Restoring and establishing spawning grounds of pike turned out not only an efficient way of improving fish stocks but at the same time it supported other objectives such as skills development, fostered collaboration and increased tourism. The innovative project was implemented following the success of similar manmade wetlands in other areas across southern Sweden.

The Copernicus component of the **EU Space programme** supports, through land monitoring services, the implementation of biodiversity-related policies. It follows land degradation and monitors riparian and coastal ecosystems or even forest change. Monitoring these allow to support biodiversity and pollination, improve air quality, water quality and quantity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, and support climate change adaptation, regulation of soil erosion and soil quality.

Under the **DCI programme (now NDICI)**:

- By 2020, the **Partnership for Action on Green Economy** supported 20 partner countries to contribute to 79 green economic policies and practices through knowledge development, policy dialogue and technical cooperation. Seven African countries were supported through SWITCH Africa Green towards green business development with projects combining policy and regulatory guidance on partnerships with the private sector (in particular Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprises), with important co-benefits for biodiversity.

- In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the **EU Water Initiative Plus** (completed in mid-2021) delivered hundreds of knowledge products and modernised 9 water laboratories. Some 40 surveys were carried out in rivers, ground and coastal waters, covering more than 1000 sites. Due to this support, the water monitoring in the Eastern Area Partnership region is now closer to EU standards.

Under the **European Neighbourhood Instrument**, bilateral and regional projects have been targeting biodiversity. For example, the **integrated monitoring and assessment programme-marine protected areas project** aims at achieving a good environmental status for the Mediterranean Sea and coast through an ecologically representative and efficiently managed and monitored network of marine protected areas. The project has a total budget of EUR 4 million and its implementation period runs from 2019 to 2022.

Through the **LIFE PROGRAMME**, by 2020:

- More than 15 000 km² of habitats are being restored or are improving their conservation status;
- More than 300 species have improved their conservations status thanks to LIFE;
- Over 1500 Natura 2000 sites have benefited from LIFE funding.

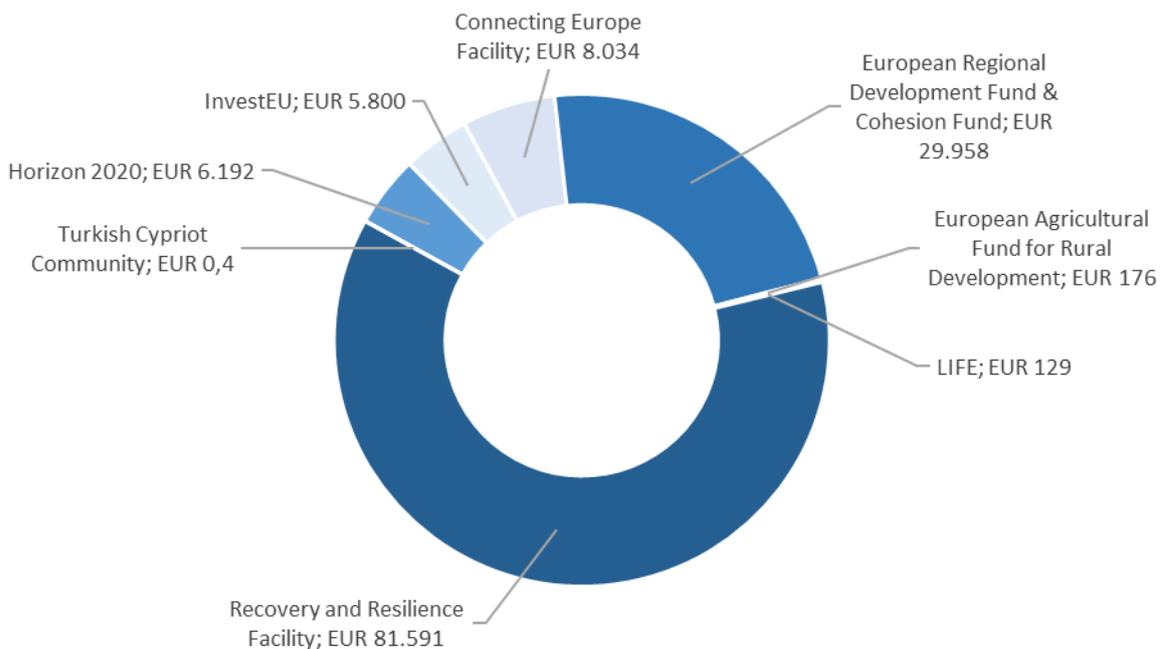
5. Clean Air tracking

The EU has been working for decades to reduce air pollution to levels that do not give rise to negative impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment. Air quality has improved in the European Union over time and emissions of several air pollutants have decreased. This has been possible thanks to EU clean air legislation and efforts to integrate environmental protection requirements in general and clean air priorities in particular into sectoral policies, including stricter control of the emission of harmful substances into the atmosphere. Joint efforts at EU, national, regional and local level (including thanks to the provision of resources from the EU budget to actions contributing to clean air objectives), have played an important role in delivering progress. However, efforts must continue and intensify, as in most Member States quality of life remains hampered by the adverse impacts of air pollution. EU air quality standards need to be met across the EU.

To address remaining clean air challenges, EU funding has been made available and successfully used by Member States under various financial streams, by either directly supporting clean air projects or effectively mainstreaming clean air objectives in other investments (e.g. infrastructure, rural and regional development). To monitor progress in the Member States' uptake of EU funds for clean air objective, the Commission tracks EU funding contributing to clean air by assessing the extent to which each funding stream contributes to this objective. This monitoring will contribute to better implementation of clean air policies in Member States. This tracking also responds to the Commission obligation to report on Member States' uptake of EU funds in support of the achievement of the objectives of Directive (EU) 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (the NEC Directive, for National Emission reduction Commitments Directive) in its Article 11(1)(c)).

In order to comply with the Directive's obligation of reporting, the programme statements for relevant programmes include the individual programmes' contribution to clean air throughout the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. The precise methodology for tracking the contribution towards clean air objectives was published along with the implementation report that is mandated by the NEC Directive (Article 11 of the NEC Directive). Values for the 2021-2027 MFF rely mostly on estimates. Data for the 2021-2027 MFF is, as of yet, unavailable for InvestEU and LIFE as projects have not been chosen yet. Therefore, for these two programmes, the clean air contribution as based on the 2014-2020 MFF is provided. Further data is available in an annex to this section.

Clean Air contribution in EUR million



Projected clean air contribution from 2021 to 2027, in million EUR

Source: European Commission.

6. Gender equality mainstreaming

The Council of Europe defined gender mainstreaming as "the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policymaking¹²". According to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), gender mainstreaming involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination¹³.

The Commission has embedded gender mainstreaming in its strategy for the promotion of gender equality and has established gender equality as a cross-cutting objective for all policy areas, including fundamental rights and citizenship, employment and social inclusion, cohesion policy, education, research and innovation, external cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The Commission's long-standing commitment to gender equality gained new momentum with the adoption of the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025¹⁴, which delivers on the Commission's commitment to achieving a Union of Equality. It sets out policy objectives and actions to achieve significant progress towards a gender-equal Europe by 2025. The goal is a Union where everybody, in all their diversity, is free to pursue their chosen path in life, have equal opportunities to thrive, and can equally participate in and lead our European society. The key objectives of the Strategy are ending gender-based violence; challenging gender stereotypes; closing gender gaps in the labour market; achieving equal participation across different sectors of the economy; addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics. The Strategy pursues a dual approach of gender mainstreaming combined with targeted actions, and intersectionality is a horizontal principle for its implementation. While the Strategy focuses on actions within the EU, it is coherent with the EU's external policy on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Since the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission has moved decisively to develop a comprehensive set of initiatives, comprising both first-response measures and more structural measures, in the context of the Next Generation EU and the reinforced Multiannual Financial Framework. The resulting policy response focusses on fair and inclusive recovery. It ensures that equality is at the heart of recovery, and it is designed to mitigate the disproportionate impact that the crisis has on many vulnerable groups in society, irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

As concerns funding in particular, in line with the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, Next Generation EU and the 2021-2027 MFF provide a wide range of EU funding and budgetary guarantee instruments to support actions promoting women's labour market participation and work-life balance, invest in care facilities, support female entrepreneurship, combat gender segregation in certain professions, and address the imbalanced representation of girls and boys in some sectors of education and training. Furthermore, dedicated funding is provided for projects benefiting civil society organisations and public institutions that implement specific actions, including preventing and combating gender-based violence. For instance, through the future Citizen, Rights, Equality and Values programme, the Commission continues to support civil society organisations and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational levels across Europe in tackling gender-based violence and promoting gender equality. Violence, and in particular gender-based violence, are covered by a dedicated strand and specific objective ("Daphne"). Furthermore, the Commission acted to directly support the healthcare systems of EU Member States, where the vast majority of health workers are women (78%)¹⁵, in their fights against the coronavirus pandemic. Notably, in 2020 the Commission mobilised EUR 3 billion from the EU budget through the RescEU medical equipment capacity and the Emergency Support Instrument for the healthcare sector¹⁶.

In line with its commitment to constantly strengthen its reporting framework, the Commission seamlessly applies under the MFF 2021-2027 dedicated systems to track gender relevant expenditure in EU funding programmes. In particular:

¹² For further information, please consult: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/what-is-gender-mainstreaming>

¹³ For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/kg64Cb>

¹⁴ For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/QR89gN>

¹⁵ For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/kX87Uu>

¹⁶ For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/BU83CV>

-Under the current MFF – same as in the previous programming period – external action programmes (NDICI, CFSP, IPA, OCT) apply the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) marker to record ex ante aid activities targeting gender equality. This allows the identification of gaps between policy and financial commitments and the incentivisation of efforts to close them. The OECD DAC methodology consists in the following scoring system:

- score 2: Gender equality is the principal objective of the intervention and is fundamental in its design and expected results.
- score 1: Gender equality is a significant objective, but not the main reason for undertaking the intervention; and
- score 0: The intervention has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target gender equality.

According to the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), at least 85 % of new external actions implemented under the pre-cited instruments, should have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective, as defined by the gender equality policy marker of the OECD DAC. Furthermore, at least one action per country and per region should specifically target gender equality. The NDICI regulation further specifies that at least 5% of gender responsive actions should have gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment as a principal objective.

-Under Annex 1 of the Common provisions Regulation[1] (CPR), a tracking system was introduced to promote the 'gender-relevant' focus of EU Cohesion policy funds[2]. Namely, under the MFF 2021-2027, these funds will track the investments as categorised per gender equality dimension (gender targeting/ gender mainstreaming/ gender neutral). This implies that each operation implemented under cohesion policy programmes will have to contain information about its contribution to gender targeting/mainstreaming. The CPR codes and the OECD DAC markers are aligned. Managing authorities are required to indicate the gender equality dimension of their programme in advance. This ex ante assessment is the basis for estimating potential contribution. The methodology provides for a systematic reporting on planned and achieved levels of expenditure for gender-relevant interventions within cohesion policy programmes.

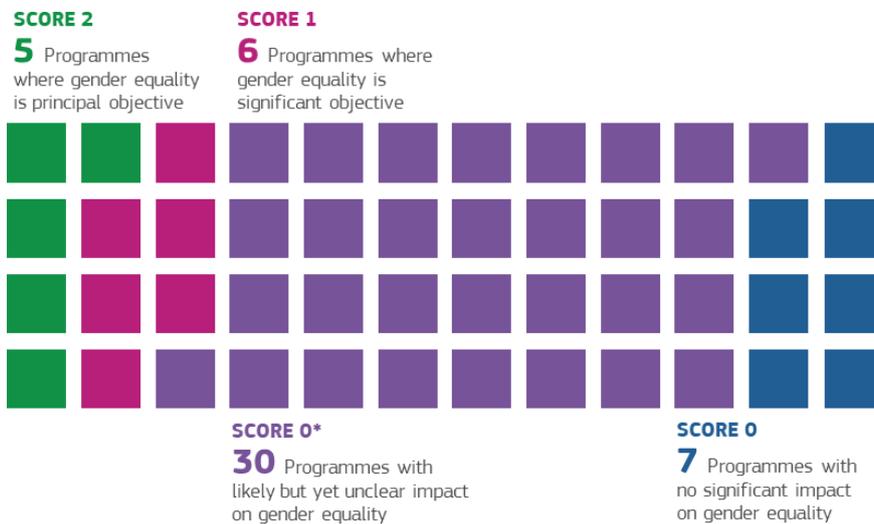
- The Commission has developed a methodology to measure expenditure related to gender equality at programme level in the 2021-2027 MFF, with a view to further reinforcing gender mainstreaming in the post-2020 programming period, and in line with the commitment undertaken in its Gender Equality Strategy. In this endeavour, the Commission has benefited from fruitful exchanges with the European Institute for Gender Equality as well as from a constructive engagement with the European Court of Auditors in the context of their Special Report on Gender Mainstreaming in the EU published in May 2021.

The methodology, which remains under development, is used on a pilot basis for the first time in the context of the reporting associated with the Commission's proposal for the Draft 2023 Budget. This is ahead of the schedule to which the European Commission had committed in the context of the Inter-institutional agreement accompanying the 2021-2027 MFF. The methodology aims at improving gender mainstreaming in the Commission's budget process, through tracking the contribution made by policy design and resource allocation to gender equality objectives. It expands on the general criteria proposed by the OECD for the Rio markers and uses a similar, albeit somewhat adjusted approach as used in climate tracking. In addition, the methodology is aligned with the aforementioned tracking systems for the external action programmes and the CPR. By doing so, the Commission is ahead of the ambition of the IIA both with regard to the scope of implementation and the timeline of its delivery. An overview of the methodology is available in an annex to this section.

The overview of the information reported in the programme statements on the basis of the methodology reflects the continuous efforts to reinforce the integration of gender mainstreaming. In the graph below, programmes are classified on the basis of the highest score associated to the programme, even if only a part of the money contributes. Note that the number of programmes relevant to gender equality as either contributing to gender equality (scores 1 and 2) or potentially contributing to gender equality (score 0*) represent more than 95% of the EU budget. Less than 5% can be considered as gender neutral on the basis of the information currently available.

Contributions to gender equality

The financing is split among four categories



^[1] [EUR-Lex - 32021R1060 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

^[2] These are the ERDF, ESF+, JTF and the Cohesion fund.

7. The EU budget and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, has given a new impetus to global efforts to achieve sustainable development. The EU has played an important role in shaping the 2030 Agenda, through public consultations, dialogue with partners and in-depth research. The EU is committed to playing an active role to maximise progress towards the SDGs, as outlined, among others, in its Communication 'Next steps for a sustainable European future'¹⁷ and in the Commission Staff Working Document 'Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach'¹⁸.

This lasting commitment to SDGs constitutes an overriding political priority for the von der Leyen Commission. Progressing towards the UN SDGs is an intrinsic part of the President's political programme¹⁹ and an array of deeply transformative policies has already been presented in 2020, such as the European Green Deal, the climate law, a new Industrial Strategy for Europe, the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020 and 2021, and the new European Skills Agenda amongst others.

¹⁷ For further information, please consult: <https://euroDa.eu/iPv74QX>

¹⁸ SWD(2020) 400 final, 18.11.2020. For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/ldp39gq>

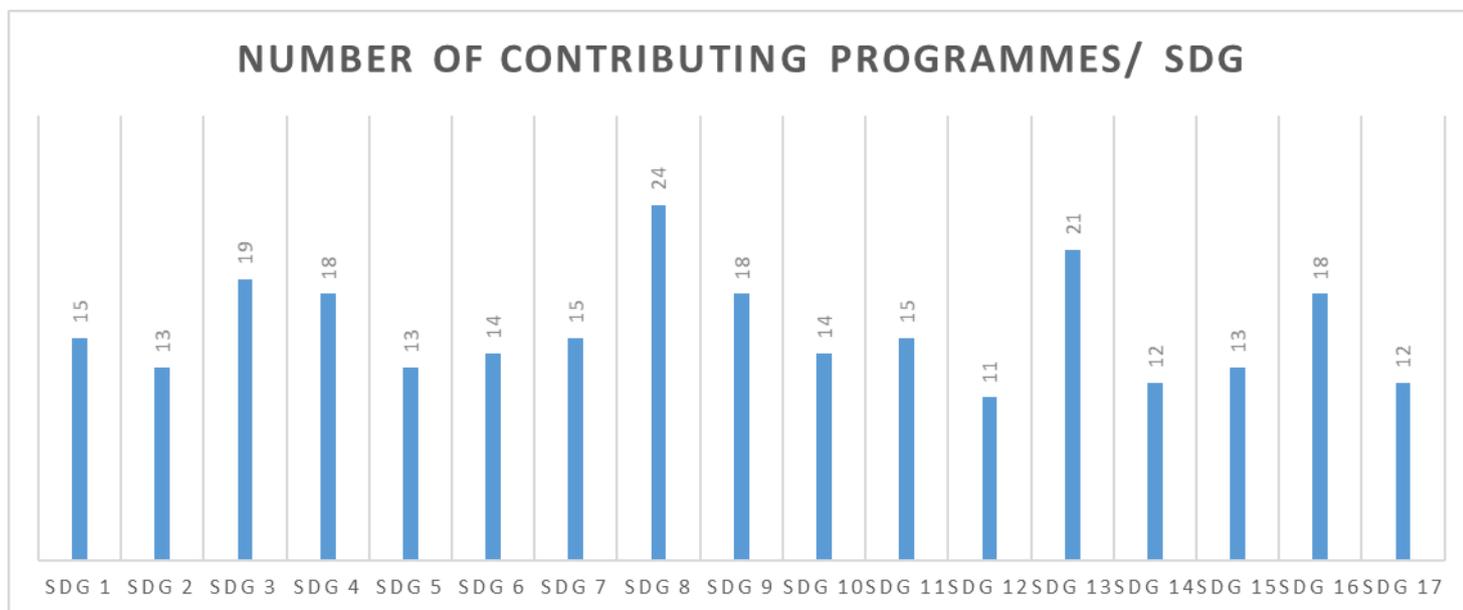
¹⁹ President von der Leyen's [Political Guidelines](#): A Union that strives for more- My agenda for Europe.

This commitment assumes even greater relevance in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has provided an impetus to ‘building back better’ towards a more inclusive, sustainable, just and resilient future for all, leaving no one behind. Notably, the Commission’s Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021²⁰ reaffirmed that sustainability, productivity, fairness and stability, meaning the four pillars on which the EU’s economic policy must rely to implement reforms and investments in the EU²¹, should remain the guiding principles underpinning Member States’ recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

These priorities lie at the heart of the European Semester and ensure that the new growth agenda does the best for people and the planet. To this end, a holistic and balanced approach where the EU works better together with the Member States and across policy fields is required. Given the division of competences between Member States and the EU, a close coordination is crucial for the achievement of the SDGs.

At EU level, sustainable development challenges are addressed through EU policies and regulatory instruments. As far as the former are concerned, the EU budget, through its spending programmes, provides a significant contribution to sustainable development by complementing the national budgets, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. In doing so, the design and implementation of the EU spending programmes aim at delivering on the objectives in each policy field whilst promoting sustainability through the actions and interventions of the relevant programmes, in a joint and coherent way. In particular, 41 out of 48 of the EU spending programmes contributed towards at least one SDG in 2021.

The number of programmes contributing to individual SDGs is presented in the graph below:



In the light of the cross-cutting nature of SDGs, and in order to ensure a holistic approach in addressing sustainable development, the vast majority (85%) of the spending programmes contributing to SDGs are designed to address multiple SDGs through their policy actions. As last year, the Commission presents the SDGs to which each EU programme contributes along with examples of its contribution. This is with a view to further enhancing the reporting on the performance of its programmes and providing a deeper understanding of the EU policy coherence.

The following infographic illustrates in a non-exhaustive manner the many examples of the contribution of EU programmes to SDGs.

²⁰ COM(2020) 575 final. For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/ldM47rj>

²¹ Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2020, SWD(2019) 444 final. For further information, please consult: <https://europa.eu/Ry84jt>



The **Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived** co-funded from March 2020 to December 2021 the project 'Distribution of food parcels to students' with EUR 1.4 million. The project targeted the most disadvantaged students in third-level education in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of France. Depending on the week, between 800 and 1 400 students received food parcels and in total, nearly 52 000 packages have been distributed to date.



Up to 87% of the forcibly displaced population are hosted in developing countries, while their survival depends on the availability of assistance provided by the authorities, local communities and humanitarian organisations. In 2020, the **Humanitarian aid** programme financed with EUR 900 million the aid to forcibly displaced populations and their host communities.



The **Common Agricultural Policy**, through its EU school scheme, supports the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk to schools across the EU as part of a wider education programme on EU agriculture and the benefits of healthy eating. For 2017-2023, the total EU budget allocated amounts to €220.8 million per school year.



Erasmus+ will support between 2021- 2024 with €1 million the project Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia. The project aims to promote green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions for resilient, climate-friendly and liveable cities through ICT-enhanced tertiary education linked to labour markets.



In 2021, some 16 million EUR were mobilised under the **Emergency Support Instrument** to establish the necessary infrastructure for the issuance and verification of interoperable EU Digital COVID-19 certificates with the aim to facilitate the safe free movement of citizens within the EU during the pandemic.



Under **LIFE's** ECOTEX project in Spain an innovative, eco-efficient and highly replicable recycling system was developed for polyester textile waste. The system increased the circularity of the shoe industry and reduced Greenhouse gas emissions. Several companies in the textile, automotive and packaging industries started projects to replicate this system.



The Education Cannot Wait initiative enabled the provision of education to 1.5 million children and youth, half of whom are girls, in 19 crisis-affected countries; and of training to more than 21 000 teachers. The **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument** supported this initiative in the period 2018-2021 with 21 million EUR.



Under the EU support to **Overseas Countries and Territories**, the financing of EUR 4 million to be provided from 2021 to 2027 in the context of EU's cooperation with the French Southern and Antarctic Lands has as priority the protection of biodiversity.



In Sweden, a project funded by the **European Social Fund** with 1.6 million EUR helped newly arrived migrant women between 25 and 65 years old speed up the process of finding work or training while also breaking down gender stereotypes. The project ran from 2016 to 2019 and benefited around 700 participants.



Thanks to **Galileo**, data is provided to fishing authorities on the location, speed and course of fishing vessels operating in Europe, allowing them to detect and track movement and activity in restricted fishing grounds. In the EU, about 9000 fishing vessels are equipped with a satellite-based device providing data to fishery authorities to support enforcement efforts.



In 2021, the **Copernicus** Land Monitoring Service systematically provided near-real-time information on global inland water bodies and their seasonal replenishment, lake and river water levels, temperature, turbidity and trophic state, including potential water availability from snow and ice cover.



From 2016-2019, the **European Regional Development fund** supported with 763 292 EUR the Polish Atlas of Rains Intensities (PANDA) project. This is the first online, digital and comprehensive rainfall mapping system in Poland. It is designed to help develop urban storm water and drainage systems that better protect Polish towns, cities and their residents against the effects of heavy rainfall.



The Baltic Synchronisation Project aims to synchronise the three Baltic States' electricity grids with the continental European network and allow the three Baltic States to gain full control of their electricity networks and to strengthen energy security. To this end, the **Connecting Europe Facility** provided financial assistance of 1 052 million EUR until 2020. An additional EUR 170 million is provided through the first call under the **Connecting Europe Facility II**.



The European e-Justice Portal, established with funding from the **Justice programme**, facilitates access to justice throughout the EU and served 4.3 million visitors in 2021



From 2020 to 2024, the **Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance** supports the programme 'Social Inclusion' in Albania, and topped up its contribution with EUR 20.65 million to finance COVID-19 emergency support measures. 173,091 employees benefited from measures related to support to businesses affected by COVID-19 and 65 574 individuals received the minimum salary for a period of 3 months as a targeted measure to small enterprises temporary closed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.



Under the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, the EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network was set up. Its aim is to bring together relevant national civil protection authorities, centres of excellence, researchers, universities, knowledge centres, third countries and international organisations and thereby facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, and better informed decision-making for more efficient and effective prevention, preparedness and response.



As of 31 December 2020, the **European Fund for Strategic Investments** had supported transport infrastructure investments materialised in signed amounts of approx. EUR 9.3 billion, thereby unlocking some EUR 31.1 billion to promote transport networks, cleaner fleets, reduced congestions and bottlenecks. These investments provided improved transport for over 95 million passengers.

Annex - climate expenditure

Programme	Description	2021 (M€)	2022 (M€)	2023 (M€)	2024 (M€)	2025 (M€)	2026 (M€)	2027 (M€)	Total (M€)	% of climate expenditure on total envelope	% target in the basic act	% of total climate
Others	Agencies, prerogatives, other actions, PPPA	124.14							124.14			0%
COMM	Communication	2.44	18.00	18.00					38.44	5%		0%
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility	4 193.78	4 323.00	4 340.00	4 358.00	1 225.00	1 242.00	1 262.00	20 943.78	63%	60%	4%
CREATIVE	Creative Europe	6.89	7.30	7.30	7.40	7.50	7.60	7.70	51.69	3%		0%
DIGITALEU	Digital Europe Programme	35.96							35.96	1%		0%
ERASMUS +	Erasmus+	169.43							169.43	1%		0%
SPACE	EU Space programme	254.25	288.80	305.10	313.80	316.50	327.80	333.50	2 139.75	15%		0%
EURATOM	Euratom Research and Training Programme	149.51	129.50	134.20	137.90	143.10			694.21	35%		0%
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	10 095.98	10 403.39	5 681.93	5 681.93	5 681.93	5 681.93	5 681.93	48 909.04	47%		9%
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund	7 115.97	7 152.77	7 198.33	18 486.19	18 486.19	18 486.19	18 486.19	95 411.82	33%		17%
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy	17 211.96	17 556.16	12 880.27	24 168.12	24 168.12	24 168.12	24 168.12	144 320.87	37%	40%	26%
ITER	European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy	857.13	710.10	1 019.80	806.30	690.15	856.37	667.37	5 607.22	100%		1%
EMFAF	European Maritime Fisheries and	48.37	162.73	162.73	162.73	162.73	162.73	162.73	1 024.75	17%		0%

	Aquaculture Fund											
ESF+	European Social Fund + (incl. The Fund for the Most Deprived and Employment and Social innovation)	0.22	1 075.00	1 075.00	1 075.00	1 075.00	1 075.00	1 075.00	6 450.22	7%		1%
ESC	European Solidarity Corps (ESC)	15.65	16.40	16.42	16.63	16.98	17.33	17.67	117.08	12%		0%
HORIZON	Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation	4 750.41	5 100.00	4 750.00	4 208.00	4 318.00	4 404.00	4 696.00	32 226.41	35%	35%	6%
HUMA	Humanitarian Aid	831.71							831.71	7%		0%
INVESTEU	InvestEU Programme	722.06	904.40	843.52	58.36	59.53	60.72	61.59	2 710.18	30%	30%	0%
JTM	Just Transition Mechanism	9.33	6 846.50	7 082.40	1 636.50	1 663.20	1 389.50	1 417.40	20 044.83	100%	100%	4%
NDICI - Global Europe	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe	2 036.94	4 307.00	4 307.00	4 307.00	4 307.00	4 307.00	4 307.00	27 878.94	35%	30%	5%
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) (including Greenland)		17.20	17.50	17.90	18.20	18.60	18.90	108.30	22%	25%	0%
IPA III	Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)	509.30	527.00	549.00	560.00	566.00	568.00	569.00	3 848.30	26%	18%	1%
LIFE	Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	375.20	426.15	406.25	417.35	431.65	451.77	470.50	2 978.87	55%	61%	1%
ReactEU	ReactEU	5 761.64	2 037.38						7 799.02	25%		1%
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility	99 133.08	54 251.80	42 183.90					195 568.78	40%	37%	35%

REGIONAL	Regional Policy (European Regional and Development Fund and Cohesion Fund)	37.02	13 309.34	13 659.09	14 043.39	14 440.56	12 256.17	12 679.39	80 424.95	31%		14%
SMP	Single Market Programme	58.72							58.72	1%		0%
TCC	Support to the Turkish Cypriot Community		5.00						5.00	2%		0%
TSI	Technical Support Instrument	28.29							28.29	3%		0%
Fisheries	SFPA and RFMO	15.67	14.10	14.10	14.10	14.10	14.10	14.10	100.27	10%		0%
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)	198.69	58.50	60.60	56.10	57.60	58.80	60.30	550.59	16%		0%
	Total	137 537.79	112 091.36	93 832.18	56 364.58	53 680.92	51 385.61	51 988.27	556 880.7			
	Total	32.26%	34.81%	31.83%	31.21%	28.97%	29.22%	28.66%	31.53%	30%		

Annex - biodiversity expenditure²²

Programme	2021 (M€)	2022 (M€)	2023 (M€)	2024 (M€)	2025 (M€)	2026 (M€)	2027 (M€)	Total (M€)	% of the envelop
Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation	1 068.00	1 068.00	960.00	1 030.00	884.00	902.00	920.00	6 832.00	7%
EU Space programme	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	165.00	165.00	930.00	6%
Cohesion policy fund (European Regional and Development Fund and Cohesion Fund)	0	2 050.00	2 424.10	2 826.10	3 252.60	3 704.70	4 183.90	18 441.40	7%
Recovery and Resilience Facility	6 255.50	2 512.40	2 299.20					11 067.10	2%
Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)	43.12							43.12	1%
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	5 354.00	5 373.00	5 397.30	5 414.40	5 431.70	5 448.70	5 466.10	37 885.20	13%
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	4 588.90	3 806.30	3 623.60	3 623.60	3 623.60	3 623.60	3 623.60	26 513.20	26%
European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund	16.79	128.94	128.94	128.94	128.94	128.94	128.94	790.43	13%
SFPA and RFMO	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	30.80	3%
Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	332.07	343.51	331.43	346.25	365.50	391.09	420.04	2 529.89	46%
Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI - Global Europe)	529.00	814.20	837.40	952.80	1 173.90	1 150.20	1 057.50	6 515.00	8%

²² As regards the EAGF and the EAFRD, the forecasts provided in the table for 2023-2027 were established on the basis of the previous biodiversity methodology and are still to be updated, in line with the CAP strategic plans as finally approved. The actual tracking going forward will be done on the basis of the updated methodology for all programmes.

Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) (including Greenland)	5.00	5.20	5.20	5.40	5.50	5.60	5.70	37.60	8%
Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)	33.00	84.00	94.00	96.00	96.00	97.00	102.00	602.00	4%
Total	18 349.78	16 309.95	16 225.57	14 547.89	15 086.14	15 621.23	16 077.18	112 217.74	
Total	4.30%	5.07%	5.50%	8.05%	8.14%	8.88%	8.86%	6.35%	

Annex - clean air spending

Programme	Estimated clean air contribution 2021-2027 (in EUR million)
Horizon 2020	6 192
InvestEU*	5 800
Connecting Europe Facility	8 034
European Regional Development Fund	29 958
Cohesion Fund	
Turkish Cypriot Community	0.4
Recovery and Resilience Facility**	81 591
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development	176
LIFE***	129
TOTAL	131 880.4

- * Data available for the European Fund for Strategic Investment for the period 2014 – 2020
- **Based on 22 out of 27 approved recovery and resilience plans
- ***Based on the LIFE Programme 2014-2020

*Annex – gender tracking methodology***Gender Equality: an expenditure tracking methodology
for the MFF 2021-2027****1. Background**

Gender mainstreaming consists of ‘the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes, with a view to promoting equality between women and men, and combating discrimination’.²³

Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union lays down the principle of gender mainstreaming, providing that ‘in all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities and to promote equality between men and women’. Gender equality as a fundamental value for the European Union is further enshrined in the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and confirmed in EU law.

The Commission applies a dual approach to gender equality. Notably it promotes gender equality on the one hand, through gender mainstreaming, i.e. by increasingly including the gender equality perspective in all stages of EU action i.e. policies, legislative measures and funding programmes; and on the other hand, through specific targeted measures to address persistent inequalities, including within relevant EU funding programmes.

With its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025,²⁴ the Commission committed to look at the impact of its activities on gender equality and at how to measure expenditure related to gender equality at programme level in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

This commitment was reaffirmed in the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) of 16 December 2020²⁵ accompanying the current MFF, whereby the Commission received the mandate to develop such a methodology. The IIA also provides minimum requirements with regard to timeline and scope that the institutions agreed.

In April 2021, the Commission, with its Communication on the ‘Better Regulation: Joining forces to make better laws’, committed to pay greater attention to the gender equality dimension as well as to equality for all. The Commission committed to give gender equality and equality for all consistent consideration in all stages of policymaking.²⁶ This was reflected in the revised Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox adopted in November 2021²⁷. The Commission also reaffirmed this commitment in its work programme for 2022²⁸.

In May 2021, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published its Special Report²⁹ on gender mainstreaming in the EU Budget. Recommendation VI called for the development of a system for tracking funds allocated

²³ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/what-is-gender-mainstreaming>

²⁴ <https://europa.eu/!dP93uX>

²⁵ Paragraph 16, point (f) of the [Interinstitutional agreement of 16 December 2020](#)

²⁶ [better_regulation_joining_forces_to_make_better_laws_en_0.pdf\(europa.eu\)](#)

²⁷ Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox

²⁸ [COM\(2021\) 645 final](#)

²⁹ [Special Report 10/2021](#): Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget: time to turn words into action

and used to support gender equality and for annual reporting on the results achieved in terms of gender equality.

In October 2021, the Council Conclusions on the ECA report were adopted.³⁰ In line with the ECA recommendations, the Council called on the Commission to develop a robust system for tracking funds allocated and used to support gender equality and to report annually on the results achieved in terms of gender equality, in order to improve accountability and budgetary transparency. Furthermore, it called on the Commission to ensure that reliable information on funds allocated to and used for the promotion of gender equality at programme level in the MFF 2021-2027 is available.

2. Outline of the methodology for tracking gender equality related expenditure in the EU Budget

In line with the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the IIA on the MFF 2021-2027, the Commission has developed a methodology for the tracking of gender equality related expenditure under the MFF 2021-2027.

The development of this methodology has been informed by discussions with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the European University Institute in Florence and the OECD.

The present methodology is implemented in a pilot phase in the context of the Draft Budget (DB) 2023, and may be subject to further modifications following the outcome of this pilot phase.

Key features of the methodology

- **Gender equality** refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys, in all their diversity.^{31,32,33} Namely, equality means that people's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born female or male. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of women and men in all their diversity are taken into consideration³⁴. The methodology aims to capture all actions supported by the EU budget, which tackle gender imbalances.
- The methodology assesses the contributions of the EU funding programmes to the promotion of gender equality while acknowledging the **specificities of individual programmes**, including with regard to the level of granularity at which it is possible to apply the methodology. The **availability of relevant data and legislative framework** are also considered.
- The development of the methodology has been informed by the **OECD Development Assistant Committee (DAC) Gender Equality Markers**. This provides a level of comparability with the Commission's tracking of contributions to climate and biodiversity and builds on existing know-how of EU institutions and stakeholders. The methodology has also

³⁰ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12829-2021-INIT/en/pdf>

³¹ [gender equality | European Institute for Gender Equality \(europa.eu\)](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality)

³² Certain programmes, EU funded projects and legislative frameworks, such as the European Social Fund Plus under Common Provisions Regulation and Horizon Europe projects managed by DG RTD, also capture data on "Non-binary" or "Other" individuals, where applicable.

³³ See footnote 9 of the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, which states that: "The expression 'in all their diversity' is used... to express that, where women or men are mentioned, these are a heterogeneous categories including in relation to their sex, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics. It affirms the commitment to leave no one behind and achieve a gender equal Europe for everyone, regardless of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation".

³⁴ [gender equality | European Institute for Gender Equality \(europa.eu\)](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality)

been informed by discussions with and the ongoing work of **EIGE** on **Tool No 8 for ‘Tracking resource allocations for gender equality in the EU Funds’**.³⁵

- Currently, the **scope** is limited to equality between women and men, in all their diversity. Interventions contributing to countering other aspects of discrimination³⁶, such as racial/ethnic origin, sexual orientation, and disability, are not included in the methodology. Once the methodology is fully developed and institutionalised, the Commission may decide to initiate further work to include other forms of discrimination.
- The methodology aims for granularity to be as high as possible, taking into account the availability of relevant data. If data are not available at the project/action level, the expenditure will be tracked at a higher level of aggregation, such as the relevant part of a programme (e.g., operational programmes, strand level, or at a particular specific objective) or, in the absence of more detailed information, at the level of the entire programme. For the purposes of the methodology, the term “intervention” designates the most granular level available, which, depending on the programme specificities and data availability, can be different, i.e project level or operational programme, etc. The following **scores** are attributed at the most granular level of intervention possible:

2 – Interventions whose principal objective is to improve gender equality. Improving gender equality is the main objective of the intervention, without it the intervention would probably not be undertaken.

1 – Interventions having gender equality as an important and deliberate objective but not as the main reason for the intervention.

0 – Not targeted interventions, which do not contribute significantly towards gender equality.

0* – Interventions, which can have an important impact on gender equality but where the actual impact is yet unclear, due to for example the absence of an assessment of the gender equality perspective in the design phase, or the absence of data allowing a more detailed assessment of the effects of the intervention.

- The methodology **does not include coefficients** to weigh the contribution of interventions towards gender equality. The Commission will thus report on full financial envelopes under each individual score. Given that a) the consideration of gender equality is in many cases not the prime, albeit an important, objective; and b) most of the budget will in some way contribute to gender equality, attributing weighing factors to these amounts is unlikely to add any value and is, on the contrary, likely to obfuscate important differences between spending rationales. This is in line with common practice in OECD, where even the most advanced methodologies limit themselves to flagging interventions relevant for gender equality.

3. Process of assessment

³⁵ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-budgeting/tool-8-tracking-resource-allocations-gender-equality-eu-funds?lang=nl>

³⁶ In line with Article 10 TFEU: “In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation”.

The assessment of contributions to gender equality is performed at two stages to capture in a timely and accurate manner the contributions of the EU budget to gender equality, namely:

- *ex ante*, based first on the design³⁷ (including the legal framework) and then on the programming of the interventions;
- *ex post*, based on an ongoing assessment of the results from the implementation of the specific interventions as they come in.

This is in line with the Commission’s tracking methodologies for climate and biodiversity.

It should be noted that the reporting drawing from programming and implementation data will follow the life cycle of each individual programme and will be presented accordingly.

The actual assessment of the applicable score, both *ex ante* and *ex post*, will be conducted by the DG/Service responsible for a given intervention in collaboration with DG BUDG and the Task Force on Equality. DG JUST may also be associated.

Once additional information from the programming and implementation of programmes becomes available, all scores may be subject to possible re-assessment.

For those programmes which have been attributed **score 0*** in the context of the *ex ante* assessment, an effort will be made to re-assess their contribution into scores 0, 1 or 2, once the programme enters the programming and the implementation phases. In the absence of sufficient information, the score may have to remain stable (*i.e.*, 0*), to indicate that the programme continues to have the potential of making an important contributions, which, however, remains insufficiently understood/evidenced for the time being.

Scores 1 and 2 may be attributed at programme or programme strand level only to those interventions where it can be sufficiently substantiated and justified that they demonstrate sufficient positive contributions towards gender equality.

Score 0 may be attributed only to those interventions where it is sufficiently clear and justified that the intervention has no or very limited potential impact on gender equality.

4. Assessment criteria

As mentioned above, the assessment criteria for the attribution of scores are adapted by DG BUDG from the OECD DAC guidelines:

STAGE OF ASSESSMENT	SCORE 0	SCORE 0*	SCORE 1	SCORE 2
Ex ante assessment based on the intervention’s	Gender equality is not targeted by the intervention	Although an analysis of the gender equality perspective has yet to be conducted , it is likely – but not yet clear – that the intervention can have an important	An analysis of the gender equality perspective of the intervention has been conducted. Findings from this analysis of the gender equality perspective have informed the design	

³⁷ For DB2023, scores are attributed on the basis of an ex ante assessment focusing on each intervention’s design.

design		impact on gender equality	of the intervention, and the gender equality aspects have been reflected in the adopted legal acts and/ or in the performance framework of the intervention.	
Ex ante assessment based on the intervention’s programming		At the programming phase, the intervention may reinforce its gender equality perspective , inter alia, by planning gender equality conducive actions or issuing guidance to reinforce the promotion of gender equality by managing authorities.	The firm commitment towards gender equality undertaken in the design of the intervention, is now reflected in the intervention’s programming : A gender equality perspective is integrated, for instance, in actions included in national and regional Programmes under shared management or in the annual work programme executed under direct management through provisions included in grants and procurement procedures.	The top-level ambition of the intervention is to advance gender equality and/or women’s empowerment and this is reflected in its programming .
Ex post assessment based on the intervention’s implementation	At the implementation phase , assess whether evidence from the implementation of the intervention confirms non-relevance for gender equality in	At the implementation phase , the intervention is reassigned to other scores (0, 1 or 2), as soon as the gender equality perspective can be sufficiently assessed and supported by quantitative and/ or qualitative analysis (for scores 1 and 2).	The intervention has positive effects ex post , proven by quantitative and/ or qualitative analysis . Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results achieved by the intervention in the evaluation phase .	

- **The inclusion of gender-specific objectives in the performance framework of a programme is not a prerequisite** for an intervention to be included as part of gender equality expenditure. In other words, a programme may actively consider the gender equality perspective and make an important contribution even in the absence of gender-specific objective. This is in particular true given the important work done on the economy of specific objectives in the MFF.
- Similarly, **disaggregation of data by sex or gender³⁸ is not necessary for an intervention to be included in the gender equality expenditure**. However, where possible, proportionate and relevant, and to the extent data is available, the methodology aims at reporting on indicators based on sex/gender disaggregated results.
- Considering the absence of sufficient relevant data across EU funding programmes, it is not possible to conduct an analysis of potential negative effects on gender equality across all programmes. Therefore, the Commission has launched a **pilot project** to explore the **feasibility of** introducing a

³⁸ Note: whereas ‘sex-disaggregated’ generally refers to the male/female split in statistics/indicators, ‘gender-disaggregated’ emphasises the broader context of social norms, and is more inclusive as regards different gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics.

screening for potential negative effects on gender equality at a later stage, including an assessment of what would be necessary in terms of information and data. The results of this will be assessed to inform and determine any further steps.

- An **overview** of the score(s) attributed to each EU funding programme is available at the table with **financial contributions** to gender equality presented under each individual Programme Statement's **Section 6.4 'Contribution to Gender Equality'**.
- Furthermore, in accordance with the Budget Circular for Draft Budget 2023, DGs/Services are requested to present for each programme a brief **contextual assessment** of potential gender-specific inequalities, constraints, needs or opportunities in the policy area(s) the programme contributes to, explaining if the programme is or could potentially be relevant to address them.
- DGs/Services are also requested to provide **an assessment of the programme's performance in relation to gender equality** by providing information on interventions funded by the programme in 2021 for the promotion of gender equality and interventions planned or identified for the remainder of the MFF 2021-2027.
- For **gender relevant programmes**, if a programme cannot demonstrate any concrete relevant achievement, DGs/Services are invited to consider actions such as relevant trainings, studies etc. to help inform the policy design with a gender equality dimension, regardless of the size of the corresponding financial envelopes.

5. Coverage and programmes

Point 16 (f) of the IIA between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament stipulates that a gender equality tracking methodology for certain direct management programmes at programme level shall be implemented no later than 1 January 2023, to test the feasibility of the methodology. At mid-term, it will be explored whether the methodology can be extended to other programmes for the remainder of the MFF.

However, the Commission, drawing from its long-standing and deep commitment to the promotion of equality, including gender equality, has spared no efforts to advance both time-wise and scope-wise faster than envisaged by the IIA. As a result, the Commission has developed the methodology and will test it for its feasibility already in the context of Draft Budget 2023 on all EU funding programmes under the MFF 2021-2027.

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HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital

Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Lead DG:RTD

Associated DGs:AGRI, CLIMA, CNECT, DEFIS, EAC, EMPL, ENER, ENV, GROW, HERA, HOME, JRC, MARE, MOVE, SANTE

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

Research and Innovation are essential to shape the future of Europe: they contribute to making Europe a better place in which to live and work and are crucial for providing solutions to the challenges we face today, and will face tomorrow. They help make people's lives better by improving healthcare, environment, climate and digital services. At the same time, by delivering countless new products and services, Research and Innovation improve Europe's competitiveness, boost growth and create jobs. Horizon Europe helps Europe deliver on citizens' priorities, as embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals and in the Paris Agreement on fighting climate change, to bring about sustainable growth and high-quality jobs, and to solve global challenges. It responds to the need to:

- Further improve the creation and diffusion of high-quality new knowledge and innovation in Europe
- Reinforce the impact of R&I in addressing EU priorities
- Ensure a more rapid uptake of innovative solutions
- Strengthen the European Research Area.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

Horizon Europe promotes scientific excellence, generates new knowledge and technologies, and provide the appropriate environment to turn great ideas into products and services that will bring sustainable growth to our economy and create jobs. This will have positive effects on growth, trade and investments flow. Horizon Europe aims to:

- deliver scientific, technological, economic and societal impact from the Union's investments in research and innovation so as to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of the Union and foster its competitiveness in all Member States including in its industry, deliver on the Union strategic priorities and contribute to the realisation of EU objectives and policies,
- contribute to tackling global challenges, including the Sustainable Development Goals by following the principles of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, and
- to strengthen the European Research Area. The Programme shall thus maximise the Union's added value by focusing on objectives and activities that cannot be effectively realised by Member States acting alone, but in cooperation.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme has the following specific objectives:

- to develop, promote and advance scientific excellence, to support the creation and diffusion of high-quality new fundamental and applied knowledge, of skills, technologies and solutions, to support training and mobility of researchers, to attract talent at all levels and contribute to the full engagement of the Union's talent pool in actions supported under the Programme;
- to generate knowledge, strengthen the impact of R&I in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies and support the access to and uptake of innovative solutions in European industry, in particular SMEs, and in society to address global challenges, including climate change and the SDGs;
- to foster all forms of innovation, facilitate technological development, demonstration and knowledge and technology transfer, strengthen deployment and exploitation of innovative solutions;
- to optimise the Programme's delivery with a view to strengthening and increasing the impact and attractiveness of the ERA, to foster excellence-based participation from all Member States, including low R&I performing countries, in the Programme and to facilitate collaborative links in European R&I.

1.4. Public intervention context

In accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), in particular Article 173(3), 182(1), 183 and the second paragraph of Article 188, it is the Union's objective to strengthen its scientific and technological bases by reinforcing the European Research Area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely and encouraging it to become more competitive, including in its industry, while promoting all research and innovation activities to deliver on the Union's strategic priorities and commitments, which ultimately aim at promoting peace, the Union's values and the wellbeing of its people. The Union invests in research and innovation through the framework programme Horizon Europe to deliver scientific, technological, economic, environmental and societal impact in pursuit of this general objective and to maximise the Union's added value of its R&I investments.

In addition, Horizon Europe will contribute to tackling global challenges, including the sustainable development goals, such as for example are laid down in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The program focuses on objectives and activities that cannot be effectively achieved by Member States acting alone, but in cooperation.

1.5. Actions

Horizon Europe is implemented through three interconnected pillars leading to mutual reinforcement of activities. The Excellent Science pillar supports frontier research projects designed and driven by researchers through the European Research Council. It also funds fellowships and mobility of researchers through Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, and invests in world-class research infrastructures. The Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness pillar supports research into societal challenges, reinforces technological and industrial capacities, and sets EU-wide missions with ambitious goals tackling some of our biggest problems -health, climate change, clean energy, mobility, security, digital, materials, etc. It will also support partnerships with Member States, industry and other stakeholders to work jointly on research and innovation. It includes action by the Joint Research Centre supporting policy making with independent scientific evidence and technical support.

The Innovative Europe pillar aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation and SME growth through the European Innovation Council. It will help develop the overall European innovation landscape. The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) will continue to foster the integration of business, research, higher education and entrepreneurship. A fourth component on Widening participation and Strengthening the European Research Area underpins the whole of Horizon Europe. It will support EU Member States in their efforts to unlock their national research and innovation potential and it will especially help low R&I performing Member States to increase their participation in Horizon Europe.

1.6. Delivery mode

Horizon Europe is directly implemented by the Commission or funding bodies through:

- a. The specific programme established by Decision (EU) 2021/764; which includes a financial contribution to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology established by the EIT Regulation.
- b. The specific programme on defence research established by Regulation (EU) 2021/697.

Horizon Europe is complemented by the [Euratom Research and Training Programme](#).

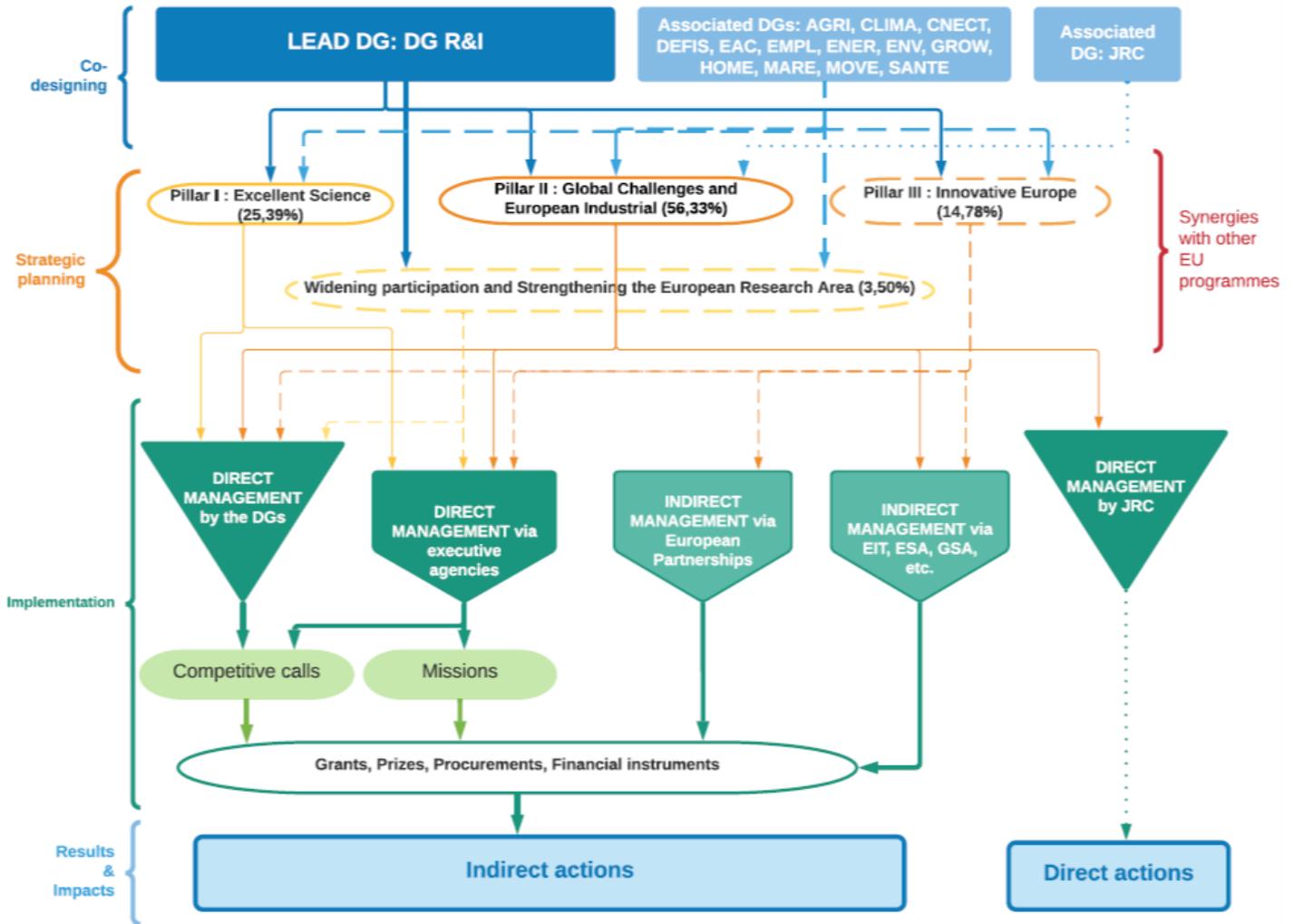
The Horizon Europe indirect activities are delivered through calls for proposals set out in work programmes.

- The main bi-annual work programme covers the following domains: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and research infrastructures under Pillar I; all clusters under Pillar II; European innovation ecosystems under Pillar III; the part on widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area. A significant part of Pillar II of Horizon Europe will be implemented through missions and partnerships, which will have separate work programmes.
- Other annual work programmes for European Research Council (ERC); Joint Research Centre (JRC); and the European Innovation Council (EIC)
- The activities of the [European Institute of Technology \(EIT\)](#) are set out in separate programming documents

Horizon Europe provides funding to indirect actions in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants (including operating grants), prizes and procurements. It also supports direct actions undertaken by the JRC.

Horizon Europe is open to association of third countries in accordance with the Horizon Europe Regulation 2021/6951. Legal entities from Associated Countries can participate under equivalent conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States, unless specific limitations or conditions are laid down in the work programme. In addition, Horizon Europe promotes and integrates cooperation with third countries and international organisations and initiatives based on common interest, mutual benefit and global commitments to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1). Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU (OJ L 167 I, 12.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	86 123.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The Horizon Europe Regulation (EU) 2021/695 establishes the EU framework programme for research and innovation for the years 2021–2027. It lays down the objectives, the budget, the forms of EU funding and the rules for participation and dissemination. It is implemented through the specific programme established by the decision (EU) 2021/764 that set out detailed rules for the framework's implementation, as per Article 182 of the TFEU, the operational objectives and activities, especially for missions, the European Research Council and the European Innovation Council. Horizon Europe is also implemented through a financial contribution to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology established by the EIT Regulation (EC) 294/2008. While defence research falls under the scope of the Horizon Europe programme, the specific provisions for defence research such as objectives, rules for participation, delivery mechanisms are specified in the Regulation establishing the European Defence Fund (EU) 2021/697.

As regards the European Partnerships, the Horizon Europe regulation lays down the conditions and principles for establishing three types of European Partnerships: Co-programmed European Partnerships; Co-funded European Partnerships using a programme co-fund action and Institutionalised European Partnerships. These partnerships are based on a Council Regulation ([Article 187](#)) or a

Decision by the European Parliament and Council ([Article 185](#)). They are implemented by dedicated structures created for that purpose. Institutionalised partnerships will only be implemented where other parts of the Horizon Europe programme, including other types of partnership, would not achieve the desired objectives or expected impacts.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	11 527.6	12 239.2	12 342.9	12 271.6	12 513.6	12 775.6	13 027.6	86 698.0
NextGenerationEU	1 772.0	1 776.8	1 828.3	13.1	9.6	7.3	4.9	5 412.0
Decommitments made available again (*)	20.0							20.0
Contributions from other countries and entities	842.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	842.0
Total	14 161.6	14 015.9	14 171.2	12 284.7	12 523.3	12 782.9	13 032.5	92 972.1

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Horizon Europe has been built on the positive results of its predecessor, *Horizon 2020*, of which it maintains many features. As a result of the interim evaluation of the *Horizon 2020* programme, some changes were made that are continued under *Horizon Europe* for example the European Innovation Council pilot launched in 2017 to support breakthrough innovation. In addition, novelties have been introduced in *Horizon Europe*, notably:

- Deliver targeted solutions to societal challenges together with citizens > EU missions;
- Rationalise the funding landscape > Streamlined approach to European Partnerships;
- Strengthen international cooperation > extended association possibilities;
- Reinforce openness > Open Science policy;
- Encourage participation and decrease the R&I gap in Europe > widening participation and spreading excellence;
- Increase the R&I;
- Impact > synergies with other EU programmes and policies.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

To learn more about the Horizon Europe Programme, you are invited to visit the relevant website that contain information about:

- The structure of the programme, the strategic planning process, the implementation, news on https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en.
- Information on all EU-supported R&D activities including projects, results, publications on <https://cordis.europa.eu>. The Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS) is the European Commission's primary source of results from the projects funded by the EU's framework programmes for research and innovation.
- The full list of calls, funding information and details on how to apply on the [EU Funding and Tenders portal](#).

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	13 586.4	92 972.1	15%
Payments	1 203.7		1%

The year 2021 was marked by **the first year of the Horizon Europe programme implementation**. The late adoption of the legal base has postponed the adoption of the work programmes 2021-2022 and the launching of calls for proposals. The first main Work Programme for Horizon Europe for the period 2021-2022, received 14,7 bn EUR of funding to boost the European green and digital transitions and to contribute to sustainable recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and to EU resilience against future crises. It supports researchers at all stages of their career with new knowledge and skills. It also contributes to the creation of more connected and efficient innovation ecosystems and create world-class research infrastructures. Moreover, the participation across Europe and from around the world is encouraged, while at the same time strengthening the European Research Area.

As regards the *overall implementation of Horizon Europe*, 85 of the over hundred calls for proposals launched in 2021 were closed and fully evaluated by the end of the year. 20.892 eligible proposals had been submitted under those calls. Although two third (66%) of the eligible proposals were above the quality threshold, only 3 110 could be retained due to budgetary constraints, bringing the overall success rate of eligible proposals to 14,9% for the first year of the programme. By end of 2021, 19 grant agreements and 1 framework partnership agreement (FPA) were signed for a total EU contribution of EUR 244.0 million shared across various thematic areas.

Under Horizon Europe, the European Capital of Innovation awards is an annual recognition prize awarded to the European cities that best promote innovation in their communities. Apart from the prestigious recognition, the European Capital of Innovation category addresses cities with a population of minimum 250 000 inhabitants and rewards the winner with EUR 1 000 000 and two runners-up cities with EUR 100 000 each. The European Rising Innovative City category that targets towns and cities with a population of 50 000 and up to 249 999 inhabitants rewards the winner with EUR 500 000 and two runners-up with EUR 50 000 each.

In December 2021, the European Innovation Council (EIC) Horizon Prize for a European Low Cost Space Launch solution was awarded with a value of EUR 10 Million to the German company Isar Aerospace¹. The prize encouraged the development of a European technologically non-dependent solution for launching light satellites into Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) with a committed schedule and orbit.

Overall all the commitment appropriations (in particular those expiring in 2021) have been implemented (voted budget, reconstitution of de-commitments (art.15.3), NGEU credits, contributions from EFTA countries). Despite the late adoption of the Regulation for the establishment of Joint Undertakings (JUs) under Horizon Europe end November 2021, the Commission was able to make the commitments for seven JUs before the end of the year. A carry-over of the 2021 appropriations (commitment and payment) has only been requested for the 2021 EU financial contribution to Europe's Rail JU and to Single European Sky ATM Research 3 JU (SESAR).

Horizon Europe is also implemented by **non EU-countries associated to Horizon Europe**. Association to Horizon Europe is governed by the Horizon Europe Regulation. All sixteen non-EU countries associated to the previous programme, Horizon 2020, have expressed interest to become associated to Horizon Europe. As of December 2021, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Turkey have applicable association agreements in place. Association agreements have also been signed with Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo² and Ukraine. National ratification procedures are expected to enter into force. As long as the ratification of the agreement by Ukraine is suspended Ukraine is eligible to EU funding under HE as low to middle income country³. Association negotiations have been concluded with Albania, the Faroe Islands and Tunisia. The agreements are yet to be signed. The updated list of the associated countries is available on: [Horizon Europe association agreements status | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/association-agreements-status)

During 2022, the Commission will therefore have to implement most of the pre-financings of the actions financed by the 2021 budget, together with those of the 2022 actions/calls as foreseen in the Work Programmes. All the commitment appropriations (in particular those expiring end 2022) are foreseen to be implemented (voted budget, reconstitution of de-commitments (art.15.3), NGEU credits, contributions from EFTA countries) to cover the calls foreseen in the work programmes³.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/defence-industry-space/eic-horizon-prize-low-cost-space-launch-commission-awards-eu-10-million-isar-aerospace-technologies-2022-01-25_en

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

³ [Reference Documents \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/reference-documents)

The bi-annual work programmes 2023-2024 as well as the ERC and EIC 2023 work programmes are foreseen to be adopted during the second semester 2022 allowing the start of the related research projects already in 2023. It is planned to implement commitment appropriations to cover the calls and the horizontal support expenditure.

The proposed Chips Act establishes the Chips for Europe Initiative, to be supported through funding from Horizon Europe (HE) and the Digital Europe Programme (DEP). With regards to Horizon Europe, an amount of up to EUR 1.65 billion is foreseen to be implemented under HE in favour of the Chips for Europe Initiative: EUR 400 million under Cluster 4, EUR 150 million from Cluster 3, EUR 300 million from Cluster 5, EUR 300 million under the European Innovation Council (EIC) and 500 million from the current EUR 1.8 billion dedicated to the Chips JU.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	75 616.3	75 623.6	100%
Payments	61 946.2		82%

As regards the payment appropriations implemented in 2021, all the available appropriations have been used mainly to cover legal obligations under the former Programme (Horizon 2020), allowing to decrease substantially the level of the open RAL. 2971 Final Payments were processed in 2021 corresponding to 496,417,125.01 EUR paid. Full execution was reached at the end of 2021.

The Commission has taken specific measures to mitigate the risk of under-implementation of the R&I projects due to the pandemic. Concretely, maximum flexibility has been given in relation to the action implementation. For example, extensions of research projects were granted to limit under-implementation due to COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, teleworking during the confinement and the subsequent transitional period are accepted even if it is not the beneficiary's usual practice to telework. Costs of hours worked for the Horizon 2020 action via teleworking during those periods are eligible under the same conditions than hours worked on-site.

In 2022 and 2023, the Commission will continue to pay the intermediate and final payments related to the 12420 still on-going research projects. The RAL will therefore continue to decrease significantly.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

Horizon Europe is geared towards impact to contribute to our wellbeing and prosperity. To achieve its ambitious objective, new working methods have been introduced from the first year of the programme:

- **The Strategic plan:** New approach to make sure that the research and innovation funded by the EU will address the challenges faced by Europeans. A cross-sectoral co-creation approach across the EC services defines the orientations for the first four years of the programme and outlines the contributions of its various parts while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges, unexpected opportunities and crises. The strategic plan also ensures that there is coherence between the different programmes, ensuring that duplication or overlap is avoided.
- The **European Innovation Council (EIC)** has been established under the Horizon Europe programme. It supports game changing innovations throughout the lifecycle from early stage research, to proof of concept, technology transfer, and the financing and scale up of start-ups and SMEs. The strategy and implementation of the EIC is steered by the EIC Board, which has independent members appointed from the world of innovation (entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, corporates and others from the innovation ecosystem). The EIC and SME Executive Agency (EISMEA) established on 1 April 2021, is responsible for supporting the EIC Board and its President, and for implementing the EIC's activities, which are set out in an annual EIC Work Programme.
- Established on 16 February 2021, the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) addresses the European Commission's ambition to help rebuild a post-COVID-19 Europe at its heart, which will be greener, more digital, more resilient and better fit for the current and forthcoming challenges. In this context, the HaDEA implements the Clusters 1 (Health) and 4 (Digital, Industry, and Space) of Horizon Europe.
- Increased attention is given to implement **synergies across EU programmes** for maximising investment in R&I.

- **EU Missions are a novelty** of the Horizon Europe aiming to deliver solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. Each mission has a mandate to solve a pressing challenge in society within a fixed timeline and budget.

As regards the performance of the programme, Horizon Europe's general objective is to deliver scientific, economic and societal impact from the Union's investments in research and innovation. A performance framework using so-called "Key Impact Pathways" has been designed to monitor the programme's performance towards its general objective. It covers the whole life cycle of a research & innovation funded activities, from outputs to impacts. Performance results are reported at different times (by reference to short, medium and long-term periods) using the impact pathways indicators. Each indicator is set for a defined period and laid down in the Horizon Europe legal base. The indicators results are not all reported at the same time but according to the period to which they are assigned. Performance results will be produced regularly enough to track progress, and quickly enough for the data to still be of value for decision-making. The Key Impact Pathways will allow a regular monitoring of the Horizon Europe performance, taking the nature of research and innovation life cycle into account. The performance results of Horizon Europe will be reported using the indicators appropriate to the period.

The Horizon Europe performance framework builds directly on the existing framework, with some modifications. This general consistency should allow continuity in reporting between programming periods and enhance reporting through the application of lessons learned. Targets for the output indicators have been established, although this is a complex task and they may be subject of revision as explained in the fiche of the indicators.

Beyond the introduction of the novelties described above, 2021 was the first year of implementation of the Horizon Europe program. This explains why at the end of the year 2021 only few performance results mainly for the direct actions, carried out by the JRC, are available. However, we present hereafter some main actions carried out for the proper implementation of the programme at the level of the specific objectives. Nevertheless, even if some actions are identified as contributing to a specific objective, this does not preclude them from contributing to other specific objectives.

Specific objective 1: To develop, promote and advance scientific excellence, to support the creation and diffusion of high-quality new fundamental and applied knowledge, of skills, technologies and solutions, to support training and mobility of researchers, to attract talent at all levels and contribute to the full engagement of the Union's talent pool in actions supported under the Programme.

One of the Horizon Europe activities supporting the S.O. 1 is the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Under Pillar I of Horizon Europe, the MSCA offer opportunity to researchers for doctoral education and postdoctoral training. They support researchers from all over the world, in all scientific domain and at all stages of their careers with a focus on their training, skills and career development. Following feedback from various stakeholders, there are a number of changes to Horizon Europe (2021-2027), compared to the previous programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2020). For instance, as regards the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) the main changes include streamlined actions; harmonizes rules; greener MSCA and the introduction of the MSCA Green Charter promoting the sustainable implementation of research activities in line with the European Green Deal.

In response to the 2021 calls for proposals for the five MSCA, 9660 applicants have applied showing a clear interest to the MSCA:

- 1077 proposals have been submitted to the *MSCA Doctoral network call* from 56 countries.
- 8356 project proposals have been submitted to the *MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call* from 46 countries.
- 116 project proposals have been submitted to the *MSCA COFUND Call* from 24 countries.
- 111 project proposals have been submitted to the *MSCA and Citizens Call* from 36 countries.

The selection results will be announced in 2022.

The European Research Council (ERC) provides attractive, long-term funding to support excellent investigators and their research teams to pursue ground breaking, high-gain/high-risk research. Research funded by the ERC is expected to lead to advances at the frontiers of knowledge and to set a clear and inspirational target for frontier research across Europe. Scientific excellence is the sole criterion on the basis of which ERC frontier research grants are awarded. The 2021 ERC work programme adopted in February 2021 introduces some novelties, such as interviews now being part of the evaluation process also for Advanced Grant applicants and two new evaluation panels. Due to the transition from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe, the call calendar is shifted compared to the calendars of previous years, and the Synergy and Proof of Concept calls have not been open under this year's work programme. In 2021, a funding of **1.9 billion EUR has been made available to allow some 1,000 top researchers to pursue frontier research. Most of the funding (67%) is earmarked for early- to mid-career scientists and scholars. The funding also support jobs for researchers and other professionals employed in ERC-funded teams.**

Specific objective 2: To generate knowledge, strengthen the impact of R&I in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies and support the access to and uptake of innovative solutions in European industry, in particular SMEs, and in society to address global challenges, including climate change and the SDGs.

The main new tools to address global challenges, including climate change and the SDGs are the five EU Missions and the new partnerships.

- **EU Missions to tackle great challenges faced by people in their daily lives.** The aim of EU missions is to provide concrete responses to the EU's most urgent challenges based on clear goals, objectives and timelines. The first EU missions

launched in May 2021⁴ will deliver solutions in five cross-sectoral areas: Adaptation to Climate Change; Cancer; Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities; Ocean, Seas and Waters; Soil Health and Food. We are in urgent need of ambitious responses to these challenges based on the mobilization of all European resources and actors across all sectors. Their novelty and benefit is a new way of working together involving different instruments, business models and public and private investments at EU, national, regional and local levels to achieve a measurable goal that could not be achieved through individual actions. Synergies with European and national programmes is essential to EU Missions' success.

- **Public and Private sectors together to speed up the transition towards a green and digital Europe, and to make European industry more resilient and competitive:** European Partnerships bring the European Commission and private and/or public partners together to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted research and innovation initiatives. By bringing private and public partners together, European Partnerships help to avoid the duplication of investments and contribute to reducing the fragmentation of the research and innovation landscape in the EU. There are 3 categories of partnerships:

i. **Institutionalised partnerships** require legislative regulation. In November 2021, the regulations establishing the Joint Undertakings, 9 based on Article 187⁵, and one on Article 185⁶ of TFEU were adopted. 10 new Institutionalised Partnerships between the European Union, Member States and/or the industry to improve EU preparedness and response to infectious diseases, develop efficient low-carbon aircraft for clean aviation, support the use of renewable biological raw materials in energy production, ensure European leadership in digital technologies and infrastructures, and make rail transport more competitive. The EU provided nearly €10 billion of funding that the partners will match with at least an equivalent amount of investment. This combined contribution is expected to mobilise additional investments in support of the transitions, and create long-term positive impacts on employment, the environment and society. The 10 institutionalised European partnerships covered by the regulation are: **Global Health EDCTP3; Innovative Health Initiative; Key Digital Technologies; Circular Bio-based Europe; Clean Hydrogen; Clean Aviation; Europe's Rail; Single European Sky ATM Research 3; Smart Networks and Services; European Metrology (Art. 185 of the TFEU)**. Further to the adoption of the European Chips Act by the Commission on 8 February 2022, to seek strengthening the semiconductor ecosystem, the Key Digital Technologies JU becomes Chips Joint Undertaking. The institutionalised partnerships are also implemented by 9 EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) in compliance with the EIT Regulation and the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda (SIA). The Regulation 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (Single Basic Act (SBA)) will be amended and expanded to allow the Key Digital Technologies Undertaking (KDT JU), and will be renamed as a Chips Joint Undertaking (Chips JU) to implement most of the increased contribution from HE and contributions from DEP.

ii. **Co-programmed partnerships**, In June 2021, the Commission launched 11 new European Partnerships together mostly with private sector, to deliver solutions to major societal challenges. They will receive over €8 billion from Horizon Europe, the new EU research and innovation programme for 2021-2027. The total commitments, including those from private partners and from Member States, amount to around €22 billion. They will run from 2021 to 2030, allowing them to provide input into the last calls of Horizon Europe and wrap up their final activities afterwards. The adoption of the Memoranda of Understanding allow the following partnerships to start their operations immediately: *European Partnership for Artificial Intelligence, Data and Robotics* • *European Partnership for Photonics* • *European Partnership Made in Europe* • *European Partnership for Clean Steel - Low Carbon Steelmaking* • *European Partnership Processes4Planet* • *European Partnership for Globally Competitive Space Systems*⁹ • *European Partnership for Connected, Cooperative and Automated Mobility (CCAM)* • *European Partnership for Batteries: Towards a competitive European industrial battery value chain* • *European Partnership towards Zero-emission Road Transport (2ZERO)* • *European Partnership for Zero-emission Waterborne Transport* • *European Partnership for People-centric Sustainable Built Environment (Built4People)* • *European Partnership for European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)*.

iii. **Co-funded partnerships:** These partnerships involving public authorities at the core of the consortium are based on grant agreement between the Commission and the consortium of partners. A call for proposals for the following co-funded partnerships has been published in the 2021-2022 work programme of Horizon Europe: *European Partnership for Risk Assessment of Chemicals* • *European Partnership for Fostering a European Research Area for Health Research (ERA for Health)* • *European Partnership for Transformation of Health Care Systems* • *Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)* • *European Partnership for Driving Urban Transitions to a Sustainable Future* • *European Partnership for Clean Energy Transition* • *European Partnership for Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth* • *European Partnership for a Climate Neutral, Sustainable and Productive Blue Economy* • *Planet and Climate European Partnership Water4all: Water security for the planet* • *European Partnership for Innovative SMEs*.

- **Solving global challenges calls for international cooperation.** Horizon Europe is the main financial tool for the implementation of the Europe's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world⁷: the global approach to research and innovation. The programme is open to researchers and innovators from around the globe who are encouraged to team up with EU

⁴ [EUR-Lex - 52021DC0609 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁵ [EUR-Lex - 32021R2085 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#); [EUR-Lex - 52021SC0037 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁶ [EUR-Lex - 32021D2084 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁷ [EUR-Lex - 52021DC0252 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#) ; [EUR-Lex - 52012SC0258 - EN \(europa.eu\)](#)

partners in preparing proposals. In order to safeguard the EU's strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, the programme may exceptionally limit participation in its actions, always on duly justified cases, allowing the programme to remain open as a rule.

Specific objective 3: To foster all forms of innovation, facilitate technological development, demonstration and knowledge and technology transfer, strengthen deployment and exploitation of innovative solutions.

The EIC aims at identifying and supporting breakthrough technologies and game changing innovations with the potential to scale up internationally and become market leaders. It supports all stages of innovation from R&D on the scientific underpinnings of breakthrough technologies, to validation and demonstration of breakthrough technologies and innovations to meet real world needs, to the development and scaling up of start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In 2021, EIC launched its first work programme. It builds on the experience of the EIC pilot under Horizon 2020 and on the advice from the EIC pilot Advisory Board. The support is organised into three main funding schemes: the EIC Pathfinder for advanced research to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies; the EIC Transition to validate technologies and develop business plans for specific applications; and the EIC Accelerator to support companies (SMEs, start-ups, spin-outs and in exceptional cases small mid-caps) to bring their innovations to market and scale up. The EIC will also link with other components of Horizon Europe, including the European Research Council (ERC), the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), and with other Union funding programmes, such as InvestEU.

The EIC also provides additional activities such as the following prizes:

- **The European Capital of Innovation Awards:** the European Capital of Innovation Awards is an annual recognition prize awarded to the European cities that best promote innovation in their communities. The city of Dortmund in Germany is the European Capital of Innovation 2021.
- **EU Prize for Women Innovators:** This prize celebrates the women entrepreneurs behind Europe's game-changing innovations. In 2021, the winner is Merel Boers (Netherlands), co-founder and CEO of NICO-LAB, a company offering cutting-edge technology to help physicians improve emergency care
- **The European Social Innovation Competition:** The Competition acts as a beacon for social innovators across Europe, incentivising & rewarding early-stage ideas, shaping our society for the better. The 2021 challenge was "Skills for tomorrow - Shaping a green and digital future"

EIT supports the New European Bauhaus with 5 EUR million. The EIT launched in 2021 the first call 'EIT Community Booster – Scaling New European Bauhaus Ventures' in order to support the New European Bauhaus initiative to accelerate solutions integrating **sustainability** (from climate goals, to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity), **aesthetics** (quality of experience and style, beyond functionality) and **inclusion** (including diversity first, securing accessibility and affordability). A pilot phase of this Community Booster launched has already supported 13 ventures with a total of €650,000.

Specific objective 4: To optimise the Programme's delivery with a view to strengthening and increasing the impact and attractiveness of the ERA, to foster excellence-based participation from all Member States, including low R&I performing countries, in the Programme and to facilitate collaborative links in European R&I

An ambitious strategic plan for Horizon Europe was adopted in March 2021. The strategic plan 2021-2024 set four key strategic orientations. They mirror the political priorities of the European Union, outline the way research and innovation can address them and enable us to better measure impact. Each of the key strategic orientations encompasses three to four impact areas, which in turn link to a number of expected impacts. They are a core element of the impact-driven approach of Horizon Europe, because they describe the long-term effects to which research and innovation are due to contribute. In total, the strategic plan defines 32 expected impacts that cover a wide range of social, economic, ecological and scientific aspirations. The strategic plan outlines how the six Clusters of Horizon Europe's Pillar II, 'Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness', will contribute to the key strategic orientations and the corresponding expected impacts. Every expected impact links to at least one Cluster, in order to ensure full coverage. While the focus of the strategic plan is on Pillar II, it also covers relevant activities in the other two pillars and the part 'Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area'. This is to ensure synergies across all Horizon Europe programme components. The strategic plan also presents new and modernised approaches to facilitate implementation. For example by pooling resources of a wide range of public and private partners through European Partnerships. The strategic plan identifies co-programmed and co-funded partnerships⁸ and also prepares the ground for five EU Missions.

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is helping to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth with its emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

⁸ 8 For more information, please refer to cluster-specific impact summaries. Note that the strategic plan, which needs to contain the identified co-programmed and co-funded European Partnerships, is a Commission Decision subject to the comitology procedure, whereas Institutionalised Partnerships based on Articles 185 and 187 TFEU follow the procedure for the legislative acts. However, for the sake of completeness, the cluster-specific impact summaries includes also the Institutionalised Partnerships based on Articles 185 and 187 TFEU, distinguishing those that should be included in the strategic plan.

To strengthen and facilitate knowledge sharing and evidence-based policy making, the DG RTD Joint Support Centre has developed a dashboard that provides reports on most of the key performance indicators. The result of 18 of the 23 KPIs is displayed on the Horizon dashboard⁹. For example, the dashboard makes it possible to know for a given specific objective the number of "high impact peer reviewed" publications and to visualize its evolution compared to the target throughout the implementation of the programme. It thus makes it possible to gauge exactly the performance of Horizon 2020. It responds to the need for more transparency in the expenditure of the European budget for research and innovation.

Adding a target to a KPI helps to measure success against that KPI. Therefore, where possible, a target was set. The method for setting the target depends on the maturity of the KPIs. Where possible, historical data from previous R&I programs have been used to establish the baseline and thus estimate the target taking into account the very limited data available at that time. For the "new KPIs", i.e. those which were not measured in the previous framework programs, it was not possible to estimate a target. For these indicators, "new approach" is indicated in the performance tables.

Moreover, in the context of the analysis of the performance of the program an important point which must be taken into account is the rate of implementation of the program. As indicated above in 2021, 82% of the programme was paid to beneficiaries at the end of 2020. This is why the target of some KPIs is not 2020 but the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished. All final figures will be collected after all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Based on results obtained so far, traffic light rating has been assigned to each specific objective based on the degree to which performance targets were met, (i.e. on track, moderate progress, deserves attention or no data) as indicated in the following table. No data is assigned to new KPIs where a target was impossible to set since no historical data were available.

The achievement of the specific objectives set for Horizon 2020 has been measured against a total of 23 key performance indicators (KPIs). The key performance indicators set in the Regulation are based on quantitative performance measures. Additional detailed information on the performance results have been reported in the previous programme Statements.

Table: Performance Reporting against targets

				Total
15 KPIs on track	3 KPIs Moderate progress	0 KPIs Deserves attention	5 KPIs with no target	23 KPIs

As shown in the table, Horizon 2020 has made good progress towards achieving scientific impacts through the strengthening of R&I capacity, scientific excellence and reputation, and through the integration of R&I efforts. The results indicate that in most areas Horizon 2020 has achieved its targets and beyond. 3 indicators show moderate progress. No indicator deserves attention. For the 5 "new KPIs", it was not possible to set a target since no historical data were available. However, all KPIs were measured and recorded. Where it was necessary, appropriate measures have been taken such as the creation of the EIC, or the design of EU missions.

The actions of the programme as far as the pillar 'Excellent Science' is concerned are very satisfactory. The performance results has shown that Horizon 2020 has succeeded in attracting and involving the EU's and world's best research institutions and researchers.

- From 2014, the share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1 % highly cited remains high, about 7 %, considerably exceeding the target of 1.8 %.
- Over 30 years the EU has invested more and more in future technologies, whether for economic, social or environmental reasons, including through the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) activities with a budget under Horizon 2020 over EUR 2.5 billion. The FET have already generated more than 20,2 publications in peer review journals per 10MEur and about 1 patent per EUR 10 million funding approaching the targets.
- The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) has exceeded its target of 65 000 researchers, including 25 000 PhD.
- From 2014, 115053 researchers have had access to research infrastructures (102949 researchers to research e-infrastructure and 12104 physically), exceeding by far the number targeted.

The actions of the programme as far as the pillar 'Industrial leadership' is concerned have progressed well.

- LEIT projects have produced numerous results, more than 9000 public-private publications. 197% of participating firms have introduced innovations new to the company or the market with the potential to generate scientific breakthroughs, which almost meet the target of 200% The value of 197 % is extracted from the project reporting delivered by the project coordinator. The values reported goes beyond the beneficiaries involved in the project. The beneficiaries have also

⁹ [Horizon Dashboard - Horizon Dashboard - Confluence \(europa.eu\)](https://confluence.europa.eu/horizon-dashboard)

included private companies involved in their network project activities that have introduced the innovation. As regards the patents, the result of 0,85 patent application per 10 Million euro shows that it is progressing slightly to the target of 3. Since patents are generally filed at the end of projects, we can expect to be close to the target at the end of all funded projects. In the field of nanotechnologies, the result obtained so far of 3.5 patents per 10 Million euro is even above the expectations.

- Under the access to risk finance activities, more than 32 000 organisations have been funded and total investments mobilised via debt financing and Venture Capital investments is of EUR 71 billion, exceeding the targets.
- 107% of SMEs participating to the pillar “Industrial leadership” have introduced innovations new to the company or the market exceeding the target of 50%. The value of 107 % is extracted from the project reporting delivered by the project coordinator. The values reported goes beyond the beneficiaries involved in the project. The beneficiaries have also included private companies involved in their network project activities that have introduced the innovation.
- The SMEs instruments have generated around 2545 jobs.

The pillar ‘**Societal Challenges**’ shows moderate progress according to the KPIs. So far, the societal challenges pillar have already generated about 9 910 public-private publications; 83900 innovations that include prototypes and testing activities. From the information available, the following is also reported for the whole societal challenges pillar: 5 peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals per 10 M EUR that is lower than the target of 20 and 0.5 patent application per 10 M EUR lower than the target of 2. Since publications and patents are generally produced at the end of projects, we can expect to be closer to the target at the end of all projects. Moreover, two elements have to be taken into consideration to explain the progress towards the targets. On the one hand the targets set in 2011 from the few first results of FP7, and on the other hand in FP7 the indicators referred to all publications produced of which the ones in peer-reviewed high impact journals are a small sub-group. As the ratio of peer review and peer review in high impact journals was not known, it was difficult to correctly estimate the target for Horizon 2020. This difficulty has been taken into account in the design of Horizon Europe’s performance framework. In addition, as the results are based on self-reporting from the projects, a review of data quality will be done to measure HE performance, where relevant.

Measure taken: To address some of the great societal challenges the world is facing like fighting cancer, adapting to climate change, protecting our oceans, living in greener cities and ensuring soil health and food, 5 EU Missions have been designed and introduced in Horizon Europe. This novelty, an integral part of the Horizon Europe, will increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets within a given time frame. Each mission will operate as a portfolio of actions – such as research projects, policy measures or even legislative initiatives - to achieve a measurable goal that could not be achieved through individual actions.

Measures taken: As regards the Joint Undertakings set up under Horizon 2020 (SESAR, IMI2, CS2, FCH2, ECSEL, S2R, BBI), in general their performance is considered positive as reported by the ECA, even if various matters need improvement. Therefore, a new generation of Partnerships has been designed to be simpler and more impactful in addressing the challenges of today’s society. They will have to set up their ambition with clear targets by 2030. Under Horizon Europe the number of partnerships has been reduced to 49, organised into three groups: Co-programmed; Co-funded and Institutionalised.

“Spreading excellence and widening participation” 17 evolutions of the publications in high impact journals in the relevant research fields have been recorded.

As regards, the specific objective **Science with and for society (Swafs)**: The results of a small sample of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) projects revealed that SwafS surpass its target of 100 institutional changes in beneficiaries by the end of Horizon 2020.

But still a way to go: Horizon Europe will further strengthen its efforts to harness the vast potential that citizens have to offer and ensure effective cooperation between science and society.

Research and Innovation direct action carried out by the Joint Research Centre. In 2020, 513 tangible specific impacts on European policies resulting from technical and scientific support have been provided by the Joint Research Centre and 548 peer reviewed publications in high impact journals have been generated by the JRC. These results show that during the Horizon 2020 period the JRC has exceeded its targets of 330 and 500 respectively.

As far as the **European Institute of Technology** is concerned, 2153 organisations from universities, business and research are integrated in the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), above the target of 1 200. The performance results in 2021 show also that the collaboration inside the knowledge triangle, leading to the development of innovative products, services and processes, is slightly behind to achieve its innovation target and in meeting the ‘start-up and spin-off’ target.

3.2. Key achievements

82 543	41 324	3 843	>69 000	259 505	3,800	9
Publications	Joined public-private publication	Patent applications	Researchers, inc. Ph.D, having	Innovations	start-ups and scale-ups,	Nobel Prize

<i>in high impact, peer reviewed Journal (2014-2021)</i>	<i>in peer reviewed Journal (2014-2021)</i>	<i>(2014-2021)</i>	<i>international or sector mobility (2014-2021)</i>	<i>(2014-2021)</i>	<i>supported through EIT (2014-2021)</i>	<i>that have received support through ERC and/or MSCA (2010-2021)</i>
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The Research and Innovation projects funded by Horizon 2020 have already produced many results. Due to the large volume of results, it is impossible to present all 2021 key achievements. Therefore, only a few of them with limited information are presented in this section. In addition, some key achievements of the projects supporting the implementation of the Paris agreement and EU strategy on Adaptation to climate change, the EU’s biodiversity strategy for 2030, the Clean air and the SDGs are shown in the section 6. The results of all funded projects including all the European Commission’s information such as the grant, the funding and participants, the projects’ summaries, and links to specific publications and other documents are available on http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The Horizon 2020 interim evaluation was completed and published in May 2017 – see: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/support-policy-making/support-eu-research-and-innovation-policy-making/evaluation-impact-assessment-and-monitoring/horizon-2020_en.

A series of evaluation studies are being launched in the context of the ex-post evaluation of Horizon 2020. The on-going and planned studies are listed in the [inter-institutional studies database](#). The SWD on the ex-post evaluation of Horizon 2020 is expected to be published in the 2nd quarter of 2023. In 2021, three studies on specific aspects of Horizon 2020 were completed, namely on the focus areas, the open access policy and the proposal evaluation system.

The key findings of these studies¹⁰ indicate that:

- The European Commission’s leadership in the **Open Science policy** has paid off. Compliance has steadily increased over recent years, achieving a success rate that places the European Commission at the forefront of research and innovation funders, with 83% open access to scientific publications. The current policy of depositing open access publications in a repository is also well understood and implemented by grantees. Regarding licences, about the half of publications were published using Creative Commons (CC) licences, which permit reuse with various levels of restrictions. The study identified gaps in the existing Horizon 2020 open access monitoring data, which pose further difficulties in assessing compliance, and self-reporting by beneficiaries highlighted a number of issues that could be addressed in particular by improving guidance to beneficiaries and implementing technical safeguards in the reporting tool.

- The four **focus areas** implemented under Horizon 2020¹¹ have succeeded in fostering exchanges between EC projects and between beneficiaries. Key lessons learnt for Horizon Europe missions indicate that (1) a strong internal mandate on the higher political and institutional level is essential for an effective implementation; (2) calls should clearly define the societal impact beneficiaries are expected to create, securing ownership and achievement; (3) social sciences and humanities have a substantive role to play in solving societal and environmental problems; (4) a monitoring system is instrumental to improve the outreach of citizen science initiatives and moreover to ensure feedback from projects into the policymaking process.

- The **proposal evaluation processes** used in Horizon 2020 have been broadly fair, though further monitoring would be needed given wider evidence of risk of bias. In addition, the burden of the proposal evaluation processes seems to fall mostly on the applicants, and the two-stage application process to increase of the overall burden. More flexible use of consensus meetings may reduce reviewer burden and enable more flexibility in the use of reviewers. Novel approaches such as double-blind review and lotteries could reduce burden and bias and support more innovative research. Furthermore, there is room for improvement regarding the clarity and consistency of application of funding criteria, and the participation of female applicants to the framework programme.

In addition, five reports from the European Court of Auditors on Internationalisation of SMEs; Climate mainstreaming; Circular economy; synergies; widening are scheduled to be issued in 2022.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

¹⁰ *Horizon 2020 Open Access Policy*: <https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/moap-horizon-2020-database?locale=en> & *Focus Areas* in Horizon 2020: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ebef3e88-6d0d-11ec-9136-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-247630678>

¹¹ *The four focus areas are: « Connecting economic and environmental gains, the Circular Economy », “Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future”, “Boosting the effectiveness of the Security Union” and “Digitalising and transforming European industry and services”*

Specific Objective 1: Scientific impact by creating high-quality new knowledge, strengthening human capital in research and innovation, and fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

Indicator 1: HE peer reviewed scientific publications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2030
0	900		3 000				150 000			150 000
	Actual Progress									Final
952										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from the programme.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Horizon Europe participants through project reporting template, Scopus database.
Link to the objective	Publications codify, disseminate and provide access to the new knowledge produced by a Programme project. Peer-reviewed publications indicator is used in Research and Innovation for monitoring new knowledge. Peer-reviewed publications are considered as a relevant sign of good quality new knowledge. By monitoring the number of peer-reviewed publications produced by the Horizon Europe, we aim at monitoring at short term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards its first specific objective through the creation and diffusion of high quality new knowledge (Key Impact Pathway 1).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is the continuation of an indicator of Horizon 2020 (Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals), but not restricted to high impact journals and including external matching/validation of the publications.
Other methodological comments	Publications are first verified in an external database and then counted. Significant volume of data from indirect actions are expected no sooner than late 2024, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them. The overall number of publications in the EU will be reported as a reference point. The estimated target has been calculated based on Horizon 2020 results obtained in December 2021 (around 150 000). The reference value is provisional as many Horizon 2020 projects as still running and are expected to produce publications peer-reviewed. The reference value from Horizon 2020 is foreseen to be stable in 3 years. In addition, the new method introduced to validate the number of publications may also affect the estimated target. Therefore, the provisional target of 150000 is subject to revision in 2025. The year of the target is 2030 which corresponds approximately to the end of the HE funded projects.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First preliminary results of the direct actions that are carried out by JRC

Indicator 2: Field-Weighted Citation Index of HE peer reviewed publications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Normalised Means Citation Score of HE peer reviewed publications
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Horizon Europe participants through project reporting template; Scopus database.
Link to the objective	By monitoring the citation index of peer reviewed publications produced by the Horizon Europe, we aim at monitoring at medium term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to create and diffuse high quality new knowledge, as shown by the high-quality publications that become influential in their field and worldwide (Key impact pathway 1).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is the linked to an indicator of Horizon 2020 (Share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1 % highly cited per field of science), but includes a broader scope of publications and includes external verification of the publications
Other methodological comments	In order to be independent from any contractor, RTD has decided to calculate MNCS of publications instead of the FWCI score. Field-normalised citation impact indicators, such as a “field-normalised” Mean Normalized Citation Score (or MNCS), calculate an indication of the citation impact of a publication. It is calculated by comparing the number of citations actually received by a publication

	with the number of citations expected for a publication of the same, publication year, and subject field.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than 2026, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them, and there needs to be a 3 year window for citations.

Indicator 3: Peer reviewed publications from HE projects that are core contribution to scientific fields

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Share of Horizon Europe peer reviewed publications which are amongst the top 1 % most cited publications produced
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	This indicator is the continuation of an indicator of Horizon 2020 (Share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1 % highly cited per field of science), but includes external verification of the publications.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is the continuation of an indicator of Horizon 2020 (Share of publications from ERC-funded projects which are among the top 1 % highly cited per field of science), but includes external verification of the publications.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than 2026, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them, and there needs to be a 3 year window for citations

Indicator 4: Researchers involved in upskilling (training, mentoring/coaching, mobility and access to R&I infrastructures) activities in FP projects

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										2030
0	1 000	10 000	150 000	34 000			590 000			590 000
	Actual Progress									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of researchers expressed in full-time equivalent (FTE) involved in upskilling activities in projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Horizon Europe participants & Project reporting
Link to the objective	Horizon Europe offers to the researchers many various ways to improve their careers and their working conditions. By monitoring the number of researchers involved in upskilling activities in Horizon Europe projects, we aim at monitoring at short term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards its first specific objective through improving human capital in Research and Innovation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes, this indicator includes two indicators reported in Horizon 2020 (MSCA and one on the infrastructure)
Other methodological comments	In 2021, the figures comes from the direct actions and the EIT. JRC include Ph.D students, Trainees, Researchers using JRC research infrastructure through open access schemes and Researchers with temporary contracts, working in the JRC's research projects.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 figures indicate the preliminary results of the direct actions that are carried out by JRC. The 2021 EIT figures will be available in June 2022.

Indicator 5: Upskilled FP researchers with increased individual impact in their R&I field

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										

	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Average increase of H-index of funded researchers
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	By monitoring the H-index of researchers involved Horizon Europe projects, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to strengthen human capital, as shown by the improvement in skills, reputation and working conditions of individual participants (Key impact pathway 2).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	The H-index is based on the comparison of the number of articles written by an author to the number of citations. The H-index offers a way to see the evolution of an individual researchers’ performance. An increase in the H-index is an indicator of a positive effect of the Programme on researcher’s impact in their field.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than 2023, as there needs to be a time slot to observe increases in H-indexes.

Indicator 6:Upskilled FP researchers with improved working conditions, including researchers' salaries

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
										Final
	Actual Progress									
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	TBC
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, survey (Research Career Observatory).
Link to the objective	By monitoring the improvement of the working conditions of researchers involved in Horizon Europe projects, we aim at monitoring that Horizon Europe is fulfilling its longer term objective that is to strengthen human capital, as shown by the improvement in skills, reputation and working conditions of individual participants (Key impact pathway 2).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	Survey data (from Researchers observatory) will used to collect data on researchers salaries (net salaries) and contract type. Regarding data on job security, collected data includes several relevant questions which provide data on contract type, satisfaction with pensions/social security provisions, and other aspects of working conditions. Under the survey, the same data is collected for a random stratified sample of researchers who were based in European research performing organizations but did not receive EU funding. The salaries and working conditions of HE researchers are then benchmarked against this representative sample of researchers. The availability of data depends on the planning of the survey, which is expected to happen no sooner than 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Research outputs (open data/publication/ software etc.) shared through open knowledge infrastructures

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2030
0				95%			95%			95%
	Actual Progress									Final
	82%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Share of Open Access outputs in Horizon Europe expressed in %
Cut-Off Date	09/03/2022
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	Open access to publications, datasets, software, other research products (e.g., services, tools) allows

	researchers to build on existing work and speed science, industry to access scientific knowledge to innovate, public sector to use for evidence-based policy making, public to be engaged and involved in the research process. Therefore, detecting and isolating outputs related to Open Science is an appropriate measure of the short-term progress towards the objective. By monitoring the Research outputs (open data/publication/ software etc.) shared through open knowledge infrastructures, we aim at monitoring at short term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to open up science, This will be shown by research outputs shared openly, re-used and at the origin of new transdisciplinary/trans-sectoral collaborations (Key impact pathway 3 long term indicator).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced. However, the figures for Horizon 2020 have been collected.
Other methodological comments	All relevant FP research outputs (by type: publications, datasets and software) reported by all Horizon Europe projects (incl. DOI) are matched to an external database. The single extended list of all relevant outputs, removing the duplicates, is used to count numbers and shares. First data for indirect activities are expected no sooner than in late 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	In 2021, only preliminary results of direct activities carried out by JRC are available.

Indicator 8: Open access FP research outputs actively used/cited

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Normalised Means Citation Score of open access peer reviewed publications
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	TProject reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	The dimension measured of the S.O is the diffusion of knowledge and Open Science. This indicator captures the effect that open access brings to fostering diffusion of knowledge by tracking the use of research outputs. The key question addressed is whether the open access research results are cited more than the closed/embargoed ones.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	See indicator 2 for details on citations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than 2026, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them, and there needs to be a 3 year window for citations.

Indicator 9: FP beneficiaries having developed new transdisciplinary/ trans-sectoral collaborations with users of their open FP R&I outputs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Collaborative Index of the open access peer reviewed publications
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external study
Link to the objective	By monitoring the Collaborative Index of the open access peer reviewed publications, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is fulfilling its longer term objective that is to open up science, as shown by research outputs shared openly, re-used and at the origin of new transdisciplinary/trans-sectoral collaborations (Key impact pathway 3). Research collaboration is a key in fostering diffusion of knowledge. The purpose of having open science as the modus-operandi is to further enhance collaboration across disciplines, between academia and industry, as well as within Europe and beyond.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be calculated as part of a separate study. The following methods might be used: the starting point is the authors and their affiliations who have produced open access results, and build their co-authorship network, maintaining time stamps to trace these over the years. As a second step,

	we extract overall insights on degree of collaboration, including the collaborative index, the degree of collaboration, and the collaborative coefficient and provide data by programme, and country of authors' institutions. New Collaborations are estimated by counting the authors' dyads that appear in the context of a project, not observed before. The study will likely be part of the interim evaluation of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than 2029

Specific Objective 2 :Technological/economic impact especially within the Union by influencing the creation and growth of companies, especially SMEs including start-ups, creating direct and indirect jobs especially within the Union, and by leveraging investments for R&I

Indicator 1: Innovative products, processes or methods from FP (by type of innovation) & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0					120 000		255 000			255 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	164									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of innovative products, processes or methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications resulting from the Programme
Cut-Off Date	17/03/2022
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants & external patent database
Link to the objective	To maintain and improve its relative competitiveness in the global economy, the EU needs a constant supply of new technological output and intellectual property. Horizon Europe by delivering new innovative outputs that have the potential to be exploited on the market contributes to the technological/economic impact within the EU. However, there is no gold-standard approach to measure innovative results. By monitoring the number of Innovative products, processes or methods from FP & Intellectual Property Rights applications, we aim at monitoring at short term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its second specific objective through the production of innovation-based growth. This is shown by the patents and innovations that are launched on the market and generate added value for businesses (Key impact pathway 8).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator links to and indicator of Horizon 2020 ('Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies'), but covers more types of innovations and includes links to an external database.
Other methodological comments	The indicator is calculated as a simple count of number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications reported in all ongoing and finished Horizon Europe projects. First data for indirect activities are expected no sooner than late 2022. In 2021, JRC reported 4 technical inventions
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 figures indicate only the first preliminary results of the direct actions that are carried out by JRC. The 2021 EIT results will be available in June 2022.

Indicator 2: Innovations from FP projects (by type of innovation) including from awarded IPRs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Patent citations, family size, scope
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external patent database
Link to the objective	By monitoring the number of Innovations from FP projects (by type of innovation) including from awarded IPRs, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to be a source of economic growth, as shown by the patents and innovations that are launched on the market and generate added value for businesses (Key

	impact pathway 7). In the medium-term, the patent indicators are good indicators of progress to technological/economic impact
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator links to and indicator of Horizon 2020 (Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies), but includes verification with an external database, distinction between patent family members, and deeper analytical insight.
Other methodological comments	One of the most robust findings of IPR-related research is the skewness of patent value distribution – few patents are valuable, while most others are worth little, if anything at all. This indicator will use external data sources to estimate the impact potential of the patents.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than late 2023, as there needs to be time for patents to be granted and reported.

Indicator 3: Creation, growth & market shares of companies having developed FP innovations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Growth of funded companies
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external database of companies
Link to the objective	By monitoring the growth of companies having developed innovations, we aim at demonstrating the economic impact of Horizon Europe. One of Horizon Europe’s objective is indeed to be a source of economic growth, as shown by the patents and innovations that are launched on the market and generate added value for businesses (Key impact pathway 7). Horizon Europe should indeed help create reciprocal relationships between research-performing organisations and high-tech SMEs. This reciprocity then leads to an improved transfer of knowledge and exploitation of research results by the companies. If this is the case, there must be a clear and quantifiable effect on the financial performance of beneficiary SMEs, measurable in the long-term.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to indicator of Horizon 2020 on Growth
Other methodological comments	In the first step, the Horizon Europe companies are matched to an external company database. The next step is to obtain relevant data on the firms’ turnover and relevant metadata. This will be reported for funded companies. In addition, as part of a study, a control sample of firms will be created, which consists of non-funded SMEs that were part of consortia, or applied themselves, for the same grants (i.e. same call, same year) as the beneficiaries, but did not receive funding due to budgetary constraints. Once both samples of companies are matched, a sharp discontinuity design with a difference-in-difference method are applied to analyse firm performance across the selected time window..
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	TBC]First data are expected no sooner than late 2028, as it takes time for the programme to make an effect and data to be reported. The studies are planned to be part of interim evaluation.

Indicator 4:FTE jobs created, and jobs maintained in beneficiary entities for the FP project (by type of job)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0							450 000			450 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulative number of FTE jobs created and maintained in all ongoing and finished Horizon Europe projects
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants
Link to the objective	A significant share of Horizon Europe investment goes to personnel costs, which directly supports existing jobs or the creation of new positions in beneficiary organisations. Horizon Europe funding also supports and maintains existing jobs that would otherwise be lost if no funding was attracted. This contributes to economic impact of the programme, and can be used as a short-term indicator. By monitoring the number of jobs created, we aim at monitoring at short-term that Horizon Europe is on

	the right track towards one of its second specific objective by generating more and better jobs, initially in the projects, and then through the exploitation of the results and their diffusion in the economy (Key impact pathway 8).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator is linked to Horizon 2020 indicator ('Growth and job creation in participating SMEs') In this Programme, this indicator reports beyond, it covers all Horizon Europe funded activities
Other methodological comments	The target has been estimated based on Horizon 2020 results for all funded projects obtained in December 2021 (450.000 FTEs). The reference value is temporary as many Horizon 2020 projects as still running. Therefore, the current estimated target of 250 000 is subject to revision in 2025. The year of the target is 2030 which corresponds to the end of HE funded projects.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected in 2022.

Indicator 5: FTE jobs in beneficiary entities following FP project (by type of job)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Growth of employment in funded companies.
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external database of companies
Link to the objective	By monitoring the number of FTE jobs in beneficiary entities following FP project, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to generate more and better jobs, initially in the projects, and then through the exploitation of the results and their diffusion in the economy (Key impact pathway 8). Horizon Europe helps create reciprocal relationships between research-performing organisations and high-tech SMEs. This reciprocity then leads to an improved transfer of knowledge and exploitation of research results by the firms. If this is the case, there must be a clear and quantifiable effect on the employment in beneficiary SMEs, measurable in the medium-term.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator is linked to Horizon 2020 indicator ('Growth and job creation in participating SMEs') but is extended to all programme parts
Other methodological comments	In the first step, the Horizon Europe companies are matched to an external company database. The next step is to obtain relevant data on the firms' employment and relevant metadata. This will be reported for funded companies. In addition, as part of a study, a control sample of firms is created, which consists of non-funded SMEs that were part of consortia, or applied themselves, for the same grants (i.e. same call, same year) as the beneficiaries, but did not receive funding due to budgetary constraints. Once both samples of companies are matched, a sharp discontinuity design with a difference-in-difference method are applied to analyse firm performance across the selected time window. The studies are planned to be part of interim evaluation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than late 2024, as it takes time for the programme to make an effect and data to be reported

Indicator 6: Direct & indirect job created or maintained due to diffusion of FP results (by type of job)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of direct & indirect jobs created or maintained
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	By monitoring the number of direct & indirect job created or maintained due to diffusion of FP results, we aim at monitoring that Horizon Europe is achieving its expected economic impact objective that is to generate more and better jobs, initially in the projects, and then through the exploitation of the results and their diffusion in the economy (Key impact pathway 8). Horizon Europe funding will induce technological change; job markets and skills requirement are being deeply

	transformed due to technological change.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to indicator of Horizon 2020 on Jobs
Other methodological comments	A macroeconomic model will be used to estimate the total employment induced by Horizon Europe funding. It has been used in several previous assignments to measure the economic impact of previous programmes, including for the ex-ante impact assessment of Horizon Europe. It will be used to produce aggregate job creation effects of FP funding for different time windows (3 year; 5+ year) and for different skill levels, including low, medium, high skill jobs. We expect to run studies as part of the interim and ex-post evaluations of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than late 2028, as it takes time for the programme to make an effect and data to be reported

Indicator 7: Public & private investment mobilised with the initial FP investment

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	3.3						20.01			20.01
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	EUR billion
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants through project reporting
Link to the objective	Depending on the funding instrument applied, beneficiaries in Horizon Europe are required to contribute at least a certain share of their own funds to the projects. This significant co-investment of public and private investment towards achieving the programme objective is used as a short-term indicator. By monitoring the Public & private investment mobilised with the initial FP investment, we aim at monitoring at short-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards its second specific objective through leveraging investments for research and innovation in Europe, initially in the projects and then to exploit or scale-up their results (Key impact pathway 9).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to indicator of Horizon 2020 on investment
Other methodological comments	Calculated as the amounts (in EUR) of public & private investment mobilised in all ongoing and finished Horizon Europe projects. Data on public & private co-invested amounts are derived from the EC monitoring system. Specifically, each project participant has their EU and total contributions listed for each project application. The difference between the total and EU funding is equal to the co-investment made. First data are expected available after the signature of the first grant agreements.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 2021 figures will be available in spring mid-2022

Indicator 8: Public & private investment mobilised to exploit or scale-up FP results (including foreign direct investments)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Amount of public & private investment
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external databases [TBC]
Link to the objective	The dimension measured of the S.O is the leverage on investments in R&I Leverage represents the additional investment mobilised by the project beyond the initial project total cost. This includes notably venture capital investment or additional private/public investment attracted by SMEs thanks to the innovations developed in their FP projects.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to indicator of Horizon 2020 on investment
Other methodological comments	Initial data is declared by the beneficiary entities themselves as part of their final reports. Further, at firm level, amount of public & private investment mobilised by SMEs are estimated using external databases. [TBC] First data are expected no sooner than late 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: EU progress towards 3% GDP target due to FP

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	EU progress towards the 3% GDP target due to Horizon Europe
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	The dimension measured of the S.O is the leverage on investments in R&I Horizon Europe funding will stimulate further R&D funding, and particularly funding attracted by industry, SMEs and start-ups. In the long-term, this indicator estimates the aggregate effect of Horizon Europe.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to the indicator of Horizon 2020 (cf. the H2020 General Objective)
Other methodological comments	A macroeconomic model will be used to estimate the total leverage induced by Horizon Europe funding. It has been used in several previous assignments to measure the economic impact of previous programmes, including for the ex-ante impact assessment of Horizon Europe. It will be used to estimate amount of additional leverage (direct and indirect) attracted to R&D per each euro spent in Horizon Europe. We expect to run studies as part of the interim and ex-post evaluations of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3 :Societal impact by addressing the EU policy priorities and global challenges, including UN SDGs, following the principles of the Agenda 2030 and the goals of the Paris Agreement, through R&I, delivering benefits and impact through R&I missions and European Partnerships and strengthening the uptake of innovation in society ultimately contributing to people’s well-being

Indicator 1: Outputs aimed at addressing identified EU policy priorities and global challenges (including SDGs) (multidimensional: for each identified priority)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	100		100	100	100	100	100			100
	Actual Progress									Final
	100									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Share of outputs aimed at addressing the EU policy priority (%)
Cut-Off Date	17/03/2022
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants
Link to the objective	In the short-term, the share of outputs addressing a policy priority indicates one of the societal impacts of Horizon Europe. By monitoring the outputs generated by projects aimed at addressing identified EU policy priorities, we aim at monitoring at short-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its third objective that is to help addressing EU policy priorities and global challenge through research and innovation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – New indicator
Other methodological comments	Horizon Europe funded projects produce variety of products, tracked and reported under scientific and economic outputs. Most of them are also likely to have a societal impact; to trace and estimate it, the produced output needs to be accurately measured and then classified according to the specific EU policy priorities, including the SDGs. Additional information on outputs aimed at addressing identified all EU policy priorities and global challenges (including SDGs) will be available in the mid-term evaluation of the Programme. Furthermore, the contribution to the SDGs is reported in the Programme Statement’s section dedicated to the SDGs.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 2021 preliminary figures refer to the direct activities carried out by JRC. First data for indirect activities are expected in 2022.

Indicator 2: Number and share of innovations and research results addressing identified EU policy priorities and global challenges (including SDGs) (multidimensional: for each identified priority)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of outputs aimed at addressing specific EU policy priorities, including meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external databases.
Link to the objective	By monitoring Number and share of innovations and research results addressing identified EU policy priorities and global challenges, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to help addressing EU policy priorities (including meeting the SDGs) through research and innovation, as shown by the portfolios of projects generating outputs contributing to tackling global challenges (Key impact pathway 4). In the medium-term, shares of verified outputs and their performance indicate the societal impact of Horizon Europe.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	Calculated as a simple count of innovations (new or significantly improved: methods, technologies and instruments / commercial goods / commercial services / scientific or industrial processes / business models) reported in all ongoing and finished Horizon Europe projects and classified by their contribution to the specific SDGs and subsequently – EU policy priorities. Additionally, where possible, the scientific results tracked by medium-term indicators under scientific and economic indicators, but also awarded patents, are also classified by their contribution to the specific SDGs and subsequently – EU policy priorities. The classification by the SDGs is based on automatic classification algorithms. Where automatic classification is not available, the whole project and its results are assigned to the SDGs based on the indication provided by the participating organisation in the grant application..
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First significant data are expected no sooner than 2024

Indicator 3: Aggregated estimated effects from use/exploitation of FP-funded results, on tackling identified EU policy priorities and global challenges (including SDGs), including contribution to the policy and lawmaking cycle (such as norms and standards) (multidimensional: for each identified priority)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Aggregated estimated effects from use of FP-funded results on tackling specific EU policy priorities, including contribution to policymaking and legislation [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	By monitoring this indicator, we aim at monitoring that Horizon Europe is achieving its impact objective that is to help addressing EU policy priorities (including meeting the SDGs) through research and innovation, as shown by the portfolios of projects generating outputs contributing to tackling global challenges (Key impact pathway 4).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	The indicator focuses on estimated and detected effects from use of Horizon Europe funded results on tackling specific EU policy priorities. In the long-term, specific studies are needed to analyse the societal impact of Horizon Europe in specific areas. We expect to run those studies as part of the interim and ex-post evaluations of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First significant data are expected no sooner than 2026.

Indicator 4: Outputs in specific R&I Missions (multidimensional: for each identified mission)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									
0										Indicator under development
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of outputs aimed at addressing specific Missions
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants
Link to the objective	The dimension measured of the S.O is the benefits and impact through R&I missions. Horizon Europe incorporates EU missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets and delivering solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. In the short-term, number of outputs indicate the societal impact of Horizon Europe in the missions. By monitoring outputs in specific R&I missions, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to produce knowledge and innovation that contribute to achieving missions of EU interest (Key impact pathway 5).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	This indicator is currently under development following the launch of the EU Missions at the end of 2021. Horizon Europe funded projects produce variety of products, tracked and reported under scientific and economic outputs. Most of them are also likely to have a societal impact.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 5 EU Missions were adopted at the end of 2021. The indicator is under development.

Indicator 5: Results in specific R&I missions (multidimensional: for each identified mission)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of outputs aimed at addressing specific missions [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external databases.
Link to the objective	By monitoring results in specific R&I missions, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to produce knowledge and innovation that contribute to achieving missions of EU interest and to deliver benefits and impact through R&I missions (Key impact pathway 5). Horizon Europe incorporates EU missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets and delivering solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. In the medium-term, shares of verified outputs and their performance indicate the societal impact of Horizon Europe.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	This indicator is currently under development following the launch of the missions end of 2021. Calculated as a simple count of innovations (new or significantly improved: methods, technologies and instruments / commercial goods / commercial services / scientific or industrial processes / business models) reported in all ongoing and finished Horizon Europe projects and classified by their contribution to the specific missions..
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is currently under development following the launch of the missions end of 2021.

Indicator 6: Targets achieved in specific R&I missions (multidimensional: for each identified mission)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on										

track :	
Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Impact (KIP 5 long-term)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	The dimension measured of the s.O is the benefits and impact through R&I missions. Horizon Europe incorporates EU missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets and delivering solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. The EU mission targets serve as a benchmark to estimate the likely progress and their achievement; their monitoring focuses on estimating the potential effects towards the defined R&I targets.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The dimension measured of the s.O is the benefits and impact through R&I missions. Horizon Europe incorporates EU missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets and delivering solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world. The EU mission targets serve as a benchmark to estimate the likely progress and their achievement; their monitoring focuses on estimating the potential effects towards the defined R&I targets.
Other methodological comments	No – new indicator
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is currently under development following the launch of the missions end of 2021.

Indicator 7: FP projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the cocreation of R&I content

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0					1.5					2
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants.
Link to the objective	To measure the involvement of citizens and civil society in the research process funded by the programme, this indicator tracks the number and share of Horizon Europe projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content, additionally estimating the role of such contribution (such as consultation/dissemination, co-creation, co-ownership/joint decision-making). By monitoring FP projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content, we aim at monitoring at short-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer-term objective that is to strengthen the uptake of innovation in society, as shown by the engagement of citizen in the projects and beyond the projects by improved uptake of scientific results and innovative solutions (Key impact pathway 6).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	Calculated based on a simple count of all ongoing and finished Horizon Europe projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content. Relies on the administrative data provided at the beginning of the project, and then tracks changes reported as projects progress. Indicator values are expressed as share of the total programme. First data are expected no sooner than 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected in 2022.

Indicator 8: FP beneficiary entities with citizen and end-users engagement mechanisms after FP project

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number and share of FP beneficiaries with citizen and end-user engagement mechanisms after FP project.
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting

Link to the objective	By monitoring FP beneficiary entities with citizen and end-users engagement mechanisms after FP project, we aim at monitoring at medium-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer term objective that is to strengthens the uptake of innovation in society, as shown by the engagement of citizen in the projects and beyond the projects by improved uptake of scientific results and innovative solutions (Key impact pathway 6). This medium-term indicator measures the effects of the heightened attention to and demand for co-creation in Horizon Europe through the development of citizen engagement mechanisms in beneficiary entities (such as citizen fora, participatory research, co-creation facilities, experimental sites and similar).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	In the medium-term, the identification of presence of citizen engagement mechanisms allows estimation of number (and share) of Horizon Europe beneficiary entities that possess and utilise them.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First significant data are expected no sooner than 2023.

Indicator 9: FP co-created scientific results and innovative solutions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	The long-term indicator focuses on uptake and outreach of framework programme co-created scientific results and innovative solutions. The aim is to assess the extent of the uptake and outreach of the scientific results (e.g. in the fields of science, innovation, the economy and society) and innovative solutions originating from the programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator
Other methodological comments	A study will be launched for the assessment of the extent of the uptake and outreach of scientific results and innovative solutions co-created in the FP necessitates a composite indicator. The study is planned as part of the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First significant data are expected no sooner than 2026.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020)

Specific Objective 2 : Excellent science - Future and Emerging Technologies - strengthening research in future and emerging technologies

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals per EUR 10 million funding										
Milestones										2025
0				2			25			25
	Actual Progress									
				7	9.8	14.1	15.4	20.2		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals per 10 million EUR.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CORDA, SCOPUS
Narrative	
Methodology	KPI Dashboard: Select “FET” as thematic priority, and read the value from the pre-calculated KPI. The years of reference can be chosen via the deadline date year dimension, selecting relevant years from 2014

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	The list of High-Impact Journals by Scopus is used to flag the self-reported peer-reviewed publications, and the total number of flagged publications is divided by the Total EU Contrib/10 million. The specific dashboard view is called “Publications in Peer-Reviewed (PR) and High Impact (HI) Peer Reviewed Journals”
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	For many indicators such as the indicators measuring the number of publications, the target is set for the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished. The final figures are collected until all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Patent applications and patents awarded in Future and Emerging Technologies per EUR 10 million funding										
0	Milestones									2025
										1
	Actual Progress									Final
					0.2	0.45	0.6	0.94		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of patents application and awarded per 10 million EUR
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	
Methodology	KPI Dashboard IPRs view : Select “FET” as thematic priority, read the value for the KPI.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	Number of self-reported patent applications and patents awarded by projects funded under FET, divided the Total EU contrib/10 Million. The specific dashboard view is called “Patent Applications and Patent Awarded”.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	The final figures are collected until all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Specific Objective 5: Industrial leadership – boosting Europe’s industrial leadership through research, technological development, demonstration and innovation in the following enabling and industrial technologies (information and communication technologies; nanotechnologies; advanced materials; biotechnology; advanced manufacturing and processing; space)

Indicator 1: Patent applications and patents awarded in the different enabling and industrial technologies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Patent applications in the different enabling and industrial technologies per EUR 10 million funding										
0	Milestones									2025
										3
	Actual Progress									Final
				0.3	0.3	0.49	0.66	0.85		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of patents per 10 million EUR
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	KPI Dashboard IPRs view : Select the “LEIT-” parts among the thematic priorities, read the value for the KPI. Years of reference can be selected from 2014 via the deadline date year dimension.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	yes
Other methodological comments	642 patents application and 261 patents awarded.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis

Justification of the trend	The target is set for the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished. The final figures will be collected after all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.
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Indicator 2: Share of participating firms introducing innovations new to the company or the market (covering the period of the project plus three years)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0	50%									200%
	Actual Progress									Final
	100%									197%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of firms introducing innovations new to the company or the market.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	
Methodology	KPI dashboard: pre-calculated share of companies declaring innovations at project reporting vs all legal entities participating in the FP. Years of reference can be selected from 2014 via the deadline date year dimension.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	Self-reporting from the beneficiaries. The specific dashboard view is called “Innovative Companies”.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of joint public-private publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
				620	3 340	5 747	7 260	9 094		
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of joint public-private publications.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	
Methodology	KPI dashboard – the indicator is pre-calculated.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Based on a flag assigned by projects’ beneficiaries per any publication self-reported.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	As there was no comparable data for FP7, it was not possible to set the target

Specific Objective 7: Industrial leadership - increasing innovation in SMEs

Indicator 1: Share of participating SMEs introducing innovations new to the company or the market (covering the period of the project plus three years)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0	20%									50%
	Actual Progress									Final
										88%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
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Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	Share of participating SMEs introducing innovations new to the company or the market (covering the period of the project plus three years under the pillar Industrial leadership).
Methodology	KPI dashboard: the indicator is pre-calculated. The years of reference can be selected from 2014 via the deadline date year dimension.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report on this indicator as such S.O2 Indicator 2: innovations from FP projects (by type of innovation) including from awarded IPRs.
Other methodological comments	No Baseline, because of new approach.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	Above the target

Indicator 2: Growth and job creation in participating SMEs

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
						431	1 108	2 545		
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of job creation in FTE.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	New indicator
Methodology	KPI dashboard : the indicators are pre-calculated. The years of reference can be selected from 2014 via the deadline date year dimension.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report on this indicator. “S.O.2 Indicator 3: Creation, growth & market shares of companies having developed FP innovations” or /and Indicator 6: Direct & indirect job created or maintained due to diffusion of FP results (by type of job).
Other methodological comments	The values are based on projects self-reporting by beneficiaries, and amounts might appear in the dashboard as expressed in BEUR according to their size. Pay attention to their magnitude. The specific dashboard view is called “SME – Growth and Job Creation”.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	As there was no comparable data for FP7, it was not possible to set the target

Specific Objective 8: Societal Challenges - All

Indicator 1: Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									20
								5		Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals per 10 million EUR.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	
Methodology	KPI Dashboard IPRs view: Select “Societal Challenge” pillar, read the value for the KPI.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	Number of self-reported publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals by projects funded under Societal challenge, divided the Total EU contrib/10 Million. The results for the period 2014-2020 are reported per societal challenges in the previous Programme Statements.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	The final figures are collected until all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years

	after the formal end of the programme in 2020.
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Indicator 2: Patent applications and patents awarded

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0										3
	Actual Progress									Final
								0.5		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of patents application and awarded per 10 million EUR
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CORDA
Narrative	
Methodology	KPI Dashboard IPRs view : Select ""Societal Challenge"" pillar, read the value for the KPI.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	Number of self-reported patent applications and patents awarded by projects funded under Societal challenge, divided the Total EU contrib/10 Million. The specific dashboard view is called ""Patent Applications and Patent Awarded"" The results for the period 2014-2020 are reported per societal challenges in the previous Programme Statements.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	The final figures are collected until all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.

Indicator 3: Number of prototypes and testing activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0										Final
	Actual Progress									Final
								83 901		
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of publications
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	CORDA
Narrative	The results for the period 2014-2020 are reported per societal challenges in the previous Programme Statements.
Methodology	KPI dashboard : select the relevant SC programme part from the thematic priorities and read the value from the pre-calculated indicator. Use the deadline date Year dimension to select the reference years from 2014. The targets are for whole Societal challenges pillar (Specific objectives: 8-14) and not per each individual specific objective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	No Baseline, because of new approach. The reference for this target is the year when the last actions financed under Horizon 2020 will be finished, i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020. Self-reported by projects' beneficiaries. The specific dashboard view is called ""Publications in Peer-Reviewed (PR) and High Impact (HI) Peer Reviewed Journals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	As there was no comparable data for FP7, it was not possible to set the target

Indicator 4: Number of joint public-private publications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0										Final
	Actual Progress									Final
						4 080	6 567	9 990		
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of joint public-private publications
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Corda
Narrative	Number of self-reported of joint public-private publications by projects funded under Societal challenge.
Methodology	KPI Dashboard IPRs view : Select ""Societal Challenge"" pillar, read the value for the KPI.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	The results for the period 2014-2020 are reported per societal challenges in the previous Programme Statements.
Full metadata available at this address	https://webgate.ec.testa.eu/dashboard/sense/app/7430404c-503f-4286-94dc-7f5c915be2d5/sheet/8506a750-0c27-4b9a-b929-1d8bb0f9179f/state/analysis
Justification of the trend	The final figures are collected until all of the projects are closed and results reported i.e. several years after the formal end of the programme in 2020.As there was no comparable data for FP7, it was not possible to set the target

Specific Objective 12: The European Institute of Innovation and Technology - integrating the knowledge triangle of higher education, research and innovation and thus to reinforce the Union's innovation capacity and address societal challenges

Indicator 2: collaboration inside the knowledge triangle leading to the development of innovative products, services and processes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Start-ups and spin-offs										
2012	Milestones									2020
33	30	280	400	500			600			600
	Actual Progress									Final
	181	250	305	326	354	377	466			
Are we on track :	On track									
Innovation										
2012	Milestones									2020
210	300	800	1 500	2 200			6 000			6 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 184	2 145	3 904	4 103	4 381	4 638	5 045			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of start-ups or innovations launched on the market.
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EIT Grant Reporting System
Narrative	• Start-ups created (1) as a result of innovation projects or (2) by students enrolled and graduates from EIT labelled programmesProducts (goods or services) or processes launched on the market / marketed innovation
Methodology	EIT annual reporting
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	• Start-ups created of/for innovation or of EIT labelled programmesNumber of innovations (products and services) launched on the market / Marketed Innovations
Other methodological comments	The KICs reported the 2021 results in March/April 2022. The validated EIT figures will then not be available before June 2022 at the earliest.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of new products/services/processes introduced on the market thanks to activities of EIT KICs has been steadily growing over years. In 2017, there has been a change introduced in methodology for calculating this indicator and for this reason the increase has slowed down from 2017. The business ideas incubated and knowledge transfers/adoptions are not counted as of 2017.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	4750.41	5100.00	4750.00	4208.00	4318.00	4404.00	4696.00	32226.41	35%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Learning from the experience of the 2014 – 2020 period, Horizon Europe will improve its performance related to climate expenditures. The sub-targets for the three Horizon Pillars will take into consideration the specificities of each Pillar and the current baseline performance under Horizon 2020. The proposed solution described hereunder will ensure that the targets are met, while respecting the specific character of the bottom-up programmes.

For programmable activities, the climate markers have been allocated at the level of activity by considering the envisaged expenditure in accordance with the topics included in the Work Programmes. Research family DGs and executive agencies implement a project level tracking to refine estimates so as to give an accurate picture of climate-related expenditure. A similar procedure applies to the part “Widening participation and strengthening area”, major budgets are made available for underrepresented countries to join supported projects. We assume that this will happen in a way that mirrors the portfolio and expenditure in the programmed parts.

Activities in the *excellent science part (Pillar 1)* are not programmed thematically. The estimate is based on the agreement to assign markers to domains of scientific activity.

The *'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' part (Pillar 2)* is established through clusters of research and innovation activities, in order to maximise integration and synergies across the respective thematic areas while securing high and sustainable levels of impact for the Union in relation to the resources that are expended. The estimates are calculated at the level of the cluster including the new tools (EU Missions and the new Partnerships) and the direct activities carried out by JRC.

Activities in the *European Innovation Council & European Institute of Innovation and Technology (Pillar 3)* are in an intermediate position: The EIT is active only in the defined large topics (like the ‘Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC)’ or the EIT Digital). For an estimate of climate expenditure these eight large areas have been assigned climate markers. The European Innovation Council has committed itself to a 30% target and has put in place specific instruments that aim at supporting climate relevant innovative developments. The estimate builds on the agreed target; refinement of estimates will be made by tracking projects and other activities.

Revised estimates providing more accurate figures will therefore be provided from next year onwards when the tracking will be implemented for both programmable and bottom-up parts as described above and a more precise allocation to budgetary years is possible. Implementation figures are final ex-ante estimates based on budget allocation to topics in the work programme before project selections. These figures will be updated based on project monitoring data.

6.1.3. Key achievements

The Horizon Europe Programme is one of the main tool to strengthen our scientific and technological base, develop solutions for fighting climate change. The Pillar 2, in particular the cluster “Climate, energy and mobility”, offers the main funding to fight climate change by better understanding its causes, evolution, risks, impacts and opportunities, and by making the energy and transport sectors more climate and environment-friendly, more efficient and competitive, smarter, safer and more resilient. On top of this dedicated cluster, climate is a cross-cutting issue under Horizon Europe.

Within all the other clusters of the *Pillar 2*, climate-related calls are also present, for example:

- Cluster 1 – Health: *HORIZON-HLTH-2021-ENVHLTH-02-03: Health impacts of climate change costs and benefits of action and inaction;*
- Cluster 2 – Culture, creativity and society: *HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-08: Effects of climate change and natural hazards on cultural heritage and remediation;*
- Cluster 3 – Civil Security for Society: *HORIZON-CL3-2021-DRS-01-02: Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction for extreme climate events: from early warning systems to long term adaptation and resilience building;*
- Cluster 4 – Digital, Industry and Space: *HORIZON-CL4-2021-RESILIENCE-01-04: Developing climate-neutral and circular raw materials (IA);*
- Cluster 6 – Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment: *HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01-13: Modelling land use and land management in the context of climate change.*

Taken from the Taxonomy Regulation, the ‘do no significant harm’ (DNSH) principle has been introduced in several parts of Pillar 2 of **Horizon Europe** by including it in the work programme. It was implemented in the project evaluation by including it in the proposal template under the excellence criterion.

In addition, the numerous new partnerships under Horizon Europe such as *European Partnership for Clean Aviation; European Partnership on Clean Hydrogen* will support achieving the European Green deal. For instance, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership will accelerate the development and deployment of the European value chain for clean hydrogen technologies, contributing to sustainable, decarbonised and fully integrated energy systems. Finally, fourth EU Missions are committed to contribute the Green transition. For example, the main goal of the Mission *Adaptation to Climate Change* is to support at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience by 2030.

Pillar 3 also provides funding opportunities for innovators in the field of climate. For example, in 2021 the *EIC Accelerator* has launched call specifically designed to support Green Deal innovations. The call focuses on the EU’s priorities for transitioning to a green, digital and healthy society, with a special attention to innovations in one of the following areas: Low carbon industries, Deep Renovation of Buildings, Renewable energy; Batteries and other energy storage systems. The EIT Climate-KIC is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), working to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy.

6.1.4. Performance

35% of the expenditure under Horizon Europe is committed to support Europe’s climate objectives. At the end of 2021, the preliminary figures indicate that Horizon Europe has invested almost 4200 MEur on climate change, which corresponds to 31% of the operational budget at this stage. The preliminary figures will be updated when the complementary 2021 figures will become available.

As regards the previous programme, according to our tracking methodology, Horizon 2020 has so far invested EUR 21,1 billion on climate change; about 32 % of the amount committed to the specific objectives. This does not include expenditure outside of these specific objectives, such as administrative expenditure.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	1 068.00	1 068.00	960.00	1 030.00	884.00	902.00	920.00	6 832.00
Share compared to total envelope	9.28 %	8.73 %	7.78 %	8.39 %	7.06 %	7.06 %	7.06 %	7.88 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

To support the [Interinstitutional Agreement](#) of December 2020 setting out that the Commission, European Parliament and Council should work toward an ambition of 7.5% of annual spending for biodiversity objectives in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027, Horizon Europe dedicates funding to biodiversity. However, no target for the biodiversity has been set in the legal basis at the level of the programme. The method applied for tracking and estimating expenditures for biodiversity protection and restoration in Horizon Europe is similar to the one applied for tackling climate spending based on the OECD Rio markers.

The breakdown of the financial contribution to biodiversity cannot be presented as the available draft 2023 Work Programmes do not yet include budgets. However, the main parts of the programme contributing to the biodiversity are as follows:

- Pillar 1 mainly ERC & MSCA;
- Pillar 2 mainly all destinations Areas (IA) of Cluster 6^[1]
- The EU missions (notably Oceans, Soils, climate adaptation) & the new Partnerships mainly the co-funded Biodiversity Partnership;
- No significant contribution for biodiversity is ex-ante expected from pillar 3. Only minor amounts from business related innovation mainly from EIT Food.

The NGEU funds did not support areas of relevance for biodiversity, so the end of NGEU does not affect total amount of spending on biodiversity resulting in a higher share in a smaller total budget.

Implementation figures are final ex-ante estimates based on budget allocation to topics in the work programme before project selections. These figures will be updated based on project monitoring data.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

A few projects funded by Horizon Europe have been signed so far. The Work Programme 2021-2022 - through the three calls on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - aims to contribute to implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030¹², in particular the following priorities:

^[1] This is from the table sent by Art (column AA – rounded proposed budget for 2023)

¹² COM(2020) 380 final

- Biodiversity decline, its main direct drivers and their interrelations are better understood
- Biodiversity and natural capital are integrated into public and business decision making at all levels for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and their services
- Europe builds competitive sustainability and tackles climate change and natural disasters through the deployment of nature-based solutions
- The interrelations between biodiversity, health, food, soil, water, air and climate are better known
- Practices in agriculture and forestry support biodiversity and the provision of other ecosystems services
- Access to a wider range of crops and breeds with a broadened genetic base is improved in line with global biodiversity commitments
- Approaches for enabling transformative changes beneficial for biodiversity are taken up in society
- Biodiversity research is interconnected across Europe and included into governance.

The number of projects being currently implemented and funded by Horizon 2020 aim to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and the further promotion of nature-based solutions. Some examples of these projects are:

- R&I portfolios of projects are testing and demonstrating on the **ground innovative solutions for the restoration of ecosystems** and providing analysis, methods, protocols and impact assessment for supporting the setting of EU restoration targets. For example, H2020 projects AMBER and MERCES have provided the scientific basis for the setting of river and marine ecosystems targets.
- The **Nature-based solutions projects** portfolio, with 32 projects representing an investment of more than 250 million euros, are key in demonstrating the impact and cost effectiveness of nature-based solutions such as creation or restoration of ecosystem for notably climate change resilience. All these projects are contributing in mainstreaming restoration targets, with some H2020 projects working specifically on urban ecosystem restoration.
- Marine ecosystems SponGES is assessing **the biodiversity contained within sponge grounds** ecosystems of the North Atlantic, and developing an integrated ecosystem-based approach to preserve and sustainably use marine resources.
- H2020 REGREEN has generated evidence for how NBS can systematically **integrate ecosystem services and biodiversity** and advocate their benefits and values in urban planning to meet climate and social challenges.
- Other key Horizon 2020 projects provide solutions on how to implement ecosystems restoration targets, notably the 4 projects of the **EU Green Deal call** “7.1 Restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services” mobilising 80 million euros for large-sale restoration of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and testing restoration as means for transformative change.

6.2.4. Performance

Horizon 2020 contributed significant financial resources to the conservation of biodiversity. EU investments in biodiversity-related research during Horizon 2020 are up to EUR3.5 billion EU which represents 5% of the programme. As regards Horizon Europe, the ex-ante estimate for 2021/22 is slightly higher than initially expected due to high contribution of the EU Missions.

At the end of 2021, the preliminary figures indicate that Horizon Europe has invested almost 1068 MEur on climate change, which corresponds to 7,9 % of the operational budget at this stage. The preliminary figures will be updated when the complementary 2021 figures will become available.”

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
838.00	1 068.00	858.00	872.00	848.00	860.00	848.00	6 192.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The Clean air expenditure indicated in the table has been estimated annually for the full 2021-2027 period building on a high-level tracking methodology originally developed and convened in the OECD. The tracking system for clean air was further developed by the Commission to comply with the reporting obligation on the uptake of EU funding in Article 11 of the National Emission Ceilings Directive (EU)2016/2284 and is included in Annex 4 of the implementation report COM/2020/266 final. It is based on the “EU Marker” system. This means that the clean air related expenditure has been calculated in accordance with the three following categories:

- A 100% contribution to clean air is assumed when clean air is clearly the primary objective, e.g. when vehicles, ships and aircraft (and their components) with zero emissions of air pollutants are concerned, or when activities directly deal with pollution reduction, measurement, assessment or impact.
- If a contribution to clean air is a significant, but not predominant objective, the contribution is counted as 40%. For instance, in the case of urban activities where there is no mission work-programme or precise budget and the impact is partial, we assumed a 40% contribution on the expected budgets. Similarly, in the case of hydrogen and energy, activities dealing with zero emissions energy and fuels are accounted at 40%, while activities dealing with replacement fuels and technologies are not considered to contribute to clean air.
- Expenditure not targeted at clean air objectives, nor contributing to such objectives is to be counted as 0%.

At this stage, it has been considered that only cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'; and cluster 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' contribute to financing "clean air". Concerning the new partnerships under Pillar 2, all 2Zero and battery deals with zero emissions and therefore their contribution is accounted at 100%. However, a number of projects funded through the mission "Climate neutral cities" or the Pillar 1 or Pillar 3 will contribute to "clean air", e.g. EIT Climate-KIC "climate" EITs "Inno Energy" and "Urban Mobility". As it is impossible to estimate their contribution ex-ante, in particular for the bottom-up activities, a scoring of "0" has been applied for the pillar 1 and pillar 3. Therefore, according to the methodology used, the financial contribution to "Clean air" given in the table for the Horizon Europe programme is likely underestimated. Consequently, a tracking at a lower –level, for instance at the level of the topics identified in the work programmes, is foreseen to be implemented for Horizon Europe. This will allow a more accurate estimation ex-post of the contribution of Horizon Europe to clear air financing.

Key Achievements

Two Horizon 2020 projects launched in 2021, **PAUL** and **RI-URBANS** will instead look at the air quality side of things by developing instruments and standards to reliably measure ultrafine particles and other pollutants and GHGs which are not currently regulated. This should enable to enact the recent WHO best practices on ultrafine particles and allow epidemiological studies on them to be performed.

Supported by Horizon 2020 funding helping heavy industry clear the air, the APA project the innovative new filterless air pollution abatement system developed by a company one step closer to marketisation. The APA system effectively cleans the air within a radius of 25-30 metres and, when deployed in clusters, potentially an entire industrial facility. The solution removes everything from particulate matter to heavy metals, hydrocarbons, pollen, spores, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and carbon. It does this using a patented centrifugal force process that converts the pollution into a water-based by-product that is easy to then process.

As regards, Horizon Europe only few projects have been started at the end of 2021. The Cluster 5 of the main Work Programme includes two topics directly aimed at air quality, one about retrofits for brakes and exhausts and the other looking at emissions by two-wheelers. In addition, the 2ZERO and Batteries partnerships include several topics aiming at making Zero Emissions Vehicles affordable, easy to use and to recharge for all types of road vehicles and in perspective also for aviation and maritime applications, thus fully contributing to clean air.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming					Total
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Score 2: 37,676 Score 1: 160,016 Score 0*: 11 195,889						

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Horizon Europe (2021-2027) – Contribution

Under the Horizon Europe framework programme, a strengthened approach for gender equality is introduced, with foreseen increase of the overall expenditure contributing to gender equality objectives compared to Horizon 2020.

In particular, **the Horizon Europe legal basis sets the strengthening of the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, across the whole programme, as an operational objective**. At implementation level, this entails making the integration of sex and gender analysis mandatory by default in all topics of calls-for-proposals (for research and innovation actions and innovation actions) and thus in all funded projects – unless the non-relevance of the gender dimension is duly justified.

Furthermore, all public bodies, research organisations and higher education institutions from Member States and Associated Countries applying to Horizon Europe will, as of calls for proposals with deadlines in 2022, be required to have in place a Gender Equality Plan to be eligible for funding in any work programme part, and **when signing a Grant Agreement, beneficiary organisations “must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the gender equality plan.** They must aim, to the extent possible, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level”.

Therefore, almost all Horizon Europe work programme parts can potentially be considered as contributing to gender equality in the sense of the 0* category. There are essentially two levels at which gender budgeting/tracking could be done in Horizon Europe: at the level of the gender balance among researchers/staff involved in funded projects, and at the level of the substance of the funded actions, i.e. the level of integration of the gender dimension into the contents of funded projects or call topics.

In this first-time exercise, we concentrate mainly on the latter interpretation – topics/projects that either integrate a gender dimension or that are explicitly dedicated to promoting gender equality. Only in the case of the EIC/EIE work programmes (see below) does this translate into actions dedicated to direct funding/rewarding to under-represented women innovators.

However to estimate how many actions funded under the 2021 budget – most of which have not yet started – will actually contribute significantly to gender equality (and therefore be in the scores 2 and 1 category) and estimate what corresponding budgets can be taken into account, will a priori only be possible ex post, and will require an elaborate tracking methodology, which will need to be devised.

DG RTD has been selected by DG BUDG to participate in a pilot for tracking contributions to gender needed to achieve a fully-fledged gender tracking mechanism for Horizon Europe, showing the impact of EU spending on gender equality, and to identify potential spill-over effects, as well as gaps and data needs.

However, implementing such a refined tracking/monitoring, possibly at project level, possibly involving AI analysis of projects' abstracts, will require considerable resources, for which there are currently no budget provisions in Horizon Europe, beyond the interim and ex-post evaluations. Additional funding would therefore need to be ensured via DG BUDG's budget to carry out a gender tracking on a yearly basis.

Therefore, the budget figures given in the above table thus represent a lower (under-)estimation of the actual contribution of the 2021 Horizon Europe work programmes to gender equality. They correspond to known budgets allocated to actions specifically dedicated to gender quality (score 2), and budgets allocated to actions that we already know will have indirect significant Contribution to gender equality (score 1).

As a first gross estimation, the figure for budgets that potentially could be contributing (score 0*) is simply derived from the above budgets, subtracted from the total Horizon Europe budget for 2021 (which is EUR 11 354,318 million, according to figures shared by DG BUDG).

It is indeed too early to know how much budget allocation the mandatory integration of the gender dimension into all research and innovation projects may translate into (and that could be scored 1 or even 2). Furthermore, since many actions funded under the 2021 Horizon Europe work programme have not yet been kicked off, with evaluations and grant agreement preparations still undergoing, it is not possible to provide an accurate picture.

Regarding actions corresponding the Score 2 and Score 1 categories, we give below figures for some known actions and budgets specifically dedicated to gender equality in the 2021 work programme (WP) parts, as well as foreseen for the 2022 WPs when already known (indeed, some 2021 calls for proposals are still open, most 2022 calls have not yet opened, while the 2023-2024 work programme is still being drafted):

- Under the “Widening participation and Strengthening the European Research Area” WP, several policy-related supporting activities for inclusive gender equality in research and innovation organisations. **Budget for 2021: EUR 8.2 Million** for 2 dedicated topics (2 projects) and 1 expert group on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women researchers and gender equality in R&I in general. Foreseen budget for 2022: EUR 7.9 Million for 5 dedicated actions.
- Under Cluster 2 on “Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society”, gender studies and intersectional research. **Budget for 2021: EUR 11.74 Million for a dedicated topic** (this topic on “Feminisms for a new age of democracy” was one of the most over-subscribed topics of Cluster 2, and as a result of the high quality proposals, 4 large collaborative projects, instead of 3, should be funded). Foreseen budget for 2022: EUR 9 Million for a dedicated topic.
- Under Cluster 4 on “Digital, Industry and Space”, tackling gender, race and other biases in Artificial Intelligence. **Budget for 2021: EUR 10 Million** for one specific topic. No dedicated topic foreseen in 2022.
- Under Cluster 5 on Climate, Energy and Mobility: a study on gender balance in the R&I field to improve the role of women in the energy transition (**EUR 0.90 million from the 2021 budget**).
- Under Cluster 6 on Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, no dedicated budget in 2021, but for 2022, EUR 16 Million for two topics addressing gender equality and women-led innovation in farming and rural areas.

- Under the European Innovation Council (EIC) WP: Several activities promoting gender equality have been funded under the 2021 WP, including: A **Women Leadership Programme (WLP)** to coaching and mentoring to EIC-funded women entrepreneurs (**2021 budget roughly estimated at around 106.000 euros**, corresponding to score 2). The first WLP cohort launched in October 2021 and ending in March 2022 has benefitted to 50 women participants, involved 44 mentors, and 31 contracts with EIC Coaches were signed by end of 2021 (9 more being signed under the 2022 EIC WP as soon as it enters into force, plus up to other 10 depending on participants selection); An **EU Prize for Women Innovators** awarded every year to the most talented women entrepreneurs, who have founded a successful company and brought innovation to market. **€ 350,000 in 2021**(corresponding to score 2) for 3 main prizes of EUR 100 000 each and one EUR 50 000 for a ‘rising innovator’ prize under the age of 35. In 2022, the budget is increased to €450,000, for 3 main prizes and 3 prizes to ‘Rising Innovators’; The **EIC Accelerator 2021** funded 31 women-led deep tech startups, for a **budget of over €140 million** (which we have considered here to correspond to score 1).
The EIC set in place a Gender & Diversity Working Group within the pilot EIC Board, which released in 2021 a ‘Statement on gender and diversity in EIC’ which highlights that, despite the high demand for talent, the European pool of next generation leaders in research, innovation and venture investment continues to be limited by the underrepresentation of women in all parts of the innovation ecosystem. Women represent less than 20% of senior management in deep tech start-ups that have raised Series A or B, with CTO positions stagnating at 1% for the last 3 years. In technology investment, men-only teams captured 91% of all capital raised and 85% of all rounds across Europe in 2020, and these imbalances are confirmed at regional level for Central and Eastern Europe and for Nordic countries. Women are equally underrepresented in the management of venture capital, with cascading consequences for the rest of the innovation world, as female investors tend to invest more than men in companies with female founders. The specific approach developed by the EIC, and the EIE (see below) is therefore devised to address these issues, and will be further developed in the next years.
- Under the European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE) WP: a new initiative, **Women TechEU** supports women-led deep-tech start-ups, combining dedicated funding with mentoring and coaching activities (**budget for 2021: EUR 3.75 Million**; the budget for 2022 is increased to EUR 10 Million due to the programme’s success). Furthermore, two other topics have a specific focus on women-led businesses, for a total budget of **EUR 9 million in 2021** (corresponding to score 1). In the 2022 WP, three other topics should contribute to score 1 for a total of EUR 17 million).
- Under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) WP: In 2021 the EIT organised a series of activities in connection to implementation of its Gender Action Plan. In particular, in line with the EIT’s 2021 AWP, the institute encouraged the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) to mainstream more effectively gender, incentivising and monitoring the KICs in pursuing gender balance and inclusiveness. **Girls Go Circular (GGC)** was one of the key actions implemented in 2021 to bridge the gender gap by equipping girls with digital skills and competences and empowering them to apply these skills to circular economy challenges. Other activities in relation to gender equality funded in 2021 include, inter alia: dedicated gender projects launched by the EIT KICs, such as Empowering Women in Agrifood, and Skills for Future; 4 EIT-KIC Gender Mainstreaming Network meetings; 2 gender dedicated trainings; 7 out of 8 EIT KICs have completed drafting their gender policies and respective gender equality action plans. Overall, the EIT allocated in 2021 an estimate of **EUR 2.63 million to dedicated actions (score 2)** and **EUR 0.49 million to the Skills for Future programme (score 1)**. The current EIT WP covers a 2 year 2021-2022 period. In 2022, several additional actions contributing to gender equality will be funded, including, inter alia, EUR 0.633 million for a cross-KIC programme dedicated to women entrepreneurship and leadership, following strategic consultations with key stakeholders in 2021, and programmes on e.g. women in mobility, women in manufacturing (all scores 2) and additional initiatives that will partially contribute to gender equality objectives (score 1). A concept for a common EIC-EIT Women Award is also under development for 2022.
- Under the Marie Skłodowska -Curie Actions (MSCA) WP: This is a bottom-up programme, and it is too early to provide estimate figures for women beneficiaries in all projects funded under the 2021 WP, or for projects that have an explicit gender equality dimension, as none of the calls launched that year has closed its evaluation phase at this stage. Overall, the MSCA pay particular attention to equal opportunities and inclusiveness and make a remarkable contribution towards achieving gender equality across the ERA and beyond. In line with the Charter and Code, all MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to embrace diversity and take measures to facilitate mobility and counter-act gender and disability-related barriers to it. The gender dimension is considered as a key award criterion in its evaluation process and also when selecting doctoral and postdoctoral programmes that will train the innovators and research leaders of tomorrow. By doing so, the programme promotes gender balance in research and research management teams and full consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content if relevant for the project. The MSCA also address the gender pay gap and support equal opportunities through the provision of equal pay for all fellows. The programme also includes work-life balance provisions that encourage in particular women to apply and thus contribute to the high participation rate of female researchers. These include family allowances, maternity and parental leave and part-time work for family and personal reasons. This encourages women into the labour market, including in STE(A)M fields.
We therefore attribute a score 0* to the total MSCA 2021 budget of 770 337 666 €. The foreseen budget for the 2022 MSCA calls is even higher: 847 934 717 €.
Based on estimates from previous years, it is expected that the budget allocated in 2021 will contribute to fund 3200 female researchers, of which 1180 PhD candidates, 910 postdoctoral researchers and 1110 research and innovation staff members.

- Under the [European Research Council \(ERC\) WP](#): this is a bottom-up programme, and all projects funded under the 2021 WP are not yet known as selection procedures are still going on. But already **7 projects have "gender" as keyword in their abstract, and can thus be considered as contributing under score 1, for a total amount of 10.524,874 euros**. The data on female grantees (principal investigators) is not yet available.

However, the [ERC has adopted a Gender Equality Plan for the duration of Horizon Europe](#). As part of it the ERC has identified the following key objectives around which it is developing and implementing actions:

- To continue raising awareness about the ERC gender policy among potential applicants;
- To improve the gender balance among researchers submitting ERC proposals in all research fields;
- To raise awareness about the benefits of gender balance among researchers within the ERC teams;
- To continue identifying and removing any potential gender bias in the ERC evaluation procedure;
- To continue monitoring possible differences in gender specific careers and academic posts, following the ERC grants;
- To embed gender awareness within all levels of the ERC processes- from creating awareness about the ERC to grant signing- while keeping the focus on excellence.
- To strive for gender balance among the ERC peer reviewers and other relevant decision-making bodies, aiming at a minimum participation of the underrepresented gender while taking into account the situation in the field of the action. Also, the proportional representation of genders should be at least equal to that of the applications by the underrepresented sex in the Advanced grants in the same area, aiming at the level of 40% in the future.

The ERC Gender Equality Plan and the objectives set in it are closely being monitored and continuously discussed by the ERC Scientific Council's dedicated Working Group on Gender Issues.

- Several actions under the 2021-2022 [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\) WP](#) contribute to gender equality, including the development of a monitoring tool for the Commission's Gender Equality strategy.

Furthermore, the upgraded Horizon Dashboard will include the new approach allowing to better identify the gender composition of researchers benefiting from the EU R&I support, success rates of female researchers, their networks as well as career progression. It will also allow to identify women-led companies supported by Horizon Europe and better understand the impact of the programme on their company growth.

Key achievements and performance under Horizon 2020

Gender as a cross-cutting issue in Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 was the first Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (R&I) to include specific articles relating to gender equality in its Regulation, setting gender as a cross-cutting issue with three distinct objectives:

- gender balance in research teams at all levels, in order to close the gaps in the participation of women;
- gender balance in decision-making bodies, in order to reach the target of 40% of the under-represented sex in panels and groups and of 50% in advisory groups;
- integration of the gender dimension into R&I content, i.e. taking into account as relevant biological characteristics as well as social and cultural features of both women and men in the design and content of R&I (sex and gender analysis).

These objectives are implemented through a series of Commission provisions which are integrated, as relevant, at various stages of the Research and Innovation cycle.

Gender balance in research teams

- In Work Programmes, applicants are encouraged to promote equal opportunities in the implementation of the funded action and to ensure a balanced participation of women and men at all levels in teams. Up to January 2021, the share of women participants in Horizon 2020 projects was 41% of the total workforce, including non-researchers, while women represented 27% of projects coordinators.
- In [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\)](#) specifically, women represent an overall share of 42% of the entire MSCA fellow population under Horizon 2020, 42% of Individual Fellowships (post-doctoral), and 45% ITNs (i.e. for doctoral candidates), but lower among research and innovation staff (38%). From the budget spent so far on the four main Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon 2020, EUR 2.4 billion have been dedicated to women researchers. A number of studies have addressed the gender dimension of the MSCA programme under Horizon 2020 and contributed to introduce improvements as regards gender equality under Horizon Europe. These include the [FP7 ex post and H2020 interim evaluation of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions](#) (MSCA) and a number of external studies (see the "[Diagnosis in Excellent Science](#)" produced by the H2020-funded project New Horizon).
- Under the European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot under Horizon 2020, a specific measure was introduced in the 2020 WP: all applicants had to specify the gender of their CEOs to allow monitoring of the number of women led companies applying, and succeeding at different stages of the selection process. With this data, in the second half of 2020, EIC Accelerator piloted the prioritisation of excellent proposals with women CEOs to a target of 25% women-led companies invited to interview. The measure increased the success of women-led companies from 8% to 29% in 2020 (2020 year average: 21%)

Gender balance in decision making

Targets have been fully reached: the share of contracts with women experts participating in evaluation panels is 42%, while women's participation in Horizon 2020 advisory groups was 55%.

Gender dimension in research and innovation content

The integration of the gender dimension in R&I content has been increasingly mentioned in topics for calls for proposals across the different Horizon 2020 Work Programme parts, and applicants' attention is drawn to the relevance of sex and gender analysis in the content of their planned actions, which is evaluated under the 'Excellence' criterion. Across the 2020 Work Programmes, 125 out of 343 topics (36.4%) for calls for proposals (including the emergency Coronavirus calls for Expression of Interest) integrate an explicit gender dimension in their content. Moreover, an increasing number of bottom-up projects funded under the "Excellent Science" pillar of Horizon 2020, through the European Research Council (ERC) and the MSCA programme, have been integrating sex and gender analysis in their research designs, and in some cases, have been fully dedicated to gender-equality related themes.

Funding to projects dedicated to gender equality issues

- Gender equality projects are funded under the Science-with-and-for-Society (SwafS) Work Programme, which has specific calls on supporting gender equality in R&I. Among these, support is offered to implement gender equality plans (GEPs) in research performing and funding organisations.
- We also fund under SwafS policy-related projects to support a coherent framework of activities, including: trans-national policy networks, communities of practice on GEP implementation, a gender equality training academy to support the implementation of GEPs, addressing gender bias in allocation of funds, integrating a gender perspective in international cooperation, addressing gender-based violence including sexual harassment in academia.
- For the whole of the Horizon 2020 SwafS work programme, over EUR 83 Million will have been allocated to over 40 collaborative projects and other actions on gender equality in R&I, benefitting to around 300 organisations.
- In addition, other SwafS-funded projects, e.g. on responsible research and innovation as well as science education, have also been addressing gender equality issues specifically.

As a result of these provisions, R&I is already considered to be among the 'best in class' with respect to EU policies for the promotion of gender equality.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Training researchers towards a better understanding of poverty:

Since 1990, there have been considerable efforts to reduce absolute poverty in most developing countries. However, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, progress has been slow. Literature shows that the academic debate on the determinants of poverty reduction takes place in disciplinary silos, where approaches that work well for high-income economies but ignore structural differences between high-income and developing countries are applied and deliver ambiguous results. The EU-funded ADAPTED project will address this apparent research gap by developing high-level training for early-stage researchers, aiming to avoid the existing silos, integrate developing country realities into poverty reduction approaches and bridge the attested knowledge gaps. The project will validate pathways towards poverty eradication, analyse interactions between poverty reduction and other policy areas and contribute to optimise the impact of poverty reduction policies.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

NEW ROBOTS TRANSFORMING FARMING: The making of a new urban food plan

In Europe, food is available but this doesn't mean it will forever be secure, safe, affordable and nutritious. Currently, the EU food system is not sustainable with respect to the environment and economic and social aspects. In this context, the EU-funded FUSILLI project will transition towards sustainable food systems. It will put 12 cities around Europe in a knowledge sharing and learning network to address the challenges of the food system transformation. The overall aim of the project is to support the participant pan-European cities (and their peri-urban areas) with the aim to address through strong cooperation for knowledge sharing and mutual learning the challenges of the food system transformation.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Metafoams, a new material foam to protect against noise pollution

Sound pollution is linked to a range of health problems, yet the number of Europeans exposed to high levels of noise is on the rise. Around 50 million people living in urban areas suffer from excessively high levels of traffic noise at night, and for 20 million of them night-time traffic noise actually has a damaging effect on health. Acoustic foams are existing solutions that provide strong sound absorption and noise reduction. Yet, they are effective only in the mid- and high-frequency range. The EU-funded METAFOAM project has a new solution targeting low frequencies. It enables so-called acoustic metafoams – a new class of

materials consisting of particle-enriched acoustic foams. Two effective mechanisms, the visco-thermal dissipation and local resonance are combined envisaging to the creation of a very efficient sound insulator.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Promoting research as a profession in Slovenia

One way to cultivate children's interest in science and to encourage young people to pursue science education is to promote the work of researchers. Highlighting the valuable impact of researchers' work in everyday life can help to engage and connect with young people. This is what the European Researchers' Nights are all about. With this in mind, the EU-funded ZATE project will bring researchers and their achievements to the general public, increasing awareness about research as a profession and inspiring youth to pursue scientific careers. The project will perform an intensive awareness campaign in five cities across Slovenia in cooperation with selected ERN consortiums through various pre-events and event activities and engagement of citizens.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Please refer to section 6.4 of this document.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Remediation of waters contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

Lindane and other chlorinated organic carcinogen substances have been included in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to achieve their global elimination. Consequently, the development of cost-effective, safe, and environmentally friendly technologies to destroy these POPs is necessary. A promising alternative uses solar energy integrated into the advanced oxidation process, mainly the solar photo-Fenton process (SPFP). The European Parliament (2016) reported highly contaminated sites with POPs in many Member States, including Spain, that require immediate remediation. The EU-funded SPFPs project's main objective will be to design and build an innovative pilot-plant solar reactor to achieve the irreversible degradation of POPs present in real contaminated waters, taken from several landfills in Spain.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SophiA - Sustainable off-grid solutions for pharmacies and hospitals in Africa

Rural and remote health facilities in Africa require sustainable off-grid energy supplies and water free of bacteria and viruses. The EU-funded SophiA project will develop containerised solutions for hospitals using natural refrigerants, solar thermal energy and photovoltaics. This will make it possible for health care units to access carbon-neutral energy for electricity, heating and the cooling of medicine, as well as safe and clean drinking water, increasing quality of life in a sustainable way. The systems will be manufactured in Africa, and they will be tested at four rural hospitals in remote regions of the continent. Project results will accelerate sustainable development, growth and economic transformation in Africa.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Supporting Blue Growth SMEs

Blue Growth is the strategy set up by the European Commission to support sustainable growth in the maritime industry. The EU-funded GALATEA project will focus on four sectors of the Blue Growth strategy (smart port, smart ship, smart shipyard and maritime surveillance) to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in developing innovative solutions in the Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean Seas. Through integrating information and communication technologies as well as aerospace technologies in maritime industries, the project aims to support the development of new value chains to promote cross-border and cross-sectoral collaborations. GALATEA strives to have a positive and sustainable impact on EU growth and create more employment opportunities.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Strengthening innovation capacity in digital infrastructure design

The digital transformation of our societies is enabled by the design, deployment and operation of continuously evolving, complex digital infrastructures. The research community needs a test platform to address significant challenges related to their efficiency, reliability, availability, range, end-to-end latency, security and privacy. The EU-funded SLICES-DS will design SLICES, a Europe-wide test-platform, to support large-scale, experimental research that will provide advanced compute, storage and network components, interconnected by dedicated high-speed links. The main aim of SLICES will be to strengthen the research excellence and innovation capacity of European researchers and scientists in the design and operation of future digital infrastructures.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Advanced policies to reduce educational inequalities

A key objective of the Horizon 2020 framework programme 'Europe in a changing world' is to ensure children from vulnerable groups enjoy access to education and reduce educational inequalities. The EU-funded PIONEERED project will specify research-informed policy standards and identify innovative policies and practices to reduce inequalities in accessing education. The project will identify emerging and existing sources of educational inequalities from early childhood to tertiary education, design pioneering

policies and practices of reaction, incorporate the findings, and determine the most adaptable instruments and innovative policies to apply across EU Member States. PIONEERED will analyse national policies addressing inequalities, analyse new and existing relevant data, and conduct research in schools and informal education centres.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Smart cities as a role model in sustainable development

There is a gap between smart city research and practice, and environmental sustainability. For instance, smart city projects have not assessed the environmental impacts of their strategies. To fill this knowledge gap, the EU-funded ARTEMIS project will explore how the smart city can improve the environmental performance of urban systems. The findings will provide new insight on key aspects of smart city strategies that can effectively reduce environmental impacts. Specifically, the project will develop an integrated framework coupling urban metabolism and life-cycle assessment to estimate how strategies implemented in two EU-funded smart city projects (Lisbon in Portugal and Trento in Italy) have affected a wide set of environmental impacts associated with urban systems.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

A concrete transition towards circular construction

Concrete – the most widely used construction material – underlies nearly every permanent structure on the planet. What happens to concrete when buildings are no longer needed? The EU-funded ReCreate project will investigate the systemic changes needed in the whole ecosystem of construction and demolition to make these practices more circular. By drawing from partnerships covering the entire value chain, the project will demonstrate deconstruction of intact precast structural components from condemned buildings for reuse in new buildings in real-life innovative pilots. The potential volume of the supply and demand for secondary concrete components in the EU will also be assessed. The project's overall goal is to boost concrete reuse and help the EU reach its ambitious energy and climate targets.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Land use-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation

Land use has consequences for ecosystems and climate change. The EU-funded RethinkAction project will develop a cross-sectoral, user-friendly decision-making platform to foster climate action, focusing on climate mitigation and adaptation solutions related to land use. It will put citizens and decision-makers at the heart of climate change action by informing them about how to overcome barriers through participatory processes. In addition to increasing awareness and the attractiveness of mitigation and adaptation actions, RethinkAction will demonstrate how to create change through practical land use-based solutions. It will roll out six representative case studies in Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, Portugal and Sweden, covering the main regional differences related to climate change.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Genetics and satellites to the rescue of marine turtles

More than 100 million years ago, marine turtles roamed the earth alongside dinosaurs. Today, of the mere seven remaining species of marine turtle, six are threatened with extinction. The EU-funded SeaTGen project will focus on the green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in the south-west Indian Ocean. It will research how populations interact and how they could be impacted by threats in nesting ground and foraging areas as well as along their migratory corridors. Specifically, the project will employ genome-wide single nucleotide polymorphisms combined with traditional mtDNA markers. Novel genetic methods with data from movement ecology (satellite telemetry) and oceanography will be used to assess population structure and recent demographic history. The results will prove useful for future conservation actions.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Creating a more holistic fire management approach

There is a need to develop novel approaches that shift emphasis to the root causes and impacts of extreme wildfire events. To that end, the EU-funded FIRE-RES project will promote the implementation of a more holistic fire management approach and support the transition towards more resilient landscapes and communities. By integrating research, technology, civil protection, policy and governance spheres related to wildfires, the project will generate new knowledge about sustainable integrated fire management models. Moreover, it will deploy innovations at the technological, social, health, safety, administrative, ecological and economic levels to define how future policies in this area may be achieved in the EU.

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

International law and resource wars

Conflicts over natural resources are accompanied by demands and pressures in relation to climate change and inequality. Scientists debate the links between resource scarcity and armed conflicts. But an understudied area of critical significance is how international

law functions in this arena, where power inequality defines relationships between actors like transnational institutions, governments and peoples. The EU-funded REWA project will focus on the topics of conflict resources and security impacts of climate change, through two case studies. REWA focuses on the role of international law in managing these crises and also on the role different actors can play within the related legal dialogue. The project will reveal how distributive justice can be sidelined and inequalities maintained through legal and institutional arrangements.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

Climate science to support and optimise climate-sensitive industries

Southern Africa experiences substantial inter-annual climate variability and is emerging as a potential hotspot of climate change. The EU-funded FOCUS-Africa project will develop sustainable tailored climate services to support improved climate-related outcomes in key climate-sensitive sectors: agriculture and food security, water, energy and infrastructure. Through the project, eight case studies in six countries will assess and test how climate services can be operationalised through the hydro-meteorological systems and institutional infrastructure of the World Meteorological Organisation. The aim will be to illustrate how the use of climate science, forecasts and projections can maximise socio-economic benefits to specific national private and public sectors in the region. The full value chain of climate services will be demonstrated and the lessons learned will be upscaled to other countries in Africa as well as Europe.

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

Performance:

The EU is committed to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to The Horizon Europe Programme should address global challenges, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As indicated earlier in the document, only a few projects have been signed. At this stage, it is therefore not possible to provide a description of the programme's actions contributing to each relevant SDG.

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**Euratom Research and Training Programme****Lead DG: RTD**

Associated DGs: JRC

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Nuclear research contributes to social well-being and economic prosperity by improving nuclear safety, security and radiation protection. Research and innovation in the nuclear field play a key role in maintaining the highest safety standards and Europe's competences in the nuclear domain. Radiation protection research leads to improvements of safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, in medical technologies as well as in other sectors such as industry,

agriculture and the environment from which many citizens benefit. Nuclear research also supports the Union's efforts in the transition to a climate-neutral energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the Euratom Research and Training Programme is to pursue nuclear research and training activities, with an emphasis on the continuous improvement of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection, as well as to complement the achievement of Horizon Europe's objectives, inter alia in the context of the energy transition.

The Euratom Programme addresses the following research challenges:

- Reinforcement of reactor systems' safety and of spent fuel and radioactive waste management
- Radiation protection and the safe application of ionising radiation
- Safe decommissioning of and environmental remediation of nuclear installations
- Improvement of nuclear security and safeguards
- Maintaining nuclear competences and knowledge management
- A significantly expanded knowledge base for fusion energy

The Euratom Research and Training Programme will complement Horizon Europe, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2021-2027. It supports nuclear research and training in areas defined by the Regulation establishing the Programme and in accordance with the Euratom Treaty, complementing Member States' actions in this field.

1.3. Specific objectives

- a) improve and support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radiation protection, safe spent fuel and radioactive waste management and decommissioning, including the safe and secure use of nuclear power and of non-power applications of ionizing radiation;
- b) maintain and further develop expertise and competence in the nuclear field within the Community;
- c) foster the development of fusion energy as a potential future energy source for electricity production and contribute to the implementation of the European fusion roadmap;
- d) support the policy of the Union and its Member States on continuous improvement of nuclear safety, safeguards and security.

1.4. Public intervention context

In accordance with the Euratom Treaty, in particular Article 4(1) and Article 7, the Commission should complement nuclear research in Member States by carrying out a Community research and training programme as agreed to by the Council. In 2021-2025 Euratom will support, in the interest of all Member States, joint research efforts and actions for maintaining strong competences in nuclear research and innovation in both fission and fusion.

All Member States stand to benefit from the development of a sound scientific and technical basis for the safe operation of reactors, secure management of radioactive waste, robust systems of human and environmental protection against the effects of ionising radiation and progress in fusion science and technologies. In support of all objectives, the Programme reinforces the European Research Area in the nuclear field, supports the coordination of Member States' research efforts to avoid duplication, helps retain critical mass in key areas and ensures European added value to expenditure of public funds.

In full respect of Member States' right to decide on their energy mix, the Programme's research results in fission and fusion could also contribute towards a climate-neutral energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way, in particular for those Member States using or planning to use nuclear power as part of their energy mix.

1.5. Actions

In 2021-25 research for nuclear safety will remain a top priority of the Euratom Programme for direct and indirect actions, with particular emphasis on ageing, long-term operation strategies and accident management. The additional safety requirements introduced by the Nuclear Safety Directive¹ calls for increased efforts in developing an understanding of degradation mechanisms of safety-relevant components and the impact on safety overall, and meet equally high standards of safety and radiation protection, safeguards and security. This would support a science-based assessment of the safety margins and allow for timely implementation of safety improvements. The predictive tools and assessment methods developed by the Programme would benefit the periodic safety reviews of existing nuclear installations. They would also help the regulators in assessing new designs.

¹ Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009 and its latest amendment Directive 2014/87/Euratom, Directive 2011/70/Euratom that establishes a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and Directive 2013/59/Euratom laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation.

Direct actions, implemented by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), additionally will focus on nuclear security and nuclear safeguards by developing techniques and methods aiming at reducing nuclear security risks and supporting nuclear non-proliferation efforts. In addition, the JRC will develop nuclear standards and support the implementation of Euratom policies in these areas.

Fusion energy represents a possible long-term option for large-scale, low-carbon electricity production which could help address a growing energy demand beyond 2050. During 2021-2025, the co-funded European Partnership in fusion research will build on the progress made by the EUROfusion consortium during 2014-2020, focusing on the further support required for the efficient commencement of ITER's operations and, working hand-in-hand with industry, on increasing the efforts on the conceptual design of a fusion power plant.

Before deployment of fusion power plants, fusion research will bring to Europe high technology innovations and, thus, a more competitive high-tech industry. Fusion research pushes many of the cutting-edge technologies to new limits and, in many cases, to innovative solutions to challenging problems beyond the bounds of fusion research. Education and training will remain an important element of the Partnership which will set ambitious targets for the training of scientists and engineers while addressing issues of excellence. To enhance the added value that fusion research provides to the economy and society, the current technology transfer programme will be continued and expanded to complement similar national activities and to link to technology transfer networks in the framework of the EIROforum initiative².

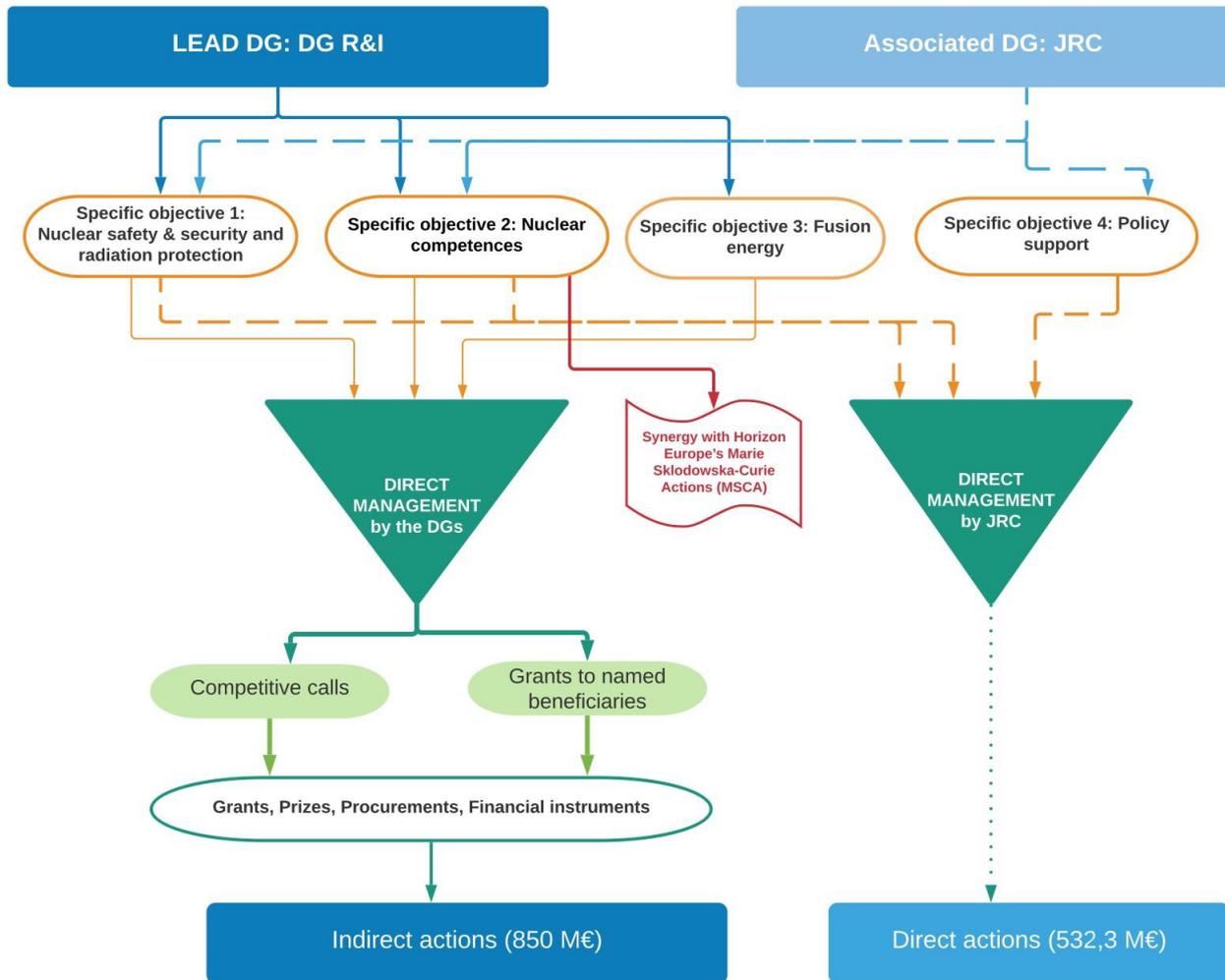
1.6. Delivery mode

The Programme is implemented in direct management or in indirect management. It may provide funding in any of the forms laid down in the Financial Regulation, in particular grants which shall be the main form of support for indirect actions in the programme. It may also provide financing in the form of prizes, procurement and financial instruments within blending operations. The Programme also supports direct actions undertaken by the JRC. Parts of the Programme may be implemented through European Partnerships. For this purpose, it makes direct reference to Annex III of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme Regulation laying down the conditions and principles for establishing European Partnerships.

Fission research will be implemented through direct actions implemented by the JRC and indirect actions implemented in direct management (i.e. via competitive calls for proposals, named beneficiary, etc.) by the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation. Fusion research will be implemented through indirect actions in indirect management as a co-fund action by a named beneficiary.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

² <https://www.eiroforum.org/wp-content/uploads/brochure-eiroforum-imkt.pdf>



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2021-2025 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 (OJ L 167 I, 12.5.2021, p. 81).	2021 - 2027	1 382.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The Programme is limited by the Euratom Treaty to five years. For this reason, The Euratom Programme covers the years 2021-2025, to be extended in 2025 by two additional years in order to align it with the MFF 2021-2027. The Council Regulation establishes the Euratom Research and Training Programme for the years 2021–2025. It lays down the objectives, the budget and the forms of Euratom funding. For the rules for participation and dissemination, the Programme applies relevant provisions of the Regulation establishing the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Euratom Programme and to address challenges common to the Euratom Programme and to Horizon Europe, the Euratom Programme shall be implemented in synergy with Horizon Europe and other Union funding programmes in line with Annex IV of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme Regulation and specific provisions of the Euratom Regulation. It may provide a financial contribution to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs) in order to support activities relevant for nuclear research.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	264.7	270.7	276.5	281.2	287.8	293.8	304.5	1 979.3
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again*								
Contributions from other countries and entities	15.1							15.1
Total	279.8	270.7	276.5	281.2	287.8	293.8	304.5	1 994.4

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Evaluations of successive Euratom programmes have shown how European support is vital for nuclear research to continue to enhance the safety, safeguards and security of nuclear technologies. The interim evaluation of the 2014-2018 Euratom Programme concluded that the Programme is highly relevant across all activities. For this reason, the 2021-2025 Euratom Programme will continue along the main lines established by its predecessors.

In addition, the Euratom Programme 2021-2025 will further:

- improve, together with beneficiaries, the organisation and management of the European Joint Programmes in the nuclear field as European Partnerships
- reinforce Euratom education and training actions to develop competencies in the nuclear field which underpin all aspects of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection, in particular in a new generation of engineers
- exploit synergies between the Euratom Programme and thematic areas of Horizon Europe
- exploit synergies between direct and indirect actions of the Euratom Programme helping to ensure consistency and effectiveness throughout the Programme.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

To learn more about the Euratom Programme, you are invited to visit the relevant websites that contain information about:

Direct actions carried out by JRC: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/scientific-activities_en

Indirect actions carried by DG RTD:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/euratom-research-and-training-programme_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	269.5	1 994.4	14%
Payments	196.4		10%

The financial year 2021 was the first year of implementation of the Euratom Programme 2021-2025. The late adoption of the Regulation (in May 2021 instead of the beginning of the year) delayed the start of the Programme's implementation. In order to ensure continuity in support to the relevant policy areas and to allow implementation from the beginning of the multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027, the Euratom Regulation entered into force as a matter of urgency and applied, with retroactive effect, from 1 January 2021.

As a result of this, the Euratom Work Programme 2021-2022 could only be adopted in July 2021. As result, the calls' deadlines had to be postponed to the year-end, delaying the starting date of projects and the related pre-financing to 2022 instead of 2021. This first Work Programme has a budget of about EUR 300 million to support fusion and fission research and help to foster progress in a

wide range of areas, from further improving nuclear safety and radiation protection, to boosting non-power applications of nuclear technology. 2021-2022 call has a particular focus on the medical field, directly supporting the priorities of the EU's Beating Cancer Action Plan and the SAMIRA Action Plan.

The separate JRC 2021-2022 Work Programme for the direct actions adopted in June 2021 covers the main specific objectives of the Programme, including nuclear security, safeguards, non-proliferation and policy support. It is organised in five portfolios of projects aligned with the relevant Commission priorities.

During 2022, the Commission will therefore implement most of the pre-financings of the actions financed by the 2021 budget, together with those of the 2022 actions as foreseen in the Work Programmes. All the commitment appropriations (expiring end 2022) are foreseen to be implemented.

The Euratom Work Programme 2023-2024 is expected to be adopted during the second half of 2022, allowing to launch a call for proposals with deadline in 2023. Following an evaluation by independent experts, grants for selected proposals will be signed in first half of 2024. The year 2023 will be the third year of implementation of the Euratom Programme.

The pandemic might have a limited impact on the implementation of Euratom Programme.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	2 357.0	2 368.9	99%
Payments	2 116.9		89%

As regards the payment appropriations implemented in 2021, all the available appropriations have been used mainly to cover legal obligations under the former Programme (Euratom 2019-2020), allowing to decrease substantially the level of the open RAL. Full execution was reached at the end of 2021. The Commission has taken specific measures to mitigate the risk of under-implementation of the R&I projects due to the pandemic. Concretely, maximum flexibility has been given in relation to the action implementation. For example, extensions of research projects were granted to limit under-implementation due to COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, teleworking during the confinement and the subsequent transitional period are accepted even if it is not the beneficiary's usual practice to telework. Costs of hours worked for the EURATOM indirect actions via teleworking during those periods are eligible under the same conditions than hours worked on-site.

In 2022 and 2023 the Commission will continue to pay the intermediate and final payments related to the on-going research projects under direct actions. The RAL will therefore continue to decrease significantly.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

To address areas for improvement identified during the mid-term evaluation of its predecessor, the Euratom Research and Training Programme includes the following five main novelties.

- **Simplification.** The structure of specific objectives has been streamlined and the number of objectives have been reduced.
- **Education and Training.** These activities have been strengthened to maintain and develop further nuclear expertise and knowledge in Europe. Nuclear researchers will be eligible to the Postdoctoral Fellowships of the Marie Skłodowska Curie actions to enhance the mobility of nuclear scientists.
- **Synergies with Horizon Europe.** A clearer legal base for synergies with Horizon Europe has been provided. The Euratom Research and Training Programme uses mainly the same instruments and rules for participation as Horizon Europe.
- **Synergies between actions.** Closer coordination and co-design of Work Programmes will allow nuclear researchers to better access to JRC expertise and its research infrastructure. Where relevant, the JRC will complement activities of the consortia receiving Euratom grants.
- **Focus on health issues.** The new Euratom Work Programme addresses research on cross-sectorial fertilisation and non-power applications. An emblematic example is the use of ionising radiation to support safe and optimised medical

procedures, contributing to Europe's Beating Cancer action plan. This will be implemented through a new Partnership initiative and topic in the Euratom work programme for 2021-22.

Most of the indirect activities will be implemented through 3 European partnerships:

- ✓ Eurofusion
- ✓ European Partnership in radioactive waste management
- ✓ European Partnership in radiation protection and detection of ionising radiation

As regards the programme performance, 2021 was the first year of the implementation of the Euratom Programme. This explains why at the end of 2021 no results for indirect actions were available and only results of the direct actions carried out by JRC are given. However, main actions carried out for the proper implementation of the programme are hereafter briefly described at the level of the specific objectives.

Specific Objective 1: Improve and support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radiation protection, safe spent fuel and radioactive waste management and decommissioning, including the safe and secure use of nuclear power and of non-power applications of ionizing radiation.

As regards, the indirect actions on fission, the Euratom 2021_2022 Work Programme published in 2021 aims at ensuring the highest standards of nuclear safety of power plants, research reactors, materials and fuels including radioactive waste management and decommissioning. call evaluation took place in November for the consensus stage and all projects selected will be finalised and launched during Spring 2022. Fifty one proposals were submitted to the call's 16 topics (28 proposals were selected on the main list and 5 are on the reserve list to a total of around EUR 117 million contribution from the Euratom budget). Additional actions were related to the organisation of the GIF technical secretariat, Nuclear Innovation Prizes and the Euratom Conferences. In 2022, the Euratom research and training conferences on fission safety of reactor systems (FISA 2022) and radioactive waste management (EURADWASTE '22) supported by the European Commission together with the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives (CEA), will be held under the auspices of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU.

In 2021, the direct actions of the programme published 104 scientific articles in peer reviewed journals and 19 scientific articles published in other periodicals. The technical outputs delivered are 11 sets of reference materials and 2 validated methods, which contributed to the modification of international standards, additionally 16 technical systems for safeguards as well as 6 scientific datasets and databases were delivered.

Specific Objective 2: maintain and further develop expertise and competence in the nuclear field within the Community.

In education and training, 2021-2022 call resulted in selection of proposals for long-term actions in nuclear and radiological education and training and access to infrastructures, offering support to students and researchers. A separate call for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships is expected to lead to fellowships funded by Euratom. Targeted education and training work packages are also included in thematic several R&I projects in nuclear safety.

Moreover, nuclear researchers are constantly challenging the scientific state-of-the-art and creating conditions for innovation. Much of this innovation can be exploited in other science and industrial sectors, for the benefit of society. To reward and highlight outstanding researchers or industries, the Euratom Programme is awarding the SOFT Prize (in the field of fusion) and the Nuclear Innovation Prizes (one in the field of safety of reactor systems and one for radioactive waste management).

Notwithstanding the pandemic restrictions, fourteen training courses for professionals and students from Member States and the Commission were organised developing virtual tools to allow it. Trainings provided during the period were addresses to implement the Basic safety standards Directive, and also in support of the IAEA or to enhance MS's capabilities on nuclear safeguards and nuclear security.

Specific Objective 3: foster the development of fusion energy as a potential future energy source for electricity production and contribute to the implementation of the European fusion roadmap.

In fusion, the Euratom Work Programme sets a clear strategy for the co-funded European Partnership in fusion research to build on the progress made by the EUROfusion consortium. This will ensure the success of ITER by delivering the necessary knowledge, preparing European teams for the exploitation of ITER and providing the training of a new generation of fusion scientists and engineers. The grant for fusion research was signed in December 2021 but was made retroactive to 1 January. This is being implemented by EUROfusion according to the updated roadmap agreed to in 2016. Deuterium-Tritium experimental campaign in Joint European Torus (JET) resulted in the world record-breaking fusion power obtained at the end of 2021. In addition to this, many first-of-a-kind operation and physics data can now be transferred to the ITER organisation in their preparations for the start of the tritium operation which will contribute to the success of the ITER programme. In materials research, design maturity has been provided for a decision on the construction of a fusion-relevant materials test facility potentially to be sited in Granada, Spain. The realisation of this facility is an important milestone in the roadmap to fusion electricity and a necessity for the licensing of the demonstration power plant after ITER.

Specific Objective 4: support the policy of the Union and its Member States on continuous improvement of nuclear safety, safeguards and security

The JRC provided support to the implementation of EU Directives (nuclear safety and basic safety standards), instruments as the Instrument for nuclear safety cooperation and the Instrument contributing to stability and peace, to trade and dual-use of exports. It contributed to implement the EC safeguard regime and the EC support programme to IAEA through analytical techniques and the provision of reference materials, equipment and techniques for the inspections.

The outputs delivered by direct actions included technical reports, science-for-policy reports and parts of policy documents; these outputs produced 35 impacts with tangible evidence, in different steps of the policy cycle.

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

This section reports on the Programme’s performance against planned performance based on the key performance indicators of the Euratom Programmes for the 2014-2020 period.

The key performance indicators set in the Euratom Regulation are based on quantitative performance measures. Appropriate measures have been put in place to measure and report annually the result of each indicator.

Based on cumulative results obtained during the implementation period of the programme, traffic light rating has been assigned to each expected accomplishment, (i.e. on track, moderate progress, deserves attention or no data). It was planned to achieve 13 accomplishments (specific objectives) for the 2014-2020 measured against a total of 20 key performance indicators, including 10 and 10 under indirect and direct actions respectively.

Table: Performance Reporting against targets– direct actions

				Total
18 KPIS on track	2 KPIS Moderate progress	0 KPIS Deserves attention	0 KPIS No data (or no target)	20 KPIS

As shown in the table above, the results achieved for the indirect actions of the Euratom Programme, in accordance with the objectives, are very good. Eighteen indicators out of 20 were recorded on track, only two indicators show a moderate progress, no indicator deserves attention. The complete results are shown in the previous programme Statement, attached to the Draft Budget 2022 and relevant updated results in the section 5 of this document.

The fission part of the Euratom Programme 2014-2020 involved an estimated workforce of around 8 000 persons including 200 scientific managers (2%), 5 000 experienced researchers (63%), 500 researchers recruited (6%), 800 PhD partially or full-time in a project (10%) and 1 500 others (engineers, technicians, administrative support) (19%). Organisations participating in Euratom fission projects include: Research Organisations REC 40 %, Private entities PRC 24%, Higher or secondary education establishments HES 30%, Public (excl. REC and HES) 3%, and other 3%. This illustrates the positive and high-impact achieved between Member States’ Institutes, research centers’, academia, industry and Euratom by closely collaborating at European level towards common broad scientific and technological research challenges and opportunities, innovation, development and demonstration goals.

For example, the European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management (EURAD) supported the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Directive in Euratom Member States with EUR 32.5 million of Euratom funding (54 % of total costs, 5 years duration), taking into account the various stages of advancement of national programmes. After a first year dedicated to establishing EURAD’s structure and governance, specific work was carried out to develop dissemination and communication around the program.

In fusion research, the EUROfusion consortium had achieved 90 % of milestones established for 2014-2020. Examples of progress include: operation of the shattered pellet injector (SPI) in JET and DT experiments, theoretical studies (computer simulations) complemented by experiments on TCX which provided the first systematic assessment of possible power exhaust options for a fusion demonstration power plant (DEMO) and tests of ITER-type mono-blocks in EUROfusion devices dedicated to studying plasma wall interaction (PWI). JET has also operated in pure tritium and the 50/50 deuterium/tritium fuel mix which has provided valuable first of a kind information for ITER to exploit in its preparation for full power operation. A DEMO design gate review has been successfully conducted which, using the input from the PEX programme, has defined the priorities for the conceptual design of DEMO.

A unique Research Infrastructure for testing fusion material in realistic conditions is getting underway. The EU-funded DONES-PreP project is the preparatory phase for IFMIF-DONES, which is a novel research infrastructure based on a unique neutron source with energy spectrum and flux tuned to those expected for the first wall in future fusion reactors. DONES-PreP addressed financial, legal and organisation aspects for the construction of the IFMIF-DONES in Escuzar (province of Granada, Spain).

During the 2014-2020 period, through EUROfusion more than 8 300 researchers have had access to advanced research infrastructures.

3.2. Key achievements

Some key achievements obtained in the period 2014 -2020:

Indirect actions

1392	8 300	90 %	5 976
PhDs funded including 750 PhDs in fusion physics and technology	Researchers have had access to advanced research infrastructures through Eurofusion	of annual deliverables achieved by the EUROfusion consortium	scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals

Direct actions (research carried out by JRC)

180	221	158	1600	200	6147	334
regulatory bodies’ staff were trained and the Clearing house on operating experience feedback for nuclear power plants. There were also performed 12 topical studies and 26 reviews of events reported to IAEA	Training courses for professionals and students from Member States and Commission services, provided by JRC	Projects were granted for open access to JRC facilities, resulting on 140 research articles, with participation of 64 PhD and Master students	front-line officers, law enforcement experts and nuclear measurement experts, from 89 countries attended trainings at the European nuclear security training centre	Experimental data sets delivered to open access OECD and IAEA nuclear data libraries	Units of certified reference materials, delivered to Euratom safeguards, to IAEA and to nuclear operators in the period 2014-2020	Expert missions in support of the Instrument for nuclear safety cooperation. JRC contributed as well to 43 documents defining the INSC’s scope and objectives, 84 Terms of reference for projects, 14 technical specifications and 283 technical assessments, participating in 170 tender evaluations.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the latest evaluation (Commission Report COM(2017) 697, (SWD (2017) 426 and 427) were presented in the Programme Statement for 2020.

The interim evaluation of the Euratom Programme concluded that the Programme is highly relevant and it is achieving its results and avoiding duplication, while providing added-value and coordination. The possible areas of improvement for indirect actions include: increasing synergies between direct and indirect actions and between the Euratom Programme and other thematic areas of the EU Framework Programme in order to address cross-cutting aspects such as medical applications of radiation, climate change, security and emergency preparedness, reinforcing Euratom education and training actions for developing competencies in the nuclear field which underpin all aspects of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection. The evaluation recommendations are already being addressed: the JRC continues providing training courses (243) and opening the access to its research facilities to EU Institutions. Other actions have been taken, as briefly described in the section ‘Programme Performance’. Ex-post evaluation of the Programme is planned for 2022/2023 in accordance with the Regulation, while the interim evaluation will be presented together with proposal for extension of the Programme for 2026-2027.

To evaluate the impact of the activities carried out by the direct actions, JRC selected 12 important activities, covering the five specific objectives of the programme. An external experts panel evaluated these impact case studies, which also were sent to the related stakeholders in the European Commission (user DGs), receiving positive evaluation and feedback.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Improve and support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radiation protection, safe spent fuel and radioactive waste management and decommissioning, including the safe and secure use of nuclear power and of non-power applications of ionizing radiation.

Indicator 1: Number of Euratom funded peer reviewed scientific publications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	0			2500	4000					4000
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of peer-reviewed scientific publications resulting from the Euratom Programme.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Euratom Programme participants through project reporting template, Scopus database.
Link to the objective	Publications codify, disseminate and provide access to the new knowledge for improving nuclear safety, radiation protection and for development of fusion energy. Peer reviewed publications are one of the main scientific results. Peer-reviewed publications indicator is used in Research and Innovation for monitoring new knowledge. Peer-reviewed publications are considered as a relevant sign of good quality new knowledge. By monitoring the number of peer-reviewed publications produced by the Horizon Europe, we aim at monitoring at short term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards its first specific objective through the creation and diffusion of high quality new knowledge
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is the continuation of an indicator of Euratom Programme 2014-2020 (Publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals), but not restricted to high impact journals.
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the Program Statement shall be subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation ; they may subsequently be revised.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Significant data from indirect actions is expected no sooner than 2024, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers.

Indicator 2: Field-Weighted Citation Index of Euratom funded peer reviewed publications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Field Weighted Citation Index
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	In the mid-term, the Field Weighted Citation Index is an established metric of scientific performance and production of new knowledge in nuclear science and technology for improving nuclear safety, security, waste management, radiation protection and for development of fusion energy and non-power applications of ionising radiation (first and third specific objective of the Programme).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The Field Weighted Citation Index (FWCI) is the ratio of the observed citation rate (MOCR) with the expected citation rate (MECR) in a given research field. The MECR is calculated as an average citation rate in a given research field. If FWCI = 1, the set of Euratom funded publications has generated the same amount of citations as any other average publication in the given research field. A 3-year citation window is applied to ensure that all publications have the same time lag, and as such the same chance to get cited. First data are expected no sooner than 2024, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them, and there needs to be a 3 year window for citations
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number and share of peer reviewed publications from Euratom Programme that are core contribution to scientific fields

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of top 1 % most cited publications produced, field-weighted [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	In the long-term, the share of 1 % most cited publications is an established metric of scientific performance and production of new knowledge in nuclear science and technology for improving nuclear safety, security, waste management, radiation protection and for development of fusion energy and non-power applications of ionising radiation (first and third specific objective of the Programme).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	new indicator
Other methodological comments	First data are expected no sooner than 2024, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them, and there needs to be a 3 year window for citations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Share of research outputs (open data/ publication/ software etc.) shared through open knowledge infrastructure

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	0				90%					90%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Share of open access publications in Euratom Programme expressed in %
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	Open access to publications, datasets, software, other research products allows researchers to build on existing work and speed science, industry to access scientific knowledge to innovate, and public sector to use for evidence-based policy making. Therefore open access supports indirectly objective of the Euratom Programme to create and share high quality new knowledge for improving nuclear safety, radiation protection and for development of fusion energy. By monitoring the research outputs (open data/publication/ software etc.) shared through open knowledge infrastructures, we aim at monitoring that Euratom Programme is on the right track to open up science. This will be shown by research outputs shared openly, re-used and at the origin of new transdisciplinary/trans-sectoral collaborations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the programme statement will be the subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation; they may subsequently be revised.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Significant data from indirect actions is expected no sooner than 2024, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers.

Indicator 5: Share of open access research outputs actively used/cited

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of Open Access research outputs in the Euratom Programme
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	Open access to publications, datasets, software, other research products (e.g., services, tools) allows

	researchers to build on existing work, industry to access scientific knowledge to innovate, public sector to use research results for evidence based policy making, public to be engaged and involved in the research process. Measurement of outputs related to Open Science is an appropriate measure of the short-term progress towards Euratom Programme’s objective to improve nuclear safety, security, waste management, radiation protection and for development of fusion energy and non-power applications of ionising radiation (first and third specific objective of the Programme).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	All relevant research outputs (by type: publications, datasets and software) reported by all Euratom projects (incl. DOI) are matched in an external database. The single extended list of all relevant outputs, removing the duplicates, is used to count numbers and shares. First data are expected no sooner than in 2024
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Share of Euratom beneficiaries having developed new transdisciplinary/ trans-sectoral collaborations with users of their open Euratom R&I outputs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Citations of open access publications [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	This indicator captures the effect that open access brings to fostering diffusion of knowledge by tracking the use of research outputs from the Euratom Programme. The key question addressed is whether the open access research results are cited more than the closed/embargoed ones.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	See indicator 2 for details on citations. First data are expected no sooner than 2024, as it takes time for beneficiaries to produce papers and report them, and there needs to be a 3 year window for citations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Number and share of outputs aimed at addressing specific EU policy priorities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									100%
0	100%									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Share of outputs aimed at addressing specific EU policy priorities (%)
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2022
Data source	Project reporting
Link to the objective	In the short-term, shares of outputs indicate the societal impact of Euratom Programme
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the programme statement will be the subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation; they may subsequently be revised. Euratom funded projects produce variety of research results, tracked and reported under scientific and economic outputs. Most of them are also likely to have a societal impact; to trace and estimate it, the produced output needs to be measured and then classified according to the specific EU policy priorities. Where attribution of a specific innovation or scientific result is not possible, the assumption is that it contributes to the same specific EU policy priorities, as the project producing it or the outputs preceding it.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Number and share of innovations and scientific results addressing specific EU policy priorities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of outputs aimed at addressing specific EU policy priorities [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external databases [TBC]
Link to the objective	In the medium-term, shares of verified outputs and their performance indicate the societal impact of Euratom Programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	Calculated as a simple count of innovations (new or significantly improved: methods, technologies and instruments / commercial goods / commercial services / scientific or industrial processes / business models) reported in all ongoing and finished Euratom projects and classified by their contribution to the specific EU policy priorities. First data are expected no sooner than 2022
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Aggregated estimated effects from use of Euratom-funded results, on tackling specific EU policy priorities, including contribution to the policy and law-making cycle

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Aggregated estimated effects from use of Euratom-funded results on tackling specific EU policy priorities, including contribution to policymaking and legislation [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting
Link to the objective	In the long-term, specific studies are needed to analyse the societal impact of Euratom Programme in specific areas.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	The indicator focuses on estimated and detected effects from use of Euratom-funded results on tackling specific EU policy priorities [TBC]. We expect to run studies as part of the ex-post evaluations of the Programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 10: Number and share of Euratom projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number and share of Euratom projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting
Link to the objective	To measure the involvement of end-users and civil society in the research funded by the Euratom Programme, this indicator tracks the number and share of Euratom projects, where civil society and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content, additionally estimating the role of such

	contribution (such as consultation/dissemination, co-creation, co-ownership/joint decision-making).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	The baseline and target will be introduced in the Programme Statement after the adoption of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation. Calculated based on a simple count of all ongoing and finished Euratom projects where civil society and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than 2023.

Indicator 11: Number and share of beneficiary entities with citizen and end-users engagement mechanisms after Euratom project

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number and share of Euratom beneficiaries with citizen and end-user engagement mechanisms after Euratom project [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting
Link to the objective	The medium-term indicator measures the effects of emphasis for co-creation in Euratom Programme through the development of end-user engagement mechanisms in beneficiary entities
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	In the medium-term, the identification of presence of end-users engagement mechanisms allows estimation of number (and share) of Euratom Programme beneficiaries that possess and utilise them.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 12: Uptake and outreach of Euratom co-created scientific results and innovative solutions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	tbc
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	The long-term indicator focuses on uptake and outreach of Euratom Programme co-created scientific results and innovative solutions. The aim is to assess the extent of the uptake and outreach of the scientific results (e.g. in the fields of science, innovation, the economy and society) and innovative solutions originating from the programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	tbc
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 13: Reference materials delivered and reference data incorporated to a library

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	10	19	27	35	42					42
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	13									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	PUBSY (JRC publications database cat 3.3 and 3.4)
Link to the objective	Reference materials and reference data are essential for the measurements accuracy and therefore for the safe and secure use of nuclear energy and other radiation applications
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The activity is the continuation of the one in previous MFF
Other methodological comments	The yearly milestone is the number of items delivered since the MFF's beginning, the target is accumulated
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 14: Number of international standards modified

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	0	6	10	14	18					18
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	PUBSY (JRC publications database cat 3.2)
Link to the objective	International standards are a reference for the use of best practices, measurements, etc.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The activity is the continuation of the one in previous MFF
Other methodological comments	The yearly milestone is the number of items delivered since the MFF's beginning, the target is accumulated
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 15: Number of service agreements in support of EU safeguards

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
0	5	5	5	5	5					5
	Actual Progress									Final
0	5									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Yearly results
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	(JRC agreements database)
Link to the objective	Scientific and technical support is essential to strengthen the Euratom and international safeguards
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The activity is the continuation of the one in previous MFF
Other methodological comments	The yearly milestone is the number of service agreements in force. The objective is to provide the same level of service to the EU aafeguards system during the whole MFF period, maintaining the same number of service agreements.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 16: Number of technical systems provided and in use

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	16	30	42	54	65					65
	Actual Progress									Final
0	16									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
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Unit of measurement	Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	PUBSY (JRC publications database cat 3.5)
Link to the objective	Technical systems provided in support of the improvement of nuclear safety, security and radiation protection
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The activity is the continuation of the one in previous MFF
Other methodological comments	The yearly milestone is the number of items delivered since the MFF's beginning, the target is accumulated
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 17: Number of training sessions delivered to nuclear inspectors and front-line officers

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	6	16	28	40	50					50
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2022
Data source	EUSECTRA reporting
Link to the objective	The training delivered to nuclear inspectors and front-line officers builds-up the capacity of the nuclear safeguards and security systems in the EU
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The activity is the continuation of the one in previous MFF
Other methodological comments	The yearly milestone is the number of training sessions delivered since the MFF's beginning, the target is accumulated
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: Maintain and further develop expertise and competence in nuclear field within the Community.

Indicator 1: Number of persons having benefitted from upskilling activities of the Euratom programme (through training, mobility and access to infrastructure)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	0		3000		6000					6000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of researchers expressed in full-time equivalent (FTE) involved in upskilling activities in projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Project reporting. EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Euratom Programme participants
Link to the objective	Participation in a Euratom funded project should contribute to upskilling of involved researchers and students. Monitoring the number of researchers involved in upskilling activities in Euratom projects, allows to measure in short term that Euratom Programme is on track towards specific objective to maintain and further develop expertise and competence in the nuclear field within the Community.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes this indicator includes various indicators measured in EURATOM
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the Program Statement shall be subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation ; they may subsequently be revised.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track

Indicator 2: Number and share of upskilled researchers (and other persons) with more influence in their field

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Average increase of H-index of funded researchers
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external bibliometric database
Link to the objective	In the medium-term, the H-index is the best available indicator of strengthening human capital in research and innovation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	The H index is based on the comparison of the number of articles written by an author to the number of citations. The H-index offers a way to compare researchers which are in a similar phase of their career, and most importantly, it is at present the only metric that combines research productivity (output volume) and impact (citation volume). First data are expected no sooner than 2023, as there needs to be a time slot to observe increases in H-indexes.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Data available not sooner 2023

Indicator 3: Number and share of upskilled researchers with improved working conditions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	tbc
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, survey
Link to the objective	If Euratom funding has a positive long-term effect on researchers' skills and careers (and therefore the human capital in research and innovation) then there should be an observable effect on the researchers working conditions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	no
Other methodological comments	MORE survey data is used to collect data on researchers salaries (net salaries) and contract type. Regarding data on job security, collected data includes several relevant questions, which provide data on contract type, satisfaction with pensions/social security provisions, and other aspects of working conditions. Under the MORE survey, the same data is collected for a random stratified sample of researchers who were based in European research performing organizations but did not receive EU funding. The salaries and working conditions of HE/Euratom researchers are then benchmarked against this representative sample of researchers. The availability of data depends on the planning of the MORE survey, which is expected to happen no sooner than 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Data available not sooner 2025

Indicator 4: Number of innovative products, processes or methods from Euratom Programme (by type of innovation) & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of innovative products, processes or methods resulting from the Euratom (by type of innovation) & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications

Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external patent database [TBC]
Link to the objective	In the short-term, the number of innovative products, processes or methods and IPR (esp. patents) in nuclear field is a good indicator of progress in developing expertise and competencies in nuclear field within the Community.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator links to Euratom Programme 2014-2020's indicator on patent applications and patents awarded, but is broader and includes links to an external database [TBC]
Other methodological comments	The baseline and target will be included in the Program Statement after the adoption of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation. Calculated as a simple count of number of innovative products, processes and methods & Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) applications reported in all ongoing and finished Euratom projects.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected in 2023

Indicator 5: Number of innovations from Euratom projects (by type of innovation) including from awarded IPRs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Patent citations, family size, scope [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external patent database
Link to the objective	In the medium-term, the patent indicators are a good indicator of progress in developing expertise and competencies in nuclear field within the Community.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator links to Euratom Programme 2014-2020's indicator on patent applications and patents awarded, but includes verification with an external database, distinction between patent family members, and deeper analytical insight.
Other methodological comments	One of the most robust findings of IPR-related research is the skewness of patent value distribution – few patents are valuable, while most others are worth little, if anything at all. This indicator will use external data sources to estimate the impact potential of the patents. First data are expected no sooner than late 2023, as there needs to be time for patents to be granted and reported
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First results are expected in 2024

Indicator 6: Creation, growth & market shares of companies having developed Euratom innovations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Growth of funded companies [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external database of companies
Link to the objective	Euratom Programme helps create reciprocal relationships between research-performing organisations and industry and SMEs. This reciprocity then leads to transfer of knowledge and exploitation of research results by the companies. If this is the case, there must be a clear and quantifiable effect on the financial performance of beneficiary companies, measurable in the long-term.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	In the first step, the companies involved in Euratom Programme are matched to an external company database. The next step is to obtain relevant data on the firms' turnover and relevant metadata. This will be reported for funded companies [TBC].
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than late 2024, as it takes time for the programme to make an effect and data to be reported

Indicator 7: Number of FTE jobs created, and jobs maintained in beneficiary entities for the Euratom project (by type of job)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	0		5000		11000					11000
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Count of FTE jobs created and maintained in all ongoing and finished Euratom projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by HE participants
Link to the objective	A significant share of Euratom investment goes to personnel costs, which directly supports existing jobs or the creation of new positions in beneficiary organisations. Horizon Europe funding also supports and maintains existing jobs that would otherwise be lost if no funding was attracted. This contributes to economic impact of the programme, and can be used as a short-term indicator. By monitoring the number of jobs created, we aim at monitoring at short-term that Horizon Europe is on the right track towards one of its longer-term objective that is to generate more and better jobs, initially in the projects, and then through the exploitation of the results and their diffusion in the economy (Key impact pathway 8).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the Program Statement shall be subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation ; they may subsequently be revised
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Increase of FTE jobs in beneficiary entities following Euratom project (by type of job)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Growth of employment in funded companies [TBC]
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, external database of companies
Link to the objective	Euratom Programme helps create reciprocal relationships between research-performing organisations and industry and high-tech SMEs. This reciprocity then leads to an improved transfer of knowledge and exploitation of research results by the firms. If this is the case, there must be a clear and quantifiable effect on the employment in beneficiary companies, measurable in the medium-term.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	In the first step, the Euratom funded companies are matched to an external company database. The next step is to obtain relevant data on the firms’ employment and relevant metadata. This will be reported for funded companies [TBC].
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected no sooner than late 2024, as it takes time for the programme to make an effect and data to be reported.

Indicator 9: Number of direct & indirect jobs created or maintained due to diffusion of Euratom results (by type of job)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of direct & indirect jobs created or maintained
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	Euratom Programme funding will induce technological change transforming different sectors in nuclear field. This can be estimated as a long-term indicator
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First results are expected in 2025

Indicator 10: Amount of public & private investment mobilised with the initial Euratom investment

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0				420	500					500
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Amount of public & private investment mobilised with the initial investment of the Euratom Programme, MEUR
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Euratom participants through project reporting
Link to the objective	Depending on the funding instrument applied, beneficiaries in the Euratom Programme are required to contribute at least a certain share of their own funds to the projects. This represents a significant co-investment of public and private investment towards achieving the Programme objectives and can be used as a short-term indicator.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No – new indicator introduced
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the Program Statement shall be subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation ; they may subsequently be revised. Calculated as the amounts (in EUR) of public & private investment mobilised in all ongoing and finished Euratom projects. Data on public & private co-invested amounts are derived from the EC monitoring system. Specifically, each project participant has their Euratom and total contributions listed for each project application. The difference between the total and Euratom funding is equals to the co-investment made.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Data not yet available

Indicator 11: Amount of public & private investment mobilised to exploit or scale-up Euratom results

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Amount of public & private investment mobilised with the initial investment of the Euratom Programme
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting
Link to the objective	Beneficiaries in Euratom Programme contribute their own funds to the projects. This represents a significant co-investment of public and private investment towards achieving the Programme objectives, and can be used as a short-term indicator.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	Calculated as the amounts (in EUR) of public & private investment mobilised in all ongoing and finished Euratom projects. Data on public & private co-invested amounts are derived from the EC monitoring system. Specifically, each project participant has their EU and total contributions listed for each project application. The difference between the total and EU funding is equals to the co-investment made.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected in 2023

Indicator 12: EU progress towards 3% GDP target due to Euratom Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	EU progress towards the 3% GDP target due to Euratom Programme
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project reporting, studies
Link to the objective	Euratom Programme funding will stimulate further R&D funding, and particularly funding attracted by industry. In the long-term, this indicator estimates the aggregate effect of Euratom Programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 13: Number of researchers having access to research infrastructures through the Euratom Programme support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The baseline and target will be included in the Program Statement after the adoption of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	First data are expected end of 2022

Specific Objective 3: Foster the development of fusion energy as a potential future energy source for electricity production and contribute to the implementation of the European fusion roadmap.

Indicator 1: Progress in the implementation of the fusion roadmap – Percentage of the fusion roadmap’s milestones established for the period 2021-2025 reached by the Euratom Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0			50%		90%					95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage of the Fusion Roadmap's milestones established for a period 2021-2025 reached by the Euratom Programme.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC administrative and monitoring data submitted by Euratom Programme participants through project reporting template.
Link to the objective	The EUROfusion roadmap forms the basis for the research actions of EUROfusion consortium and provides a clear and structured way forward to commercial electricity from fusion energy. Monitoring

	of milestones achieved allows to follow progress made towards Euratom Programme’s specific objective concerning fusion.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is the continuation of an indicator of Euratom Programme 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	The estimated baseline and target included in the Program Statement shall be subject of an Implementing Act in accordance with Article 12(2) of the Euratom Regulation ; they may subsequently be revised . Indicator shows cumulative percentage of the EUROfusion high level milestones prepared on the basis of the European Research Roadmap to the realisation of Fusion Energy (https://www.euro-fusion.org/eurofusion/roadmap/).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Data not yet available

Specific Objective 4: Support the policy of the Union on nuclear safety, safeguards and security.

Indicator 1: Number and share of Euratom projects producing policy-relevant findings

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	40%		50%		50%					50%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Yearly results
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	PRIME (internal JRC evaluation exercise carried out yearly)
Link to the objective	Part of the projects carried out will be oriented to provide support to related EU policy items. Other part is more oriented to develop the necessary scientific background for a sound policy support
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation
Other methodological comments	The yearly milestone is the share of projects providing direct support to EU DGs
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of outputs having a demonstrable impact on the EU policy

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	35	73	109	142	172					172
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulated
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	PRIME (internal JRC evaluation exercise carried out yearly)
Link to the objective	Support provided with evidence of impact
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation
Other methodological comments	Evaluation and validation of tangible impacts in the policy cycle, resulting from technical and scientific policy support provided by the JRC throughout the year
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of policy items (Directives, Instruments, actions on the basis of Euratom Treaty articles) to which JRC provided effective and essential support in any part of the policy cycle)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0					12					12
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulated
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	PRIME (internal JRC evaluation exercise carried out yearly)
Link to the objective	Support to related EU policies provided
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation of support
Other methodological comments	Number of EU related policy items supported with the outputs delivered
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Euratom Research and Training Programme

Specific Objective 5: Moving towards demonstrating the feasibility of fusion as a power source by exploiting existing and future fusion facilities.

Indicator 1: Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010	Milestones									2020
800			800	800			800			800
	Actual Progress									Final
	200	450	325	700	680	822	874			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	19/08/2022
Data source	EUROfusion consortium reporting
Narrative	The number of papers published by Euratom-funded scientists in high quality peer-reviewed journals demonstrates Programme’s research excellence. It remains consistent with the level showed during the previous European Programme, once allowance is made for the new programme structure.
Methodology	Number of publications in peer-reviewed high impact journals from Euratom funded fusion research (journals with impact factor equal or higher than ‘Fusion Science and Technology’ journal https://www.ans.org/pubs/journals/fst/)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	The 2014-2020 indicator shows the peer reviewed articles resulting directly from the implementation of the fusion roadmap.
Full metadata available at this address	EUROfusion consortium annual reporting available to the Commission services
Justification of the trend	Surpass the target in 2019

Specific Objective 7: Promoting innovation and industry competitiveness.

Indicator 1: Number of spin-offs from the fusion research under Euratom Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2007-2013	Milestones									2020
4			5				6			6
	Actual Progress									Final
	1	2	2	2	3	5	6			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Cumulative number of spin offs reporting
Narrative	Euratom Programme supports specific actions on technology transfer from fusion research labs to industry. This provides the short-term return on investment in fusion R&D by using, in other areas, the knowledge generated by fusion research, so-called spin offs. Examples include cooled high heat flux components in space applications, improvement of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), applications in brakes and clutches.

Methodology	Cumulative number of spin offs reported by EUROfusion
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No
Other methodological comments	The target has been reduced from 10 planned for 2018 to 6. The 2020 target is based on updated data on actual spin-offs from fusion research during 2014-2016. All figures are cumulative.
Full metadata available at this address	EUROfusion consortium annual reporting available to the Commission services
Justification of the trend	Target met in 2020.

Indicator 2: Patents applications generated and patents awarded on the basis of research activities supported by the Euratom Programme (average number per year)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0		3	4				4			4
	Actual Progress									Final
	1	2	1	3	2	4	6	7		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Patent application and awarded
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Project reporting.
Narrative	Euratom Programme supports the transfer of fusion-related technology and know-how to non-fusion applications where there is a strong commercial or societal benefit. New patents may lead to the development and deployment of new hardware/software and protect European intellectual property.
Methodology	Number of patent applications emerging from EUROfusion consortium
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	No sufficient amount of meaningful data is expected for "patents awarded" before 2020, because of the time necessary for a patent to be awarded.
Full metadata available at this address	EUROfusion consortium annual reporting available to the Commission services
Justification of the trend	Surpass the target in 2020.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	149.51	129.50	134.20	137.90	143.10			694.21	35%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Euratom Research and Training Programme 2021-2025 contributes to climate mainstreaming as the Programme general objective provides for complementing the achievement of Horizon Europe’s objectives, inter alia, in the context of the energy transition. Research results of the Euratom Programme could be used by some Member States, exercising the right to decide on their energy mix, towards establishment of climate neutral energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way.

In this context, the Commission considers that 100% of the expenditure for fusion energy research contributes to the climate effort of the EU budget. Fusion energy represents a possible long-term option for large-scale low-carbon electricity production, which could help address a growing electricity demand towards the end of this century. To prepare Europe for fusion deployment, the research and technology development funded by the Euratom Programme today must demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of fusion energy, and then demonstrate its commercial and economic viability.

In view of the importance given by the Euratom Programme to non-power applications, radiation protection and waste management, the Commission considers that not all of the expenditure on fission research contributes to the climate effort of the EU budget. In this context it should be underlined that safety is a concern for all European citizens and a prime focus crosscutting all Euratom funded research activities. The Commission considers that 40% of the Fission Research related expenditure contribute to the climate effort of the EU budget.

6.1.3. Key achievements

In the framework of the EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Regulation (EU-2020/852), the JRC was entrusted to assess nuclear energy with respect to the ‘do no significant harm’ (DNSH) criteria. The assessment comprises radiological and non-radiological environmental and human health impacts corresponding to the various lifecycle phases of nuclear energy, addressing the state-of-the-art and DNSH aspects of radioactive waste management. The report also includes a comprehensive description of the relevant nuclear and environmental legal and regulatory frameworks at EU and international level. The report and its reviews, by two different independent group of experts, informed the Commission’s stance on the treatment of nuclear energy in the taxonomy.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming					Total	
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027
Score 0*: 265							

(*): Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**).

The financing is split among four categories- score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but not yet clear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender equality is a cross-cutting priority in Horizon Europe and concerns also Euratom Programme as stated in the recital 2 of the Council Regulation. The integration of the gender dimension into research and innovation content will be a requirement by default. Furthermore, Euratom Programme is promoting gender equality through sustainable institutional change by requesting that applicants (public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments) have in place a gender equality plan as an eligibility criterion (requirement shared with Horizon Europe).

JRC manages the European Human Resources Observatory for the Nuclear Energy Sector (EHRO-N) in order to ensure the availability of data on human resources, including gender balance. In its Strategy 2030, the JRC declares itself as an equal opportunities employer committed to the objective of being fully gender balanced; this has been further developed by issuing a gender balance strategy. In 2021, the JRC Equality Mainstreaming action Plan was published. The action plan includes concrete actions to develop to internally and to carry out research contributing to the Commission work on inclusion and equality.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Key achievements and performance

The Euratom Programme is focused on producing knowledge for improving nuclear safety, security, radiation protection and developing fusion energy. By proposing solutions to challenges in nuclear field, research can indirectly contribute to social well-being, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability³ by, for example, extending operation of existing nuclear power plants designing advanced systems and starting first geological repositories for radioactive waste. Impacts of using this knowledge may cover some of Sustainable Development Goals but only indirectly and over the long period of time. Indirect measurement of the Euratom Programme’s contribution towards SDGs is provided by indicators showing:

- Percentage of Euratom budget dedicated to nuclear safety, radiation protection and waste management (81% for 2021-2022).
- Number and quality of peer reviewed scientific publications resulting from Euratom funded research (please refer to Key monitoring indicators in section 4 of this Programme Statement).

³ Recital 2 of the Council Regulation establishing the Euratom Programme 2021-2025

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital

European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

Lead DG:ENER

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Specific Objective 1 :to fully support the continuation of ITER construction and to reach the operation of ITER with First Plasma by 2025, to be followed by first experimental operations as well as further installations and upgrades until 2027 and beyond, laying grounds for successful full power operation (so called Deuterium-Tritium stage) by 2035	76
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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The ITER project aims to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy. It is being built in Saint Paul-Léz-Durance (France) with the support of seven international partners that represent half of the world’s population (Euratom, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States). The key challenges for ITER for the period covered by the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027, as recognized in the ex-ante evaluation accompanying the legislative proposal for the MFF 2021-2027, will be to:

- i. Sustain the positive momentum in the project's performance and management achieved through improvements in management, governance and supervision/monitoring obtained in the previous period (notably after 2016);
- ii. Ensure finalisation of the construction and assembly enabling the achievement of First Plasma and subsequent complementary construction and advancement of the post-First Plasma components; and
- iii. Retain the commitment of all ITER Parties to meeting their obligations thus enabling the timely and cost-efficient completion of the project.

Meeting these challenges, particularly in the context of the impact of covid-19 and of emerging pressures on the schedule due to the first-of-the-kind complexities of the project, will require sustained EU leadership in the project, which needs to be underpinned by excellent performance of the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (F4E) and compliance

of the EU with its share of funding obligations and in-kind contributions (i.e. components under European responsibility, procured and delivered by F4E).

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the ITER-related EU action in 2021-2027 is to fully support the continuation of ITER construction and assembly and to reach the operation of ITER with First Plasma to be followed by first experimental operations as well as further installations and upgrades until 2027 and beyond, laying grounds for successful full power operation (so called Deuterium-Tritium stage) by 2035.

These achievements are considered as a necessary step in the development of fusion in order for it to become a possible source of sustainable energy fostering the job, growth and innovation potential of the energy sector in the later part of the century, in accordance with the European Fusion Roadmap.

1.3. Specific objectives

To achieve the general objectives, the ITER five specific objectives for the MFF 2021-2027 are as follows:

- provide sufficient performance-based funding to the ITER Organization (IO) for its operations, particularly the assembly of the installation from the components arriving from individual ITER members;
- ensure delivery of EU components by F4E in line with the project schedule and strategies, in particular its construction and assembly strategies, or with as limited delays and technically achievable, and in close adherence with performance monitoring;
- offer European high-tech industries and SMEs a valuable opportunity to innovate and develop “spin off” products for exploitation outside fusion, thereby further reinforcing the EU added value of ITER project activities;
- secure continued EU leadership in the project by ensuring timely delivery of EU components and active participation in ITER governance processes; and
- continue activities with Japan (BA) on the operation of the satellite tokamak JT-60SA and on the development of a full scale material testing facility (IFMIF/DONES) to ensure that together with ITER’s results, all technical and scientific elements needed for the design of a fusion-based power generation device for demonstration are in place, thereby anchoring the synergetic contribution of ITER to the coherence of fusion development and fostering the common benefits of fusion research under the Fusion Roadmap.

1.4. Public intervention context

The ITER project aims at building and operating an experimental fusion device, a major step towards the demonstration of fusion as a sustainable energy source. Due to its important advantages, such as the potential availability of large fuel reserves and the lack of CO₂ emissions, fusion could greatly contribute to the long-term EU strategy of decarbonisation of the energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way. Europe’s support to ITER and to other ITER related activities contributes to the strategic agenda of the European Union for clean and secure energy.

The risk, costs, and long-term nature of this large research project puts it beyond the reach of individual EU Member States and even of the EU as such. Thus, the establishment of a global framework through an international agreement between Euratom and six other Parties: China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the USA was essential to undertake this large-scale scientific experiment. ITER construction started in 2007 and Euratom provides about 45% of the construction through F4E.

1.5. Actions

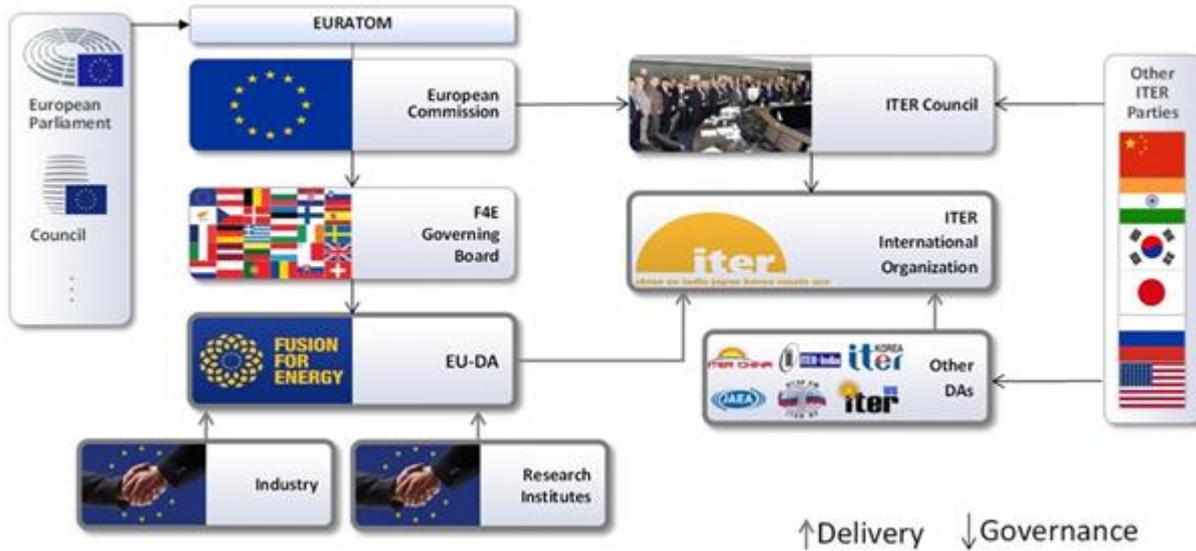
The programme covers the European contribution to the ITER Organization (IO) for the construction of the ITER facility, which includes the procurement of equipment, installation, general technical and administrative support for the construction phase as well as the participation in commissioning and operations.

The programme also covers other ITER related activities, such as the Broader Approach activities with Japan. These contributions are channelled through a Procurement Agency, the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy (F4E) located in Barcelona (Spain).

1.6. Delivery mode

Indirect management entrusted to F4E. The lead Directorate General (DG) of the European Commission is DG Energy.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Decision 2007/198/Euratom of 27 March 2007 establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy and conferring advantages upon it (OJ L 90, 30.3.2007, p. 58).	2021 - 2027	5 614.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The EU has signed the ITER Agreement together with six other partners (China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States). The ITER Agreement foresees that the Partners’ contributions for the ITER project are discharged by the Domestic Agencies. On the basis of this European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (F4E) has been set up by the Council Decision 2007/198/Euratom.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	864.0	710.1	1 019.8	806.3	690.1	856.3	667.3	5 614.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again*								
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.6							0.6
Total	864.6	710.1	1 019.8	806.3	690.1	856.3	667.3	5 614.6

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The construction and assembly of the ITER project continues in the MFF 2021-2027.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

The Europa site on Fusion Energy and ITER (https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/technology-and-innovation/fusion-energy-and-iter_en) is a valuable source of information of the ITER project and fusion energy in general.

The site of the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy (<https://fusionforenergy.europa.eu/>) presents the activities of the European Union’s organisation (Domestic Agency) managing Europe’s contribution to ITER.

The website of the ITER Organization (<https://www.iter.org/>) provides updated information on the project addressing the needs of the public, the press, scientists and the industry.

The EUROfusion roadmap (<https://www.euro-fusion.org/eurofusion/roadmap/>) forms the basis for the programmes of EUROfusion and Fusion for Energy and provides a structured way forward to commercial electricity from fusion.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	864.0	5 614.6	15%
Payments	262.6		5%

Regarding 2021 commitment appropriations, 99.2% of the total budget has been allocated to F4E, being the remainder allocated to support expenditure. The main actions focused on procurement activities included in The **Work Programme** 2021 adopted at GB49 in December 2020 and amended in November 2021. Due to delays in the implementation of some actions at the end of the year, the signature of three procurement procedures with a total value of EUR 123.7 million will occur in the beginning of 2022.

2022 EU contribution commitment appropriations for the programme is set at EUR 703.0 million, of which 99% is allocated to operational lines. The percentage decrease in operational expenditure between 2021 and 2022 is explained by the diminishment in value of the contracts to be signed in 2022. The **work programme** 2022 is mostly focused on the following activities (First Plasma (FP) relevant activities are indicated):

Magnets (FP): All major contracts have been signed and manufacturing activities are underway for the two remaining main components (i.e. Toroidal Field (TF) Coils and Poloidal Field (PF) Coils). In 2022, it is expected to complete the production of all 10 TF Coils. In the PF Coils Workshop, the last 2 Coils (PF#3 & PF#4) will be in full production in order to be delivered in the following years. The evolution of these activities is highly dependent on the impacts generated by covid-19 during the previous year.

Vacuum Vessel (FP): All major contracts have been signed and manufacturing activities are underway. All Sector deliveries are currently planned to be completed by the end of 2023. Commitments for the transportation of these sectors to Cadarache will be signed with the main contractor in accordance with the delivery dates agreed with the ITER Organization and subject to the manufacturing completion. Furthermore, extensions, modifications or amendments to existing contracts and arrangements, some of them being triggered by PCRs, may have to be signed. Also, Specific Contracts for support activities, like Inspectors, Documentation Support, Engineering and Analysis, Project Management support, etc. will continue to be issued depending on the project needs, including the needs for acceleration and other remedial actions responding to emerging production delays.

In-Vessel [Blanket System and Divertor]:

Blanket System (non-FP): For Blanket First Wall project, the most important activities in 2022 are the continuation of the implementation of Blanket First Wall series production, including the award of task orders for the procurement of CuCrZr and Beryllium raw materials. For Blanket Cooling Manifold project, negotiations with tenderers will be completed and framework contracts will be awarded to start the first stage of the series production.

Divertor Systems (non-FP): For the Divertor Inner Vertical Target (IVT) project, the main activities will be to complete the negotiated procedure and sign several framework contracts for the IVT series production. In addition, there will be some activities devoted to the follow-up of the manufacturing and testing of the full-scale prototypes, including the completion of the second full scale prototype. For the Divertor Cassette Body project, the main activities will be devoted to the follow-up of the on-going manufacturing of the series fabrication (both for Stage 1 and Stage 2). For the Divertor Rails project, the Procurement Arrangement will be signed.

Remote Handling (partly FP): The procurement of the Remote Handling Systems (RHS) will focus mainly on the final design activities and first plasma components moving gradually towards manufacturing. Some areas of non-first plasma component will continue with the preliminary design and moving towards final design. Complementary RH technology activities will be implemented (design and tests) aiming at manufacturing of first components (e.g. rad hard cameras and electronics) to be integrated in the RH systems.

Cryoplant and Fuel Cycle For Vacuum Pumping (partly FP), contracts of Torus and Cryostat Cryopumping System, Frontend Cryopump Distribution system, Leak Detection and Localization systems will focus on design, manufacturing and assembly.

Contracts for Neutral Beam Front-end Cryopump distribution will be signed.

In the area of Tritium Plant and Radiation and Environmental Monitoring Systems (REMS) (mostly FP): contract for first plasma activities of REMS and Task Order for Value engineering and final design of REMS Tokamak complex will continue. Signature of PA amendment for Tokamak complex is planned.

In the area of Cryoplant (FP): commissioning for LN2 Plant and Auxiliary Systems components will take place.

Antennas and Plasma Engineering (partly FP): Electron Cyclotron Upper Launcher: Following the signature of the PA amendment in 2021, all major contracts and specific contracts will be signed by the end of 2022. In 2022, the material procurement and series production for the main in-vessel structural components will continue while the design finalization will continue for the remainder of the scope. In addition, the specific contracts for support activities, such as Inspectors, Engineering and Design review support will be placed as per programme needs.

ITER operations: Coordinate collaboration with EUROfusion and IO on ITER exploitation and EU role in it.

Plasma Engineering: continue support to F4E procurement – step up modelling and simulation work for first plasma and ITER exploitation in general.

Electron Cyclotron Control System: continue the implementation of the PA 5.2.P1B.EU.01. This includes exploiting the synergies between the PA implementation activities and the FALCON facility development.

FALCON: Manage the facility, develop as necessary and ensure availability of the test beds. Main “clients”: EC ex-vessel systems and DDT gyrotron tests (risk reduction for the EU gyrotron series production).

Neutral Beam Heating and EC Power Supplies and Sources (non-FP): Electron Cyclotron (EC) Power Supplies (PS) and Power Sources (Gyrotrons):

Manufacturing, testing and deliveries of the remaining Main and Body HV Power Supplies sets and the installation and commissioning of the units will continue at ITER site. The Call for Tender procedure for Gyrotrons procurement, including tender evaluation, will be finalized up to the framework contract signature.

NB Test Facility (NBTF) at RFX-Padua: At the test facility, MITICA components will continue to be put in operation and auxiliaries integration (CODAS, Interlock, and Safety) will proceed.

MITICA Beam Line Components (BLC) Manufacturing will continue as planned and assembly will start.

MITICA Beam Source manufacturing will be completed, assembly will proceed, and factory testing will start, in preparation for delivery to site.

NB for ITER at Cadarache:

- [PA 53-01] F4E will sign the Specific Tooling contract for the HNB Assembly and progress towards signing the PA stage 2 for Heating Neutral Beam general assembly.
- [PA 53-04 and 53-05] F4E will progress with Neutral Beam Vessel tendering procedure up to contract signature, subject to timely signature of the PA mid-2021, and will progress procurement activities for Drift Duct, Absolute Valve, PMS and ACC coils including signatures of PA for some components, subject to timely availability of technical specifications from IO.
- [PA 53-06] F4E will progress with the detailed and manufacturing design of the Neutral Beam power supplies systems for the ITER units, subject to the consolidation of external interfaces, and revision of technical requirements with IO.

Diagnostics (partly FP): Manufacturing activities for several Diagnostic components and systems will continue, most of them being essential for First Plasma. Design of all remaining Diagnostics systems will progress, as well as the design of ITER port structures and the integration of Diagnostics into the ports. Several Diagnostics systems or sub-systems will complete their design activities, with approval of the final design review. Procurement activities will focus mainly on the signature of a major framework contract for manufacture of First Plasma components and subsequent placement of tasks orders, as well as grants and contracts for the completion of the design of less mature Diagnostics systems or sub-systems.

Test Blanket Systems (non-FP, non-in-kind contribution): The activities will focus on the preliminary design of the two TBM Sets, Ancillary Systems, Safety Studies and Accidental Analyses. Analogously the activities aimed to prove the feasibility of the fabrication and assembly processes of the TBM-sets will continue. As in the previous years, support and transversal activities such as the consultancy of an Agreed Notified Body, the storage, handling and, when needed, transportation of steel materials will proceed. The codification of the database of EUROFER in RCC-MRx will resume. Some activities could be executed under the ITER TBM Project Team Funding scheme. The collaboration with EUROfusion is expected to continue in the R&D area.

Site, Buildings and Power Supplies: The focus of the Buildings works will be to advance the construction of the medium voltage distribution buildings (B44, B45, B46 and B47) and the Tritium Building civil works (B14) up to the roof and to deliver it painted until level L2, to deliver the Control building (B71 Non PIC part), the Fast Discharge Resistor building (B75), and to complete the installation of HVAC, Electrical & Handling Equipment in the Heating building (B15). Load center LC04 will be made operational. Execution design, qualification activities and procurement of buildings services for the Tokamak Complex will progress. The

preliminary design for the Hot Cell Complex will start.

Cash contribution: The activities in the reference period will focus on the commitment of the agreed cash contribution for the ITER Organization within the budget approved by the ITER Council.

Technical Support Activities including the signature of task orders for experts, Quality control inspectors for manufacturing activities, all Engineering unit domains: System Design-Mechanical Engineering, CAD Data Management, Material-Manufacturing Technologies and Processes, Analysis and Codes, Metrology, I&C-CODAC, other Domestic Agencies' components Transportation and project management activities (on QA, system engineering, PM tools, planning, risk and cost) are foreseen. F4E also plans renewal of existing Frameworks contracts and signature of new ones.

F4E presented to the Governing Board an estimation of the **covid-19 pandemic** impact. It considered a schedule delay of up to 4 months, depending on the component and a financial impact linked mainly to the additional sanitary measures that increase costs.

Regarding 2023 EU contribution in commitment appropriations, more than 99.3% of the total budget will be allocated to operational lines, with the remainder being assigned to support expenditure. In terms of the **work programme 2023**, there is an important increase in commitments compared with 2022. This increase is in line with the commitment profile for the EU contribution that was established in line with the 2016 project baseline.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	2 924.6	2 926.4	100%
Payments	2 392.7		82%

In 2015, the ITER Council approved an action plan prepared by the IO to address the challenges faced by the project related to schedule cost and governance. One of the main actions was the revision of the baseline (long-term schedule cost and scope) in 2016. The updated schedule follows the "staged approach" which first prioritizes the construction of the components essential to achieving First Plasma (FP the beginning of operation) in 2025 followed by a series of installation and testing phases before starting the full performance phase (Deuterium-Tritium operation) in 2035.

ITER has entered into its assembly phase. To reach the First Plasma milestone all components from the ITER members need to be available and delivered on time to the IO and assembled and installed in the Tokamak Complex.

Although the machine is due to begin preliminary operations in 2025 or shortly thereafter (with the start of integrated commissioning for the First Plasma), ITER construction will nevertheless continue until 2035 when testing will end and experimental operation will begin. The European in-kind contribution to the ITER project has progressed over the course of 2020 from ca. 49.82% (December 2020) to almost 58.33% (December 2021) against a planned target of 65.24 %.

The EU budget for the period 2014-2020 has been fully implemented in commitments at the end of 2020. The payment plan for all outstanding commitments in the previous MFF, not paid as of 15 February 2022, is according to the delivery plan: EUR 232.2 million for 2022 and EUR 150.00 million for 2023. The residual payments will materialize in the years to come.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The programme's performance must be assessed combined – the performance of the European Domestic agency F4E which delivers the components for ITER and the performance of the IO itself, which receives the cash contributions from the programme to organise and perform assembly and installation works together with the Domestic Agencies. The Programme started back in 2007 and had rather slow pick-up during the 2007-2013 MFF period. The deficiencies (immaturity of the design and the manufacturing challenges, management deficiencies and a lack of cooperation between the Domestic Agencies and the IO) were identified in the beginning of the 2014-2020 MFF period. They have been addressed, which improved the overall effectiveness of the project.

The impact of ITER's investment in technologies and discoveries for the future ripple throughout the economy by supporting cutting-edge technologies in critical industries, creating new business and jobs, and attracting more students to science while laying the foundation for the commercial electricity generation from fusion energy.

A recent study confirmed that the economic impact of ITER on the EU economy has been positive. Incremental gross value added generated due to ITER's activities equalled EUR 1.739 billion for the period 2008 to 2019. Cumulatively, the total number of jobs per year directly or indirectly created by ITER reached nearly 29 500, with a preliminary peak being reached in the years 2018 and 2019. The same study estimated the net impact of the ITER plant on the European economy at EUR 104 million for 2008 to 2019. This net impact represents the difference of the economic impact described above relative to a hypothetical investment that reflects an identical amount of spending per year on EU member countries' economies.

An online survey was carried out in autumn 2020 to understand the repercussions of the covid-19 crisis on the companies involved in the ITER project. One third of respondents declared that their company is more resilient to the consequences of the crisis thanks to its involvement in ITER.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In recent year, the ITER project has seen further progress. The manufacturing of the main components has been launched and progressed well overall, with some notable exceptions of delays (e.g. in Vacuum Vessel sectors manufacturing and pre-assembly), the construction of the main buildings was completed and the assembly of the experimental device has commenced. In 2021, the construction and assembly of ITER continued but faced challenges due to covid-19 related restrictions, delays in some deliveries of components by ITER Parties, and unparalleled complexity of assembly activities. The combined effect of these factors results in delays to the expected start of operations (so called First Plasma), the extent of which are currently under assessment by the ITER Organization Members. Some catch up is likely as works are moving ahead, such as incentives to contractors in order to speed the delivery of the components, but it is obvious that the project has to be rescheduled to establish a realistic planning.

Overall project achievements included:

Buildings

- Site Coordination Responsibility (and associated common expenses) was transferred officially from F4E to IO from 1st of October 2021, after ten years of coordination by F4E;
- IO took over all the Heavy Nuclear Doors on Tokamak Building B11: 46 Port cell doors (30t steel box filled with 10t heavy concrete by door) and 4 Lift Lobby doors (1t of steel by door), marking the successful delivery by F4E of a significant and complex mechanical scope.

Magnets

- Four TF coils were completed, and three of them were delivered to ITER IO: an excellent result considering the COVID-19 pandemic impact (making in total seven TF coils of which six already delivered in ITER);
- F4E successfully completed and handed over to the ITER Organization (IO) three PF coils: PF6, PF5 and PF2.

Others

- Installation of the LN2 Plant and Auxiliary Systems in the cryoplant building was completed together with most of the pre-commissioning tests;
- All prototypes of the MITICA beam source were fabricated and successfully tested, validating the design adopted;
- F4E delivered the first batch of 150 Inner Vessel Coils (IVC), for installation on the inner surface of the ITER vacuum vessel.

Some additional general 2021 performance information as follows:

- F4E implemented 100% and 97% in commitment and payment appropriations respectively;
- F4E increased the implementation of actions from annual assessments from 89% to 93% during 2021;
- An independent assessment of F4E's Nuclear Safety Culture raised the level from I and II showing a significant improvement;
- In 2021 F4E had no complaints submitted to the European Ombudsman;
- In 2021 F4E faced one case in court (lodged in 2019, with oral hearing and judgement in 2021) concerning the non-renewal of a former agent, which F4E won on every single plea submitted and the other party was ordered to bear the totality of the costs of the proceedings.

Aside from the specific projects risks (VV, TB04, etc.), the top corporate risks and mitigation actions are monitored closely by F4E and its governance:

- Delay of systems in Critical Path to FP;
- Delay in the reception of data/items from the IO or other DAs;
- Changes in requirements or additional scope;
- Workload not aligned with available resources;
- Requirements not properly propagated;
- Under-performance of components detected during the ITER integrated commissioning.

Due to the very international nature of the ITER project whereby Russia is one of the project partners, there will be an impact to the ITER project because of the war in Ukraine. The different sanctions introduced by the European Union and other countries on Russia public and private sector will have an impact on the Russia deliveries for the project. The question of the continuation of

Russia participation is likely to be put on the table due to the logistic and other difficulties for Russia to honour their commitments and reputational risk for the project if Russia continues to be the project partner.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The IO and the Domestic Agencies have continued implementing the Revised Construction Strategy. Significant progress in installation activities on the ITER site is noticeable. Uncertainties of the project have been reduced as the manufacturing of the important and technically complex first-of-a-kind (FOAK) components (Cryostat and TF and PF Coils) proved to be feasible. On the other hand, it became clear that due to the technical complexity of the components, the design, prototyping and final manufacturing takes longer than expected for some other components, notably VV sectors. The assembly work of the components, even if well modelled, was facing different unexpected issues that had to be addressed affecting the schedule. The management and administration of this multi-national project also poses significant challenges.

In 2015, the ITER Parties launched a major overhaul of the project, which included the appointment of a new senior management in the IO with an Action Plan under the leadership of a new Director-General. The action plan envisaged a complete re-organisation of the IO, a close cooperation with the Domestic Agencies and the establishment of a Reserve Fund as incentive for the IO to minimize the design changes as much as possible. A new reliable baseline was approved in November 2016, achieved a stabilization of the project and provided a realistic basis for its completion.

Changes in the management and organization of F4E, that acts as EU’s Domestic Agency delivering the European contribution to IO, took place in parallel to those in IO and entailed the change of the Director (in early 2016) and the majority of the top management and its organisation (in 2016 and 2017).

Nevertheless, the 2015-2018 impetus worn out towards the end of the previous programme. The programmed progress could not longer be maintained. The covid was a trigger, but more complex operations, different technical and project management issues have engulfed the project and as a result it became clear that the important First Plasma milestone in 2025 could not be longer achieved.

3.2. Key achievements

29 500	614	EUR 4 824 million	75.8%
annual jobs directly or indirectly created by ITER in the EU between 2007 and 2019.	procurement contracts signed by F4E between 2007 and 2020.	paid to European companies involved in ITER between 2007 and 2019.	project execution to achieve First Plasma.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The mid-term progress report in accordance with Article 5b of the Council Decision establishing the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy and conferring advantages upon it has been adopted on 21 March 2019¹. The evaluation stated that following the overhaul in management, the project was on track within its 2016 baseline, and early indicators showed positive effects of the change. However, ITER’s construction and management are still under improvement; in such a long-term project, it will be important to monitor whether these positive effects continue and grow over the next few years. At present (end 2021), the project’s expected cost and schedule remain within the contingencies specified in 2019.

Regarding ITER’s place in energy policy and decarbonisation, the project remains an important part of EU energy and innovation policy, and although it does not contribute directly to energy and climate targets in the short- to medium-term, its potential role in the decarbonisation of the energy landscape post-2050 is very significant.

An ex-ante evaluation of ITER² accompanied the MFF proposal 2021-2027. Three external studies were conducted in 2018 and 2019. The key findings of these studies were presented in the Programme Statement 2020.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: to fully support the continuation of ITER construction and to reach the operation of ITER with First Plasma by 2025, to be followed by first experimental operations as well as further installations and upgrades until 2027 and beyond, laying grounds for successful full power operation (so called Deuterium-Tritium stage) by 2035

¹ COM(2019)147 final, <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2019/EN/COM-2019-147-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF>

² SWD(2018)325

Indicator 1: Percentage of completion of ITER construction

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
68,48%	75,74%	79,81%	83,21%	86,52%	90,66%	93,37%	95,90%	98,44%	100,00%	100,00%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulative percentage of credits completed by all Domestic Agencies.
Cut-Off Date	30/01/2022
Data source	Data reported by the ITER Organization in the ITER Document Management (IDM) system. ITER is a first-of-a-kind project being built with the contribution of the seven ITER Parties. The construction of the ITER facilities is carried out according to the recent 2016 baseline defining budget, scope, and schedule. This indicator demonstrates how the project execution is in line with the project baseline at the level of all ITER Members.
Link to the objective	ITER is a first-of-a-kind project being built with the contribution of the seven ITER Parties. The construction of the ITER facilities is carried out according to the recent 2016 baseline defining budget, scope, and schedule. This indicator demonstrates how the project execution is in line with the project baseline at the level of all ITER Members.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is not a continuation of an indicator from the period 2014-2020.
Other methodological comments	The calculation of this indicator is based on data in available in ITER's Document Management (IDM) system. The Commission does not carry a quality review of this data. The milestones refer to the planned credit; the baseline and targets refer to released credit. Between the completion of a component and the release of the related credits there is a time gap.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The milestone values were calculated on the basis of a steady project progress which unfortunately slowed down in the beginning of 2020 and it continued over 2021. The delay due to the covid-19 pandemic was further exacerbated by delays stemming from the complexity of the current assembly works and of the first-of-the-kind nature of many components. The combined effect of these factors results in delays to the expected start of operations (so called First Plasma), the extent of which are currently under assessment. While some catch up is likely as works are quite well organised and moving ahead it is obvious that the project has to be rescheduled to establish a realistic planning. As a consequence, the values of this indicator will have to be modified once the new project baseline is set-up.

Indicator 2: Percentage of Euratom's in kind obligations discharged by F4E

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
68,18%	71,97%	75,72%	79,06%	81,49%	84,98%	88,65%	92,57%	97,83%	100,00%	100,00%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cumulative percentage of credits completed by the Joint Undertaking Fusion for Energy (F4E).
Cut-Off Date	30/01/2022
Data source	Data reported by the ITER Organization in the ITER Document Management (IDM) system.
Link to the objective	ITER is a first-of-a-kind project being built with the contribution of the seven ITER Parties. The construction of the ITER facilities is carried out according to the recent 2016 baseline defining budget, scope, and schedule. This indicator demonstrates how the project execution is in line with the project baseline at the level of all ITER Members.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is not a continuation of an indicator from the period 2014-2020.
Other methodological comments	The calculation of this indicator is based on data in available in ITER's Document Management (IDM) system. The Commission does not carry a quality review of this data. The milestones refer to the planned credit; the baseline and targets refer to released credit. Between the completion of a component and the release of the related credits there is a time gap.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The milestone values were calculated on the basis of a steady project progress which unfortunately slowed down in the beginning of 2020 and it continued over 2021. The delay due to the covid-19 pandemic was further exacerbated by delays stemming from the complexity of the current assembly works and of the first-of-the-kind nature of many components. The combined effect of these factors

	results in delays to the expected start of operations (so called First Plasma), the extent of which are currently under assessment. While some catch up is likely as works are quite well organised and moving ahead it is obvious that the project has to be rescheduled to establish a realistic planning. As a consequence, the values of this indicator will have to be modified once the new project baseline is set-up.
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5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
		2021	2022	2023		2024	2025		
Climate contribution	857.13	710.10	1019.80	806.30	690.15	856.37	667.37	5607.22	100%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Due to its important advantages, such as the potential availability of large fuel reserves and the lack of CO₂ emissions, fusion could greatly contribute to the long-term EU strategy of decarbonisation of the energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way. While fusion may become available for commercial power generation only in the second half of the century, its availability can help to sustain a decarbonised energy mix after 2050 on economically competitive terms and without security of supply concerns. Fusion can be a clean and virtually limitless energy source. The general potential of fusion is nowadays more widely recognised thanks to the strong advancement of fusion science in recent years.

Furthermore, the Paris Agreement binds the Union to pursue clear decarbonisation objectives both until 2050 and beyond and such an objective will require very strong commitments and substantial investments. ITER is one of these such long-term solutions. The ITER project, which is part of the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan, aims at building and operating an experimental fusion device, a major step towards the demonstration of fusion as a sustainable energy source. The Commission considers that 100% of the ITER related expenditure contributes to the climate effort of the EU budget.

5.2. Contribution to gender equality

5.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0: 864

(*) Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (totals per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The actions under this programme are related to implementing the ITER international agreement relating to fusion energy and providing the related European contribution. These actions were not designed with gender equality in mind, even though some minor indirect impacts might occur, therefore a score 0 is attributed to them.

5.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals are targets to be achieved by 2030. ITER and fusion development in general are on a longer timescale than this framework, but already contribute to several of these Goals at a later stage. For example, they will contribute to a clean energy transition while boosting jobs and growth in the area of energy and climate under **Sustainable Development Goal 7 (“Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”)** and Sustainable Development Goal 13 (“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”).

ITER also falls under the category of Research and Innovation, both of which underpin the implementation of virtually all Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 9 (“Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”).

Finally, ITER is also an example of a global partnership for Sustainable Development Goal 17 (“Strengthen Means of Implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development”).

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals are targets to be achieved by 2030. ITER and fusion development in general are on a longer timescale than this framework, but already contribute to several of these Goals at a later stage. For example, they will contribute to a clean energy transition while boosting jobs and growth in the area of energy and climate under Sustainable Development Goal 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all") and Sustainable Development Goal 13 ("Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts").

ITER also falls under the category of Research and Innovation, both of which underpin the implementation of virtually all Sustainable Development Goals and in particular **Sustainable Development Goal 9 ("Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation")**.

Finally, ITER is also an example of a global partnership for Sustainable Development Goal 17 ("Strengthen Means of Implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development").

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals are targets to be achieved by 2030. ITER and fusion development in general are on a longer timescale than this framework, but already contribute to several of these Goals at a later stage. For example, they will contribute to a clean energy transition while boosting jobs and growth in the area of energy and climate under Sustainable Development Goal 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all") and **Sustainable Development Goal 13 ("Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts")**.

ITER also falls under the category of Research and Innovation, both of which underpin the implementation of virtually all Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 9 ("Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation").

Finally, ITER is also an example of a global partnership for Sustainable Development Goal 17 ("Strengthen Means of Implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development").

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals are targets to be achieved by 2030. ITER and fusion development in general are on a longer timescale than this framework, but already contribute to several of these Goals at a later stage. For example, they will contribute to a clean energy transition while boosting jobs and growth in the area of energy and climate under Sustainable Development Goal 7 ("Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all") and Sustainable Development Goal 13 ("Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts").

ITER also falls under the category of Research and Innovation, both of which underpin the implementation of virtually all Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 9 ("Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation").

Finally, ITER is also an example of a global partnership for **Sustainable Development Goal 17 ("Strengthen Means of Implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development")**.

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

In 2021, domestic and global challenges continued to have a significant impact on the EU economy. In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, climate change challenges and the need of digitisation the EU has to act swiftly to achieve its ambitious green transition and digitisation goals.

The current investment levels and forecasts do not meet the Union's needs for structural investment to restart and sustain long-term growth in the face of technological change and global competitiveness, including needs for innovation, digital skills, infrastructure, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the need to address key societal challenges such as sustainability or population ageing.

In order to achieve the Union's policy objectives and to support a swift, inclusive and healthy economic recovery, support is necessary to address market failures and sub-optimal investment situations and to reduce the investment gap in targeted sectors.

An intervention at EU level ensures that a critical mass of resources can be leveraged in order to maximise the impact of investment on the ground. The proposal does not replace Member State investment but, on the contrary, it is complementary to such investments, by focusing in particular on support for projects that provide EU added value. In addition, the EU level provides for economies of scale in the use of innovative financial products by catalysing private investment in the whole EU and making best use of the European institutions and their expertise for that purpose. The EU intervention also provides access to a diversified portfolio of European projects, thereby catalysing private investment, and allows for the development of innovative financing solutions, which can be scaled up or replicated, as appropriate, in all Member States.

Intervention at EU level is the only tool capable of effectively addressing investment needs linked to EU-wide policy objectives. In addition, structural reforms and an improved regulatory environment will continue to be necessary to address the remaining investment gaps in the period 2021-2027.

The InvestEU Programme – with its three elements, the InvestEU Fund, the InvestEU Advisory Hub and the InvestEU Portal - will contribute to improving the competitiveness and socio-economic convergence and cohesion of the Union, including in the fields of innovation and digitisation, to the efficient use of resources in accordance with the circular economy, to the sustainability and inclusiveness of the Union's economic growth and to the social resilience and integration of the Union capital markets.

The InvestEU Fund shall provide an EU budget guarantee that will back the financing provided by implementing partners to financial intermediaries and final recipients. The InvestEU Advisory Hub shall provide support for the development of investable projects and access to financing and the InvestEU Portal shall grant visibility to EU projects seeking financing and provide investment opportunities to investors.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the InvestEU Programme (Article 3(1)) is to support the policy objectives of the Union by means of financing and investment operations that contribute to:

- the competitiveness of the Union, including research, innovation and digitisation;
- growth and employment in the Union economy, its sustainability and its environmental and climate dimension contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris climate agreement and to the creation of high-quality jobs;
- the social resilience, inclusiveness and innovativeness of the Union;
- the promotion of scientific and technological advance, of culture, education and training;
- the integration of the Union capital markets and the strengthening of the Single Market, including solutions addressing the fragmentation of the Union capital markets, diversifying sources of financing for Union enterprises and promoting sustainable finance;
- the promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion; or
- the sustainable and inclusive recovery of the Union economy after the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, including by providing capital support for SMEs that were negatively affected by the Covid-19 crisis and were not already in

difficulty in state aid terms at the end of 2019, upholding and strengthening existing its strategic value chains of tangible or intangible assets, developing new ones, and maintaining and reinforcing activities of strategic importance to the Union, including Important Projects of Common European Interest, in relation to critical infrastructure, whether physical or virtual, transformative technologies, game-changing innovations and inputs to businesses and consumers and supporting a sustainable transition.

1.3. Specific objectives

The InvestEU Programme has the following specific objectives:

- supporting financing and investment operations related to sustainable infrastructure;
- supporting financing and investment operations related to research, innovation and digitisation, including support for the scaling up of innovative companies and the rolling out of technologies to market;
- increasing the access to and the availability of finance for SMEs and for small midcap companies and to enhance the global competitiveness of such SMEs;
- increasing access to and the availability of microfinance and finance for social enterprises, to support financing and investment operations related to social investment, competences and skills, and to develop and consolidate social investment markets.

1.4. Public intervention context

The InvestEU programme aims at contributing to the necessary conditions for the competitiveness of the Union's economy and industry (in accordance with article 173 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). This is done by providing financial products designed to address Union-wide and Member State specific market failures and suboptimal investment situations and systems to spread such products, which cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, but can rather be better achieved at Union level.

Furthermore, the need for public intervention addressing market failures and sub-optimal investment situations has been amplified with the significant social and economic impact of the current Covid-19 pandemic across Member States and regions. Due to the necessary containment measures, economic activity in the EU dropped significantly in 2020 and is slowly returning to pre-Covid levels. The contraction in EU GDP in 2020 was 5.9%, deeper than during the financial crisis in 2009. In 2021, the EU's GDP grew by 5.3%.

Even before the pandemic, while a recovery in investment-to-GDP ratios in the Union could be observed, the investment levels remained below what could be expected in a strong recovery and was insufficient to compensate for years of underinvestment following the 2009 crisis. More importantly, the current investment levels and forecasts do not meet the Union's needs for structural investment to restart and sustain long-term growth in the face of technological change and global competitiveness, including for innovation, skills, infrastructure, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the need to address key societal challenges such as sustainability or population ageing. Consequently, in order to achieve the Union's policy objectives and to support a swift, sustainable, inclusive, lasting, and healthy economic recovery, support is necessary to address market failures and sub-optimal investment situations and to reduce the investment gap in targeted sectors.

1.5. Actions

The InvestEU Fund shall provide for an EU guarantee to support financing and investment operations carried out by the implementing partners that contribute to objectives of the Union's internal policies. The InvestEU Advisory Hub shall provide advisory support for the development of investable projects and access to financing and related capacity building assistance. The InvestEU Portal shall boost project's visibility to a large network of international investors.

1.6. Delivery mode

The InvestEU programme will be delivered in indirect management through the EIB Group and other implementing and advisory partners. At Commission level, the InvestEU requires an extensive cross-DG cooperation under ECFIN lead, both for the Guarantee and Advisory Agreements with the EIB Group as well as for the selection of further implementing and advisory partners, following the first calls for expression of interest published in April 2021.

In particular, the policy priorities of financial and advisory products under the programme are developed in close cooperation with DGs that are responsible of specific policy windows (MOVE and ENER for sustainable infrastructure, RTD and CNECT for innovation and digitisation, GROW and RTD for SMEs and EMPL and EAC for social investment and skills).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

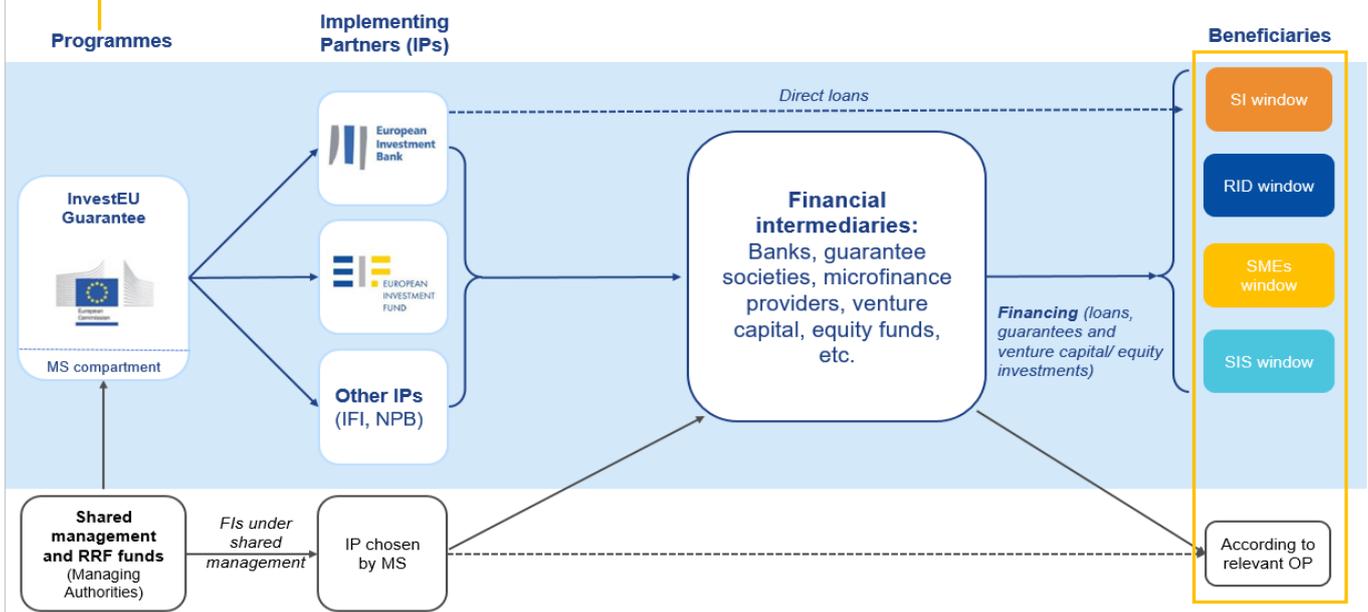
InvestEU Programme: an overview

InvestEU Fund:

- Single fund bringing together the many different EU-level financial instruments
- **EUR 26 bn** EU budgetary guarantee
- Mobilise **EUR 370 billion** in additional investment across Europe, of which 30% to contribute to climate objectives
- Strategic Investments and capital support incorporated across policy windows



The InvestEU Fund delivery chain



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).	2021 - 2027	3 067.71

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The legal basis: Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017¹.

The InvestEU Programme consists of:

- the InvestEU Fund (the successor of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and other 13 centrally-managed financial instruments),
- the InvestEU Advisory Hub (the successor of the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and other 12 centrally managed advisory programmes/initiatives) and
- the InvestEU Portal (the successor of the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)).

The InvestEU Programme will therefore bring together under one roof the multitude of EU financial instruments and advisory services currently available to support investment in the EU. It will make EU funding for investment projects in Europe simpler, more efficient and more flexible.

The InvestEU Programme, including the InvestEU Fund supporting finance for eligible investments, is demand-driven, responding to investment and finance needs of public and private market participants. Finance supported by the InvestEU Fund should support investments with a higher risk profile that require risk-sharing through the EU budget, in order to unlock private finance.

The InvestEU Fund shall focus on addressing the large investment gaps in key areas of the future through an EU budget guarantee of EUR 26.15 billion, underpinned by an EU budget of EUR 10.46 billion (provisioning rate of 40%) as detailed in section 1.8.4 below. Higher provisioning for the InvestEU Fund, compared to the provisioning of the preceding European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) 2014-2020, is necessary due to the expected higher risk of investments seeking risk coverage under the InvestEU Fund. It will thus further boost job creation and support investment and innovation in the EU. It is expected to mobilise around EUR 372 billion of private and public investment across the EU by end-2027. At least 30% of the InvestEU Fund is expected to contribute to fighting climate change.

A 75 % share of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment, amounting to EUR 19.6 billion, will be granted to the EIB Group. The remaining 25 % of the EU guarantee under the EU compartment shall be granted to other implementing partners.

The InvestEU Fund shall operate through the following four policy windows that shall address market failures or sub-optimal investment situations within their specific scope:

- a sustainable infrastructure policy window which comprises sustainable investment in the areas of transport, including multimodal transport, road safety, including in accordance with the Union objective of eliminating fatal road accidents and serious injuries by 2050, the renewal and maintenance of rail and road infrastructure, energy, in particular renewable energy, energy efficiency in accordance with the 2030 energy framework, buildings renovation projects focused on energy savings and the integration of buildings into a connected energy, storage, digital and transport systems, improving interconnection levels, digital connectivity and access, including in rural areas, supply and processing of raw materials, space, oceans, water, including inland waterways, waste management in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the circular economy, nature and other environment infrastructure, cultural heritage, tourism, equipment, mobile assets and the deployment of innovative technologies that contribute to the environmental or climate resilience or social sustainability objectives of the Union and that meet the environmental or social sustainability standards of the Union;
- a research, innovation and digitisation policy window which comprises research, product development and innovation activities, the transfer of technologies and research results to the market to support market enablers and cooperation between enterprises, the demonstration and deployment of innovative solutions and support for the scaling up of innovative companies, as well as digitisation of Union industry;
- an SME policy window which comprises access to and the availability of finance primarily for SMEs, including for innovative SMEs and SMEs operating in the cultural and creative sectors, as well as for small mid-cap companies;
- a social investment and skills policy window, which comprises microfinance, social enterprise finance, social economy and measures to promote gender equality, skills, education, training and related services, social infrastructure, including health and educational infrastructure and social and student housing, social innovation, health and long-term care, inclusion and accessibility, cultural and creative activities with a social goal, and the integration of vulnerable people, including third country nationals;

A just transition scheme shall be established horizontally across all policy windows. This scheme shall comprise investments which address social, economic and environmental challenges deriving from the transition process towards the achievement of the Union's 2030 climate target and its target of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, as well as benefit territories identified in a just

¹ In addition, a total amount of EUR 6 073.5 million is allocated to the InvestEU Programme in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 of 14 December 2020 establishing a European Union Recovery Instrument.

transition plan prepared by a Member State in accordance with the Commission Proposal for a Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund².

All policy windows may include strategic investments including Important Projects of Common European Interest to support final recipients whose activities are of strategic importance to the Union, in particular in view of the green and digital transitions, of enhanced resilience and of strengthening strategic value chains.

Each policy window should be composed of two compartments, that is to say an EU compartment and a Member State compartment. The EU compartment should address Union-wide or Member State specific market failures or sub-optimal investment situations in a proportionate manner.

The Member State compartment should give Member States as well as regional authorities via their Member State the possibility of contributing, on a voluntary basis, a share of their resources from the funds under shared management to the provisioning for the EU guarantee and of using the EU guarantee for financing or investment operations in order to address specific market failures or sub-optimal investment situations in their own territories.

The Member State compartment should also give Member States the possibility of contributing other additional amounts, including those supported by Regulation 2021/241 of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (the RRF Regulation), to the provisioning for the EU guarantee and of using the EU guarantee. The provisioning for an EU guarantee relating to a Member State compartment underpinned by other additional amounts contributed by Member States, including those supported by the RRF Regulation, should constitute external assigned revenue.

The InvestEU Advisory Hub will provide project development advisory support and capacity building throughout the investment cycle to foster the origination and development of investment projects and access to financing. The assistance will be provided in the InvestEU Programme's policy areas and will also ensure a central point of access for project promoters and authorities.

The InvestEU Portal was established in accordance with the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/626 of 14 April 2021. It builds on its predecessor EIPP as a database providing visibility to investment projects for which EU-based project promoters seek financing and providing investors with information about investment opportunities available in Europe, but with a better linkage between the projects and a possible financing by the InvestEU Fund implementing partners. InvestEU Implementing Partners will have access to the InvestEU Portal and receive information on new projects published on the Portal in their specific geographies or activity sectors.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	656.7	1 196.6	340.7	194.0	197.9	201.9	204.8	2 992.7
NextGenerationEU	1 783.0	1 818.0	2 471.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	6 074
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0
Total	2 439.7	3 014.6	2 811.7	194.5	198.4	202.4	205.3	9 066.7

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The table above includes in the first row appropriations from the general budget and from MFF fines in 2022 and 2023 and in the second row appropriations from NGEU. Compared to the total InvestEU appropriations of EUR 11 273.3 million (see section 1.8.4.), the amount of EUR 9 066.7 million (as stated in the table above) excludes the EIF capital increase (EUR 371.9 million), MFF fines as from 2024 onwards (EUR 834.7 million) and assigned revenues from predecessor financial instruments listed in Annex IV of InvestEU Regulation (EUR 1 000 million).

The total InvestEU appropriations include four different budget sources (general budget, NGEU, MFF fines and assigned revenues from predecessor financial instruments) and they amount to EUR 11 273.3 million, with the following breakdown:

² COM (2020) 22 final of 14.01.2020.

- EUR 10 460.9 million for the EU Guarantee provisioning, of which (i) EUR 2 462.0 million from the general budget, (ii) EUR 5 930.0 million from NGEU, (iii) EUR 1 068.9 million from MFF fines (a provisional amount) and (iv) EUR 1 000 million from predecessor financial instruments;
- EUR 430 million for the Advisory Hub and the Portal, of which (i) EUR 225.7 million from the general budget, (ii) EUR 140.5 million from NGEU, and (iii) EUR 63.8 million from MFF fines;
- EUR 10.5 million for support expenditure, of which (i) EUR 7 million from the general budget, and (ii) EUR 3.5 million from NGEU; and
- EUR 371.9 million for the participation to the capital increase of the European Investment Fund (EIF) from the general budget.

The frontloading of the financial programming of the InvestEU programme is mainly related to the strict deadlines applicable to the NGEU funds, obliging implementing partners to approve financing and investment operations corresponding to 60% of the NGEU budget by the end of 2022 and to 100% of the NGEU budget by the end of 2023.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The InvestEU Programme is the successor of the 2014-2020 Investment Plan for Europe. It consolidates the EFSI budgetary guarantee and other 13 EU financial instruments under the 2014-2020 MFF. The EIAH and 12 advisory programmes in various policy areas such as sustainable infrastructure, research, innovation and digitalisation, SMEs and social investment and skills as well as the EIPP which is the central EU project-promoting platform with the aim to create a bridge between EU project promoters and investors. InvestEU brings simplification, flexibility and reduces potential overlaps between EU support instruments.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

There is a dedicated InvestEU website, which provides information about InvestEU (www.europa.eu/investeu).

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

	Commitments	Payments
2021 Implementation	2 401 817 098.94	265 162 421.84
2021-2027 Total envelop		
Cumulative implementation rate	%	%

The cumulative implementation rate includes the budget voted by budget authorities, as well as NGEU appropriations, EFTA and third country participations.

In 2021, the following commitments and payments were made:

- **The provisioning of the InvestEU** specific compartment of the Common Provisioning Fund (CPF), from which future calls on the EU guarantee are to be paid. In 2021, EUR 2 418 856 571.69 was committed (of which EUR 637 555 000,00 from the general budget, EUR 1 745 000 000.00 from NGEU and EUR 36 301 571.69 from predecessor financial instruments). In terms of payments, EUR 300 781 462.02 was paid, of which EUR 100 000 000,00 from the general budget, EUR 151 000 000.00 from NGEU, EUR 36 271 308.05 from predecessor financial instruments and EUR 13 510 153.97 from transferred payment appropriations.
- **InvestEU Advisory Hub, InvestEU Portal and accompanying measures.** In 2021, EUR 814 839.11 was committed and EUR 159 144.84 was paid from the general budget. This included costs related to InvestEU Portal communication activities, functioning of the Investment Committee, IT development and maintenance. In addition, a global commitment of EUR 17 302 000.25 was carried out at the end of 2021. The InvestEU Advisory Hub will start operating upon the signature of the InvestEU Advisory Agreement with EIB expected on 9 March 2022.
- **Support expenditure for InvestEU.** In 2021, EUR 1 145 259.58 was committed (of which EUR 999 670.74 from the general budget and EUR 145 588.84 from NGEU) and EUR 493 123.03 was paid (of which EUR 424 658.47 from the general budget and EUR 68 464.56 from NGEU). This included costs related to InvestEU communication activities and events, IT development related to the InvestEU Management Information System and other support actions.
- **Contributions from other EU programmes to InvestEU (“top-ups”).** At the end of 2021, EUR 65 114 074 was committed. This global commitment includes an amount of EUR 23 500 000 transferred to the InvestEU Advisory Hub, Portal and accompanying measures. The appropriations will be used upon the signature of the InvestEU guarantee and advisory agreements with EIB and EIF.

- **The European Investment Fund capital increase.** An amount of EUR 371 883 160.64 was committed and paid in 2021 for the subscription to the newly issued EIF's shares. The main aim of the participation in the capital increase of the European Investment Fund (EIF) is to allow the EIF to contribute to the implementation of the InvestEU Programme and to continue supporting the European economy and its recovery.

In 2022, the requested commitment and payment appropriations in the voted budget for 2022 will be utilized in line with the ECFIN work programme that enumerate the actions to be financed.

In 2023, the following commitments and payments appropriations are requested in the Draft budget 2023

EUR million	Commitments	Payments	
InvestEU provisioning need	2 759.7		1 300.0
InvestEU Advisory Hub, InvestEU Portal and accompanying measures	50.5		42.8
Support expenditure for "InvestEU"	1.5		1.5
Total	2 811.7		1 344.3

These appropriations will finance actions related to the implementation of the InvestEU programme as described further below.

The EU Guarantee under **the InvestEU Fund** (EU Compartment) will be implemented, for 75% of the budget, by the EIB Group. A Guarantee Agreement between the Commission and EIB Group was signed on 7 March 2022. In accordance with Article 13(5) of the InvestEU Regulation, the remaining 25% of the EU guarantee will be granted to other implementing partners. In April 2021, the Commission launched the first Call for Expression of Interest in order to select other implementing partner. Guarantee Agreements with implementing partners which have been selected under the Call are expected to be signed during 2022.

No contribution agreements have been signed until now for the Member State Compartment of the InvestEU Fund. Negotiations are ongoing with Greece and Romania. Initial discussions also took place with Bulgaria and Finland for a contribution from European Structural and Investment funds. However, up to now, no Partnership Agreements have been approved.

The **InvestEU Advisory Hub** was established pursuant to Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2021/5231 ("InvestEU Regulation") and will provide advisory support for the development of investable projects and access to financing as well as related capacity building assistance. An Advisory Agreement should be signed in early 2022 with the EIB pursuant to Articles 11(3)(c) and 25 of the InvestEU Regulation, followed by signatures of advisory agreement with other Advisory Partners in 2022, selected through the Call for Expression of Interest of April 2021. The EIB will act as the main advisory partner of the Commission (by implementing 75% of the InvestEU advisory budget) and deliver advisory initiatives under all four policy windows of the InvestEU programme. In addition, acting independently from its role as Advisory Partner, the EIB will also provide operational support to the Commission in managing and implementing the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

The implementation of the above set of activities is to be entrusted to the EIB and other Advisory Partners under indirect management in accordance with Article 62(1)(c)(iii) of the Financial Regulation.

The **InvestEU Portal** was established on the basis of the Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/626 of 14 April 2021. It continues the work under its predecessor, the EIPP, and it is designed to contribute towards the establishment of an EU-wide promotional project platform, helping the acceleration and the fruition of more investment within the Union.

The Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund (Investment Committee) has been established in accordance with Article 24 of the InvestEU Regulation. This independent body is responsible for examining and approving the coverage of the EU budget guarantee for the financing and investment operations proposed by the implementing partners as the sole decision making body for that purpose. The Investment Committee is composed of 12 members who were in 2021 selected through a call for applications and appointed by the Commission at the recommendation of the InvestEU Steering Board. The Investment Committee will begin examining and approving the use of the EU budget guarantee upon the signatures of guarantee agreements with implementing partners, starting with financing and investment operations proposed by EIB Group [from March 2022] and followed by other implementing partners from the 2nd half of the year.

To support the implementation of the InvestEU Programme, the Commission has developed a new IT system (the InvestEU Management Information System (InvestEU MIS), which should be operational in early 2022. The new IT system will cover the various aspects of the InvestEU Programme and will allow a more efficient exchange of information with between the Commission and the Implementing and Advisory Partners.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	8 548.4	8 548.5	100%

Payments	8 137.7	95%
-----------------	---------	-----

As EFSI is a completion programme, no commitments from the general budget have been made since 2021. However, amounts from assigned revenues are still committed and paid to the EFSI provisioning. Moreover, in accordance with Article 35 (2) of the InvestEU Regulation, as of 2023 all surplus of provisions may be used for the provisioning of the InvestEU, taking into account the budgetary needs for the Public Sector Loan Facility for 2021-2027.

In 2021, the following commitments and payments were made:

- **The provisioning of the EFSI** compartment of the Common Provisioning Fund (CPF), from which calls on the EU guarantee are paid. In 2021, EUR 394 872 243,22 was committed stemming from assigned revenues from the EFSI Programme and other financial instruments³. In addition, EUR 832 534 919,11 was paid, coming from the general budget and assigned revenues
- **The European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)**. In 2021, EUR 10 692 72300 was paid. This covered payments under the existing EIAH Specific Grant Agreements.
- **The European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)**. In 2021, EUR 375 526,56 was paid. This included costs related to EIPP communication, screening and IT activities.

In 2022, the requested payment appropriations in the voted budget for 2022 will be utilized for the EFSI provisioning, the EIAH and EIPP implementation as described further below.

In 2023, the following commitments and payments appropriations are requested in the Draft budget 2023:

EUR million	Commitments	Payments
European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)		11 164. 241
Total		11 164. 241

These appropriations will be used for the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) implementation as described further below.

In 2021, EFSI continued making progress towards the objectives set by the EFSI 2.0 Regulation, in particular on the new climate target of 40% under the Infrastructure and Innovation Window, on the investment mobilised as well as the impact on jobs and growth. By end 2021, EFSI triggered EUR 524.3 billion in cumulative investment across all Member States, thus exceeding the EUR 500 billion end-2020 target while alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on Europe's economy.

EFSI came to the end of its investment period for approvals of operations on 31 December 2020. Currently, the focus is on signing approved operations before the deadline for signatures of 31 December 2022. Given the long-term nature of support under the EFSI, operational monitoring will continue until repayment of all underlying financing and investment operations (expected until 2080). Besides, in 2022 the focus will be also on a smooth transition towards the InvestEU Fund, the proposed new investment support instrument for the next MFF.

In terms of guarantee calls, a total of EUR 222.6 million was called from the EU guarantee as at the end of 2021. However, due to the current economic situation and the continuous pandemic implications, an increase in the number and volume of future guarantee calls can be expected.

For the EIAH implementation, annual specific grants agreements (SGAs) are concluded between the EU and the EIB for the latter to provide technical assistance to final beneficiaries aiming at developing a pipeline of investment projects. The last annual Specific Grant Agreement, the 2020 SGA was signed in December 2020, and it was amended in October 2021 and has an N+3 implementation period.

As regards the EIPP, the EU's online matchmaking platform, until the launch of the InvestEU Portal on 21 April 2021, it continued to provide visibility to EU-based projects enabling investors to easily find investment opportunities in Europe.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 will have started.

³ I.e. Marguerite Fund

The implementation of the InvestEU Programme will be monitored through more than 30 key performance and monitoring indicators (defined in the annex III of InvestEU legal basis) referring to the InvestEU Fund, the Advisory Hub and the Portal and Pillars as well as to the four policy windows of the Programme (see section 4 for further details).

InvestEU Fund

Despite advanced negotiations on the InvestEU Guarantee Agreement with the EIB Group and the launch of the first Call for Expression of Interest in April 2021 to select other implementing partners, no guarantee agreements were signed with implementing partners at the end of 2021. The guarantee agreement with the EIBG was signed in March 2022 and further signatures with other implementing partners are expected to take place at a later stage.

Therefore, no information on the InvestEU Fund performance can be provided with reference to 2021.

In order to reach implementation targets for the InvestEU Fund and to comply with requirements under the NGEU Regulation, measures are being taken to accelerate financing of investments by implementing partners. These include the ‘warehousing’ of eligible financing and investment operations, in accordance with Article 35.4 of the InvestEU Regulation, allowing to provide risk coverage for operations approved or signed after 1 January 2021 and before the signature of the Guarantee Agreement between the EU and an Implementing Partner as well as the use of framework operations for projects that have similar characteristics).

InvestEU Advisory Hub

Despite advanced negotiations on the InvestEU Advisory Agreement with the EIB and the launch of the first Call for Expression of Interest to select other Advisory Partners, no advisory agreements were signed with Advisory Partners at the end of 2021. The advisory agreement with the EIB was signed in March 2022 and further signatures with other advisory partners are expected to take place at a later stage.

Therefore, no information on the InvestEU Advisory Hubs performance can be provided.

InvestEU Portal

After the launch of the InvestEU Portal website on 21 April 2021, the entry-level content and design of the InvestEU Portal webpages were updated accordingly. The enhanced features and functionalities of the InvestEU Portal are in the process of implementation. In 2021, 358 projects were received and 205 projects were published. As of end 2021, the InvestEU Portal provided 1 317 investment opportunities and more than 90 projects have received financing after being published on the Portal. The total amount of investment opportunities and the number of projects that have received financing are cumulative figures including also the EIPP.

In 2021, the InvestEU Portal effectively collaborated with its partners and co-organised several events and participated at numerous events, which were organised mostly online due to the continuous pandemic situation.

The EBAN Annual Congress took place on in June 2021 and was organised together with the EIPP partner the European Business Angels Network (EBAN). 18 start-ups were selected to pitch to investors.

The European Angel Investment Summit took place in October 2021 and was co-organised together with EBAN, DG GROW and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) with almost 350 attendees. During the two-day summit, 15 InvestEU Portal projects joined the pitching.

A joint virtual e-pitching event on Women-entrepreneurship, co-organised with the InvestEU Portal partner EuroQuity (Bpifrance) & Blueinvest where four InvestEU Portal women-led projects participated.

The InvestEU Portal was also promoted at various other occasions throughout the year. Nonetheless, the challenges of continuously receiving new good projects for publication as well as new quality investors’ registrations remain. Therefore, further communication and promotional activities (e.g. participations to conferences and events, social media campaigns) are envisaged to achieve further visibility of the InvestEU Portal.

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

EFSI

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) is achieving its objectives, as set in the Regulation. It has supported investments by providing risk-bearing capacity to the EIB and has increased access to financing for SMEs and small-midcaps. The EFSI triggered additional investment of EUR 524.3 billion, thereby exceeding the target of unlocking additional investment of at least EUR 500 billion while alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on Europe’s economy.

The latest independent evaluation on the application of the EFSI Regulation concluded to the overall relevance and effectiveness of the EU Guarantee. In particular, the levels of the EU Guarantee and of the EIB contribution were appropriately sized, which allowed the EIB Group to mobilise a level of investment in line with expectations. The adjustment of the Target Rate for the Guarantee Fund under EFSI 2.0 resulted in a more efficient use of the EU budget⁴. Moreover, part of the additional funds required

⁴ The Guarantee Fund has to be maintained at a certain percentage (the “target rate” also called EFSI provisioning rate) of the total amount of the EU-guaranteed obligations. Under EFSI 1.0 the target rate was set at 50%, estimated before the start of EFSI. The target rate was adjusted under EFSI 2.0 and set at 35%.

to provision the Guarantee Fund originated from EFSI revenues and reflows from other financial instruments, hence limiting the impact on other parts/expenditures of the EU budget and leading to an increased efficiency of EU budget support. As mentioned also in the section on Evaluations/studies conducted, the Commission will launch shortly an ex-post evaluation of EFSI, which is expected to be transmitted to the European Parliament and Council by end-2022.

The EFSI has significantly increased the volume of European Investment Bank (EIB) Group financing and investment operations in priority areas. As of end-2021, the EFSI enabled the EIB Group to approve EUR 99.3 billion of riskier financing and investment operations, of which EUR 86.9 billion have already been signed. As of 31 December 2021, 1 513 EFSI projects have been approved by the EIB Group for a total investment value of EUR 524.3 billion: EUR 293.6 billion for Infrastructure and Innovation Window (IIW) investments (708 approved projects) and EUR 230.7 billion (805 approved projects) under the SME Window (SMEW).

The EFSI has also enabled the EIB Group to support unserved markets and clients, for example for the IIW more than three quarters of the clients are new EIB counterparts.

The EFSI is also implemented in strong cooperation with national promotional banks and institutions (NPBIs). As of 31 December 2021, cumulative EFSI investment mobilised in cooperation with NPBIs amounted to EUR 118.8 billion or 22.7 % of the EFSI total. Moreover, 63 investment platforms were approved under the EFSI to help support smaller projects in 22 Member States with sectoral focus on environment, SMEs and social infrastructure projects.

All EU Member States have received financing supported by the EFSI. At the end of 2021, the top beneficiary countries, in terms of the EFSI investments mobilised relative to GDP, were Estonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Portugal and Finland.

While the EFSI is a demand driven instrument, further efforts were ongoing with an aim to improve the geographical balance among the MS by end-2020 (see section on 'Evaluations/studies conducted'). The EFSI Strategic orientation provided that the share of investment under IIW in any three Member States together (measured by signed loans/investment amounts) should not exceed the indicative limit of 45 % of the total EFSI portfolio. As of 31 December 2021, the share of top three Member States (France, Italy and Spain) accounts for 49.4 % of signed EFSI financing and for 45.02 % of investment mobilised by signatures under the IIW. Both metrics are slightly above the indicative limit of 45 % set out in the Strategic Orientation. However, it is expected that at end of the signature period, on 31 December 2022, the actual concentration limit will be close to 45%.

Although the EFSI is neither geographically nor sector-specifically earmarked, but demand driven, it has backed projects across all eligible sectors under the programme.

Support to different sectors under EFSI is considered balanced. The three largest sectors in terms of investment mobilised are access to finance for SMEs and Mid-Caps (32 %), RDI (25 %) and Energy (16 %). As far as IIW is concerned, all the sectors are within the 30 % limit with largest share of the Energy sector (28 %).

On climate objectives, EFSI has slightly surpassed the 40 % objective for climate action under Infrastructure and Innovation Window. In fact, as of end-2021 44 % of signed operations under the Infrastructure and Innovation Window (IIW) in 2021 contributed to climate action. This was achieved through more focused support of climate related projects like renewable energy and energy efficiency.

On job creation and growth, the EIB estimated that as at 31 December 2021, the EFSI IIW operations contributed to creation of more than 1.3 million jobs. As regards intermediated operations under IIW and SMEW, the EFSI helped sustain and support about 12.7 million jobs. EIB also estimated that, by 2019, EFSI investments had increased EU GDP by 0.9 %.

Following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, available EFSI resources were redirected to existing guarantee instruments, managed by the EIF in order to rapidly mobilise a significant financing volume to the benefit of hard-hit companies.

Furthermore, although the fight against the Covid pandemic was not in EFSI's specific objectives, in order to provide support to final beneficiaries within the fastest timeframes, the EFSI Steering Board also decided in April 2020 to simplify the approval process for specific underlying operations within Covid-19 Envelopes of financing under the IIW. Few examples of EFSI projects:

- EFSI supported the German BioNTech SE with EUR 100 million in debt financing for the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccine. This allowed the company to expand its manufacturing capacity in order to supply the vaccine worldwide as fast as possible in response to the pandemic.
- EFSI supported a EUR 25 million loan to Apeiron Biologics, a private Austrian clinical stage biotech company. Apeiron has been working in the field of immune-oncology to develop new cancer treatments.
- EFSI supported a company called Azimo based in Poland with a mission to make international payments affordable to all. With its fast, simple and low-cost international payment solutions around the world, Azimo furthers the UN Sustainable Development Goals of financial inclusion and inequality reduction.
- EFSI supported a company called Olmix in France with a EUR 30 million loan. The company uses algae and clay to create better food and fertiliser that can improve the nutrition, hygiene and health of plants, animals and humans.

European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)

Since its launch in September 2015 and until end-2023, the EIAH offers project promoters a single point of entry for technical assistance, guidance and advice covering the entire project lifecycle.

The EIAH is now a well-established and recognised advisory support tool for project promoters and an influential networking partner for the NPBIs (national promotional banks and institutions). Thus, after a ramp-up phase that took longer than originally expected, the EIAH became a performing programme that continued to perform well in 2021, since, as of the end of 2021, 1 044 requests were allocated for EIAH support, and 120 of the EIAH assignments entered the EIB lending appraisal system and could potentially benefit from the EFSI guarantee (representing an estimate of investment of more than EUR 15 billion under EFSI).

The cooperation with NPBIs is one of the EIAH's main tools to ensure local outreach. As of end of 2021, the EIAH concluded 29 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with NPBIs from 22 Member States and 4 MoUs with other institutions in order to stimulate local demand for advice.

In addition, a call for proposals to develop local advisory capacity within NPBIs was launched by the EIAH in December 2017. The call offered co-funding support (EUR 7 million) in the form of grants for a wide range of programmes to support development of investable projects by participating NPBIs. The types of eligible activities include: (a) delivery of investment advisory services on behalf of the EIAH, (b) establishment or developing organisational capacity and (c) knowledge transfer for the development of a local advisory capacity. As of the end of 2021, 14 funding agreements were signed and 7 of them are already completed.

As of end of 2021, the 'Environment and resource efficiency' EIAH sector (which includes Climate Action and Circular Economy) represented more than 20 % of the requests reaching the EIAH. 26 % of EIAH assignments (requests receiving detailed advisory support) have a climate dimension whereas 2 % of the requests have a circular economy dimension. EIAH assignments with a climate action dimension represent an envelope of EUR 26 million (32 % of the total EIAH assignments estimated budget).

Finally, the EIB signed an initial agreement with the EBRD on 20 March 2017 to deliver the EBRD Advice for Small Businesses (ASB) Programme in Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Croatia under the European Investment Advisory Hub umbrella. It includes delivery of more than 434 advisory projects during the funding agreement lifetime (until end-2022), across Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Croatia, of which at least 10 % will be carried out with international advisers, depending on market needs. As of the end of 2021, 350 requests under this programme were receiving detailed advisory support.

As of end-2021, the EIAH received a total of 2456 requests, of which 70 % were received directly by EIAH, whilst the remaining were sourced through partnership arrangements. 2104 requests were project-related and, of those, 1174 came from the private sector. Moreover, 1044 requests have already been allocated to receive more detailed technical assistance from the EIAH, and of those 379 completed.

European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)

The EIPP has been established as the EU's online matchmaking platform with main objective to bring together investors and project promoters by providing an easily-accessible and user-friendly database, giving projects more visibility and helping them secure the financing they need to grow and enabling investors to find investment opportunities.

From January until April 2021, when the InvestEU Portal was launched, 44 projects were received and 27 projects were published on the EIPP. As of 20 April 2021, the EIPP provided 1 112 investment opportunities. In total, more than 80 projects have received financing after being published on the EIPP. As of 20 April 2021, the EIPP enabled more than 80 successful matches between project promoters and investors and provided visibility to 1 112 investment opportunities with a total proposed investment of EUR 107.7 billion. Due to the pandemic, all EIPP-related events were organised online in early 2021 with the initiative promoted at various occasions. As of 21 April 2021, the EIPP initiative continued functioning under the InvestEU Portal. Furthermore, the EIPP transition to InvestEU entailed several IT enhancements. As regards the InvestEU Portal Website, it was fully integrated in the InvestEU corporate website.

Lessons learned

Based on the implementation of EFSI, EIAH and EIPP, some key lessons have been taken for InvestEU:

- first of all, the InvestEU Fund and InvestEU Advisory Hub will be implemented not only by EIB and EIF, but will be open to many other entities, such as international financial institutions and national promotional banks.
- secondly, InvestEU brings-in more simplification by pulling together the EFSI budgetary guarantee, 13 financial instruments and 12 advisory initiatives.
- InvestEU will be more targeted to specific policy objectives, through its four policy windows. It will remain a demand-driven instrument but with a stronger policy focus.
- there will be a clearer definition of additionality, as set out in Annex V of the InvestEU Regulation, and of mobilised investment.
- finally, InvestEU includes a very comprehensive list of performance and monitoring indicators, as set out in Annex III of the InvestEU Regulation.

Regarding the InvestEU Advisory Hub specifically, the following lessons learnt have already been incorporated:

- One-stop shop principle for advisory support to mitigate duplication and overlapping initiatives through the creation of a central entry point for the InvestEU Advisory Hub;
- Opening to several Advisory Partners to facilitate the local outreach; and
- The signature of a single agreement per advisory partner to avoid internal competition between the different advisory offers financed by several EU resources.

3.2. Key achievements

1.5 million	12.7 million	0.5 million	17.9 million	20 million	23 million	39.5 million	478 million
small and medium-sized enterprises were supported between 2015 and 2021.	jobs were sustained and supported between 2015 and 2021.	affordable flats were built or renovated between 2015 and 2021.	additional households were powered by renewable energy through investments in energy generation between 2015 and 2021.	additional households had access to high-speed internet between 2015 and 2021.	people covered by improved health care services between 2015 and 2021.	people benefited from better waste treatment between 2015 and 2021.	additional passenger trips benefitting from new or improved transport infrastructure between 2015 and 2021.

The table shows the key achievements of EFSI from inception to the end of 2021⁵. Other achievements are shown in section 3.1 above.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Evaluations

In 2018, two EFSI evaluations were completed: an independent external evaluation contracted by the Commission and an evaluation by the Operations Evaluation Division (EV) of the EIB. Details on the conclusions of these previous EFSI related evaluations were provided in the 2021 Programme Statement for the Draft Budget 2022.

In 2022, an independent ex-post evaluation of the EFSI 2.0 is planned as required by the EFSI Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/2396). This evaluation shall include the assessment of the functioning of EFSI, the use of the EU Guarantee (whether the guarantee represents a good use of EU resources), an assessment of the European Investment Advisory Hub's market uptake and functioning, as well as an assessment of the European Investment Project Portal. The Commission has to submit at the end of the investment period to the European Parliament and the Council a report containing this independent evaluation and, for this purpose, the Commission intends to assign a contract to carry out an external evaluation.

Audits

In January 2019, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published a Performance Audit on the implementation of the EFSI titled '[European Fund for Strategic Investments: Action needed to make EFSI a full success](#)'. The ECA audit looked at operations under the EFSI 1.0. The ECA concluded that the EFSI has been effective in raising finance to support substantial additional investment in the EU. The report also made recommendations for areas of improvement, which were addressed to the EIB Group, to the Commission or both. Most recommendations were already addressed by the EFSI 2.0 Regulation. Almost all the ECA main recommendations were reported as implemented within the follow-up performed by EP in 2021, with the exception of the first recommendation (i.e. an assessment of EFSI risk profile), which is considered partially implemented and it is linked to the EFSI ex-post evaluation to be conducted and finalised in 2022.

In 2019, the ECA initiated a Performance Audit on the implementation of the EIAH. The final report was adopted in October 2020. All the recommendations related to the monitoring and improvement of the EIAH performance and inclusion of lessons learned from the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) in the InvestEU Advisory Hub (by targeting advisory assistance to developing projects, by direct cooperation with national promotional banks, by proactive approach through local presence towards requests for advisory, by designing of the new Advisory Hub website, and also by developing a monitoring performance framework) have been fully or partially addressed.

In 2020, the ECA published a report on the performance of the EU Budget, which included a chapter on EFSI⁶. Details on the ECA conclusions are provided in the 2021 Programme Statement.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

⁵ The provided figures refer to the period 2015-2021.

Specific Objective 1: Support financing and investment operations that contribute to the general objectives of the InvestEU Programme

Indicator 1: Volume of operations signed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of supporting InvestEU financing and investment operations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 2: Investment mobilised

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										2027
							372	372	372	372
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR billion
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of mobilising investments in the InvestEU eligible areas, through the supported InvestEU operations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 3: Amount of private finance mobilised

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of mobilising investments, in particular private investments, in the InvestEU eligible areas, through the supported InvestEU operations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be

	defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 4: Leverage and multiplier effect achieved

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
							14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Multiplier of the EU guarantee
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of mobilising investments in the InvestEU eligible areas through the supported InvestEU operations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 5: Number of countries (Member States and third countries) covered by operations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
							27	27	27	27
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of reaching a wide geographical coverage of the supported InvestEU operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 6: Number of regions covered by operations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of reaching a wide geographical coverage of the supported InvestEU operations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27

Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 7: Volume of operations per country (Member State and third country) and per region

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of reaching a wide geographical coverage of the supported InvestEU operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined..
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 8: Number of jobs created or supported

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to sustaining and creating jobs.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 9: Investment supporting climate objectives and, where applicable, broken down by policy window

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Investment supporting climate objectives - 30% overall target										
	Milestones									2027
							30%	30%	30%	30%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Investment supporting climate objectives - 60% climate and environment target for the Sustainable Infrastructure Window										
	Milestones									2027
							60%	60%	60%	60%
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the objective of at least 30% of InvestEU operations contributing to mainstream climate objectives; This indicator is directly linked to the objective of at least 60% of Sustainable Infrastructure window operations contributing to mainstream climate objectives.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 10: Investment supporting digitalisation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to boosting digitalisation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 11: Investment supporting industrial transition

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to promoting industrial transition.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 12: Investment supporting just transition

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number; EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to supporting investment in order to uphold and strengthen existing strategic value chains of tangible or intangible assets, to develop new ones, and to maintain and reinforce activities of strategic importance to the Union, including Important Projects of Common European Interest, in relation to critical infrastructure, whether physical or virtual, in the areas of cybersecurity, space and defence.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Specific Objective 2: Support financing and investment operations in sustainable infrastructure

Indicator 1: Additional renewable and other safe and sustainable zero and low-emission energy generation capacity installed (in megawatts (MW))

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Megawatts (MW)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to supported InvestEU operations which contribute to expanding the generation, supply or use of clean and sustainable renewable and safe and sustainable other zero and low-emission energy sources and solutions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 2: Number of households, number of public and commercial premises with improved energy consumption classification

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to supported InvestEU operations which contribute to promote energy efficiency and energy savings (with a focus on reducing demand through demand side management and the refurbishment of buildings).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27

Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 3: Estimated energy savings generated by the projects (in kilowatt-hours (kWh))

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Kilowatt-hours (kWh)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to promote energy savings.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 4: Annual green-house gas emissions reduced/avoided in tonnes of CO2 equivalent

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Tonnes
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to the decarbonisation of: a) Energy-intensive industries and the substantial reduction of emissions in such industries and b) Energy production and distribution chain by phasing out the use of coal and oil.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 5: Volume of investment in the development, smartening and modernisation of sustainable energy infrastructure

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners

Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to the development, smartening and modernisation of sustainable energy infrastructure, in particular, but not only transmission and distribution level, storage technologies, electricity interconnection between Member States and smart grids.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 6: Additional households, enterprises or public buildings with broadband access of at least 100 Mbps upgradable to gigabit speed, or number of WIFI-hotspots created

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to the development of digital connectivity infrastructure, whether physical or virtual, in particular through projects that support the deployment of very high capacity digital networks, 5G connectivity or that improve digital connectivity and access, particularly in rural areas and peripheral regions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 7: Number of cross-border and missing links projects (including projects relating to urban nodes, regional cross-border rail connections, multimodal platforms, maritime ports, inland ports, connections to airports and rail-road terminals of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) infrastructure, including infrastructure maintenance and safety, the urban nodes of TEN-T, maritime and inland ports, airports, multimodal terminals and the connection of such multimodal terminals to the TEN-T networks, and telematics applications.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 8: Number of projects contributing to the digitalisation of transport, in particular through the deployment of European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), River Information System (RIS), Intelligent Transportation System

(ITS), vessel traffic monitoring and information system (VTMIS)/e-maritime services and Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to the digitalisation of transport, in accordance with Union transport priorities and the commitments taken under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 9: Number of alternative fuel supply points built or upgraded

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to alternative fuel infrastructure for all modes of transport, including electric charging infrastructure.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 10: Number of projects contributing to the safety of transport

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to designing and applying technologies that help to improve the safety of vehicles and road infrastructure.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be

	defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 11: Investment contributing to the implementation of plans and programmes required by the Union environmental acquis relating to air quality, water, waste and nature

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to improving air quality, water, waste and nature, as required by the Union environmental acquis.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Specific Objective 3: Support financing and investment operations in research, innovation and digitisation, including support for the upscaling of innovative companies and the rolling out of technologies to market.

Indicator 1: Contribution to the objective of 3 % of the Union's gross domestic product (GDP) invested in research, development and innovation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to investing 3% of the Union's GDP in research and innovation, as per the Lisbon strategy.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises supported by size carrying out research and innovation projects

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the InvestEU operations which contribute to supporting financing and investment operations in research, innovation and digitisation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Specific Objective 4: Increase the access to and the availability of finance for SMEs and for small mid-cap companies, and to enhance the global competitiveness of such SMEs

Indicator 1: Number of enterprises supported by size (micro, small, medium-sized and small mid-cap companies)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to increasing the access to and the availability of finance for enterprises, from micro to small mid-cap companies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises supported by stage (early, growth/expansion)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to increasing the access to and the availability of finance for SMEs and for small mid-cap companies, in various stages of development.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 3: Number of enterprises supported by Member State and region at NUTS 2 level

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to increasing the access to and the availability of finance for SMEs and for small mid-cap companies, in various countries and regions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 4: Number of enterprises supported by sectors by statistical classification of economic activities in the European Union (NACE) code

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to increasing the access to and the availability of finance for SMEs and for small mid-cap companies, in various sectors.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 5: Percentage of investment volume under the SME policy window directed towards SMEs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to the SME window focus on investments in SMEs.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Specific Objective 5: Increase the access to and the availability of microfinance and finance to social enterprises, support financing and investment operations related to social investment, competences and skills and develop and consolidate social investment markets

Indicator 1: Social infrastructure: Capacity and access to supported social infrastructure by sector: housing, education, health, other

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to financing and investment related to social investment, in particular on social infrastructure.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 2: Microfinance and social enterprise finance: Number of microfinance recipients and social enterprises supported

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to increasing access to and the availability of microfinance and finance to social enterprises
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Indicator 3: Number of individuals acquiring new skills or having their skills validated and certified: formal, education and training qualification

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from implementing partners
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to InvestEU operations which contribute to promoting people competences and skills.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Specific Objective 6: Under the InvestEU Advisory Hub, to provide advisory support for investment project identification, preparation and development to public and private counterparts.

Indicator 1: Number of engagements of the InvestEU Advisory Hub by sector and Member State

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Operational reports from advisory partners
Link to the objective	This is the key indicator regarding the implementation of the InvestEU Advisory Hub.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Due to the market-driven nature of the InvestEU Programme, targets and milestones cannot be defined.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The implementation of the InvestEU Programme has started in 2022, therefore no results could be provided at this stage.

Specific Objective 7: To create a publicly available InvestEU web portal where EU based projects promoters will be given the opportunity to boost the visibility of their projects to potential international investors

Indicator 1: The number of project published on the InvestEU Portal

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	150	300	450	600	750	900	1 000			1 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	205									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Commission operational data
Link to the objective	This is the key indicator regarding the implementation of the InvestEU Portal.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track and it exceeded its target due to intensive communication efforts.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)

Specific Objective 1: Increasing the number and volume of European Investment Bank (EIB) financing and investment operations in priority areas

Indicator 1: Cumulative volume of investment mobilised

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
			125	245	340	420	500	500		500
	Actual Progress									Final
		60	164.1	256.3	375.5	458.4	545.3	524.3		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Estimated volume of funding raised (EUR billion, approved operations).
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EIB operational reporting
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	The EFSI 1.0 target is to mobilise by July 2018 at least EUR 315 billion of additional investment. The EFSI 2.0 target is to mobilise at least EUR 500 billion of additional investment by 2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track and it even exceeded its target (the decrease in 2021 is due to the cancellation of some EFSI operations after the end of its approval period).

Indicator 4: Aggregated multiplier effect

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
		15	15	15	15	15	15	15		15
	Actual Progress									Final
		13.3	15.18	13.53	15.6	15.66	15.46	15.74		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Multiple in number of times of the EU guarantee amount.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EIB operational reporting
Narrative	
Methodology	Multiplier effect
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	The expected effective EFSI multiplier, which can only be calculated at the end of the EFSI investment period, is around 15 in terms of the use of the EU guarantee compared to the total investment raised for the projects supported under the initiative and the terms of the transactions. As at end-2021, the IIW multiplier related to operations signed was estimated at 13,48x and the multiplier related to SMEW operations signed was assessed at 20,49x. This means that a multiplier effect should be generated by means of the provision of an EU guarantee to the EIB, so that EUR 1 of the EU guarantee under this initiative could generate approximately EUR 15 investment in projects.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track and it even exceeded its target.

Indicator 5: Share of EFSI Financing under the IIW that supports project components that contribute to climate action

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2018
					0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4		0.4
	Actual Progress									Final

					0.359	0.402	0.431	0.436		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Share of action components (Percentage, signed operations)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EIB operational reporting
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track and it even exceeded its target.

Specific Objective 4: To provide advisory support for investment project identification, preparation and development to public and private counterparts, not necessarily linked to EFSI operations through the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH)

Indicator 1: Number of projects for which the support have been requested

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
			200	200	200	200	200	200		200
	Actual Progress									Final
		70	271	334	416	456	290	433		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of projects (annual)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EIB operational reporting
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track and it even exceeded its target.

Specific Objective 5: To create a publicly available, secure web portal where EU based project promoters will be given the opportunity to boost the visibility of their projects to potential international investors through the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP).

Indicator 1: Number of projects published on the EIPP

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
			150	300	450	500	500	500		500
	Actual Progress									Final
		0	139	238	508	956	1 163	1 112		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Commission operational data
Narrative	
Methodology	Cumulative
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	

Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track and it even exceeded its target.
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6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	722.06	904.40	843.52	58.36	59.53	60.72	61.59	2710.18	30%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Actions under the InvestEU Programme are expected to contribute at least 30% of the overall financial envelope of the InvestEU Programme to climate objectives. This will be calculated according to the Commission guidance on the InvestEU Programme climate and environmental tracking for implementing partners.

The EFSI 2.0 Regulation, while recognising the demand-driven nature of the EFSI, introduced a target of at least 40% of the EFSI financing under the Infrastructure and Innovation Window to support projects with components that contribute to climate action, in line with the COP21 commitments. The EIB uses its internationally agreed methodology, as part of its rules and procedures, to identify climate action components or cost shares of supported operations. A Key Monitoring Indicator (KMI) referring specifically to the contribution of EFSI financing under the IIW to climate action was introduced in 2018.

Under InvestEU, implementing partners will report on a key performance indicator on investment supporting climate objectives, per policy window. The methodology for this indicator should be agreed with the implementing partners early 2022.

6.1.3. Key achievements

Examples of achievements that were financed by the programme are:

- EFSI supported a EUR 70 million loan to Talasol Solar energy power plant based in Spain. The plant is expected to be operational in 2020 and create 500 jobs during the implementation phase.
- EFSI supported a EUR 7.5 million loan to GreenFiber International SA based in Romania to finance a recycling and circular economy project. The project will contribute to the creation of 280 full-time jobs and will increase the amount of waste collected and processed by over 50 000 tonnes per year.

6.1.4. Performance

As of December 2021, the cumulative share of climate action components under EFSI IIW was 43.6 % for signed amounts.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %					0.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Actions under the InvestEU Programme are expected to contribute, without setting an explicit target for the InvestEU Programme, at least to the ambition of 7.5% of the entire EU budget reflecting biodiversity expenditures in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.

Under InvestEU, implementing partners will report on operations contributing to biodiversity.

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

	0.00	0.00					0.00
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(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3.2. Key achievements and Performance (2014-2020)

The EFSI investments in non-combustible renewable energy sources have a secondary positive impact on clean air when this replaces energy production from more polluting sources (see information on SDG 7). It is estimated that approximately EUR 5.8 billion of financing approved under EFSI as of 31 December 2021 contributed principally to clean air objectives. This is expected to help mobilise approximately EUR 29 billion of public and private investments.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Score 0*: 655.7						
Score 0: 1.0						

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The InvestEU Regulation as well as the accompanying Investment Guidelines stresses in a number of places the importance of supporting/ taking into consideration the gender equality. This includes references ranging from the general to the more specific, such as addressing the digital gap between men and women and helping to encourage female creativity and entrepreneurial potential. In addition, gender equality is considered under the sustainability proofing process which InvestEU-supported projects have to undergo.

Related considerations have been embedded in particular into the flagship equity product to be implemented by the European Investment Fund, in order to incentivise and encourage gender diverse investment teams and female investors. Support to ‘gender smart’ financing will also be available under a dedicated initiative of the InvestEU Advisory Hub implemented by the EIB, aiming to improve access to finance for female-founded and female-led companies; increase women’s representation in the investment community by identifying barriers, strengthening women’s capacity, challenging unconscious bias; and increase awareness of the funding gap and of the missed opportunity.

Moreover, under InvestEU, implementing partners are required to report on operations contributing to gender equality. Therefore, for 2021 the amount of EUR 655.7 million of the voted InvestEU budget implementation is considered as likely to have an impact on gender equality. However, since InvestEU is a market-driven programme, the actual degree of integration of the gender equality dimension in the operations and thus the actual impact cannot yet be estimated.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The EFSI investment support for empowerment and economic advancement through micro-entrepreneurship, can further contribute to combatting poverty, reducing inequality and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Moreover, numerous important social housing projects have been undertaken, as for example in France, Spain, Poland, and Portugal. Over 531 000 social or affordable housing units were built or renovated with the EFSI support as of 31 December 2021.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

As of the end of the EFSI approval period, the EFSI investments are estimated to have ensured better healthcare for 23 million people, through contribution to the rehabilitation and expansion of health facilities and the support given to medical research.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The EFSI support for social entrepreneurship and social infrastructure contributes strongly to health and wellbeing and inclusive and quality education. As of 31 December 2021, approx. EUR 439.92 million of signed amounts were dedicated to education. This mainly related to social infrastructure investment for the purposes of education like schools or university campuses as well as support for SMEs active in the education sector.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The EFSI investment support has significantly contributed to sustainable water management, wastewater treatment and sanitation. As of 31 December 2021, EIB signed around EUR 2.6bn of total EFSI lending volume for projects related to water supply, sewerage and waste management. It is estimated that at the end of the approval period of EFSI by end-2020 through EFSI support

some 25 million people are benefitting from safe drinking water and 4.8 million m³ of water per day capacity is ensured from constructed or rehabilitated water treatment plants.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

It is estimated that the EFSI has facilitated the provision of renewable energy to approx. 10 million households as of end-2021. The EFSI investments are estimated to have helped saving over 7 150 GWh of energy per year through the energy efficiency measures of supported projects. As of 31 December 2021, the EFSI signed amounts for energy and environment and resource efficiency reached approx. EUR 19.0 billion and have mobilised an estimated EUR 94.9 billion of investment for energy capacity building from renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency and supporting electricity network projects. It is worth noticing the promotion of major cross-border projects to increase interconnection and security of supply.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

EFSI investments can support meaningful advancements towards promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and full and productive employment and decent work for all. EFSI investment support for empowerment and economic advancement through micro-entrepreneurship and SME support, can further contribute to combatting poverty, reducing inequality and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many SMEs have faced a sharply reduced access to liquidity, which dramatically increased the threat of insolvencies. Based on the EUR 1 billion unlocked from the EFSI, the EIF provided guarantees worth EUR 2.7 billion to financial intermediaries, unlocking EUR 14.7 billion in available financing for businesses, including micro- and social enterprises as well as SMEs in the cultural and creative sectors as of the end of the approval period for EFSI.

Several employment and start-up programmes have been signed contributing to the creation of a well-qualified workforce as needed by modern economies, as well as generating employment opportunities for young people.

For IIW, EFSI operations are expected to have both temporary and permanent employment effects, related to the implementation and respective the operational phase of the EFSI projects. In addition to the direct impact of EFSI, there is also an indirect or induced employment impact to be considered (for example, a project to develop new transport infrastructure might contribute to new job opportunities in the local economy). By 31 December 2021, EFSI helped sustain and support 12.7 million jobs.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The EFSI's strong support for transport, social and digital infrastructure contributes to inclusive and sustainable growth. In addition, the EFSI's strong support for research, development and innovation projects helps foster innovation and contributes to sustainable industrialisation. As of 31 December 2020, investment in transport infrastructure materialised in signed amounts of approx. EUR 9.6 billion, unlocking some EUR 31.5 billion to promote transport networks, cleaner fleets, to reduce congestions and bottlenecks. These investments ensured that 478 million additional passenger trips benefited from new or improved transport infrastructure.

The EFSI financing targeted also the development of the broadband infrastructure needed to keep different actors connected, as well as development of new technologies needed to promote Europe's long-term competitiveness. The EFSI helped deliver high speed internet for 20 million additional households as of the end of its approval period in 31 December 2020.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The EIAH is providing advisory support for investment project especially in countries where the financing via the capital market is the less developed. In terms of geographical coverage, 51 % of the advisory support assignments are targeting cohesion countries as of 31 December 2021.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The EFSI's dedicated investments in economic and social infrastructure projects supports advancement towards promoting resilient and inclusive infrastructure, and further efforts to support service-rich integrated infrastructure projects would contribute to inclusive and sustainable cities. The EFSI supported projects about water supply and sanitation, wastewater and solid waste treatment and recycling as well as sustainable urban and rural development. For example, at the end of the EFSI approval period, better waste treatment was made available for 39.5 million people through the EFSI supported investments.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The EFSI investment support to inclusive business practices and SME growth and development could also contribute to promoting sustainable production and consumption practices. This is the case of dedicated support to SMEs active in circular economy, those using recyclable materials, and those deploying energy efficiency measures.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

EFSI 2.0 sets out a climate action target of 40% for IIW (excluding EFSI financing to SMEs and small Mid-Caps). For achieving this goal, projects such as energy efficiency and clean transport strongly contribute to combatting climate change and its impact, at the same ensuring access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. As of 31 December 2020 this target was exceeded and as of

31 December 2021 43.6 % of the financing under the IIW⁷ was dedicated to climate action. In addition, dedicated efforts are made to ensure uptake of broader sustainable growth projects beyond the climate target, and to place a stronger focus on sustainable investments across sectors.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

EFSI is providing support to activities related to the sustainable use of marine resources, aquaculture and other elements of the wider bioeconomy. As of 31 December 2020, EFSI has mobilised over EUR 2.9 bn of signed financing in the bio-economy sectors.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

EFSI investments have contributed to sustainable forest management. It is estimated that 4 500 hectares of new forestry area is planted and 13 m³ per hectare of yearly forest growth is ensured as a result of EFSI supported projects in this sector as of the end of its approval period at 31 December 2020.

⁷ Excluding EFSI financing to SMEs and small Mid-Caps.

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)****Lead DG: MOVE**

Associated DGs: CNECT, ENER

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

In order to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, to stimulate job creation and to respect the long-term decarbonisation commitments, the Union needs an up-to-date, multimodal high performance infrastructure to help connect and integrate the Union and all its regions in the transport, energy and digital sectors. Through the Trans-European networks, those connections should help to improve the free movement of persons, goods, capital and services. In particular, they should facilitate cross-border connections, help combating climate change, foster greater economic, social and territorial cohesion and contribute to a more competitive and sustainable social market economy, as well as to accelerate post-coronavirus recovery

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The aim of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is to accelerate investment in the field of trans-European networks and to leverage funding from both the public and the private sectors, while increasing legal certainty and respecting the principle of technological neutrality. The CEF should also enable synergies between the transport, energy and digital sectors, thus enhancing the effectiveness of the Union action and optimising implementing costs. Moreover, the programme should also contribute to the EU action against climate change, support environmentally and socially sustainable projects and, where appropriate, climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

1.3. Specific objectives

In pursuing its mission, the CEF targets the following specific objectives, which correspond to action strands:

1. In the transport sector, the CEF specific objectives aim at:
 - contributing to the development of projects of common interest relating to efficient, interconnected and multimodal trans-European transport network (TEN-T) and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility;
 - adapting parts of the TEN-T for a dual use of the transport infrastructure in view of improving both civilian and military mobility
2. In the energy sector, the CEF aims at:
 - developing projects of common interest relating to further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market, supporting interoperability of networks across border and sectors, facilitating decarbonisation of the economy, promoting energy efficiency and ensuring security of supply. Moreover, it facilitates cross-border cooperation in the area of energy, including renewable energies.
3. In the digital sector, the CEF aims at:
 - contributing to the development of projects of common interest relating to the deployment of safe and secure very high capacity digital networks and 5G systems, supporting an increased resilience and capacity of the digital backbone networks on EU territories by linking them to neighbouring territories, as well as fostering the digitalisation of transport and energy networks.

1.4. Public intervention context

Transport:

For the transport sector, the CEF contributes to the achievement of the Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy.

The TEN-T policy aims at strengthening the social, economic and territorial cohesion of the Union and contributes to the creation of a single European transport area, which is efficient and sustainable, increases the benefits for its users and supports inclusive growth. The completion of the dual layer trans-European transport network (TEN-T) infrastructure along Europe is key to achieve these objectives. The network consists of a main backbone layer, the Core network, which includes the Core Network Corridors, to be completed by 2030 and the more capillary Comprehensive network, aiming at completing the connectivity and ensuring cohesion, to be completed by 2050.

CEF Transport also includes a new specific objective, with the aim to adapt the TEN-T Network for the dual use of the transport infrastructure with a view to improving both civilian and military mobility.

In line with articles 171 and 172 of the TFEU, Member States are responsible for implementing projects in the transport network, while the EU is contributing to the development of the trans-European network by identifying and supporting projects of common interest as per article 7 of the TEN-T Guidelines.

The Union support includes, together with the CEF, investments through the Cohesions Funds (Cohesion and ERDF in shared management), through the Recovery and Resilience Facility part of the Next Generation EU Budget (direct management) and through the InvestEU programme (financial products within the sustainable infrastructure window).

In this context; CEF Transport aims at supporting key infrastructure investments through grants (direct management) awarded following open competition among applicants having received the support of the concerned Member States.

Energy:

CEF Energy is an integral part of the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) strategy. The TEN-E policy framework is focused on linking the energy infrastructure of EU countries. The TEN-E policy identifies nine priority corridors and three thematic areas in the field of cross-border energy infrastructure and establishes a biennial list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) that helps the EU meet its short and long-term energy and climate objectives. PCIs are chosen for their significant expected impact on energy markets and market integration (covering at least two EU countries), and expected contribution to the EU's energy security. They aim at diversifying sources, increasing competition in energy markets by offering alternatives to consumers, and contributing to the EU's climate and energy goals by integrating renewables. The European Green Deal has further emphasized the key enabling role of energy infrastructure in the transition to a climate neutral economy.

The TEN-E Regulation is based on Article 172 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which provides for the legal base to adopt guidelines covering the objectives, priorities and broad lines of measures envisaged in the sphere of trans-European networks as set out in Article 171. The guidelines also set the conditions under which the EU may financially support the PCIs. CEF Energy is one of the instruments to help reaching the policy objectives of the TEN-E strategy by providing financial support to some projects of common interest. Most PCIs are expected to be commercially viable and financed through regulated network tariffs.

In December 2021, the Commission and co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on a revised TEN-E Regulation which reflects the Green Deal objectives and makes it fit for the infrastructure needs of the energy system of the future. The revised Regulation excludes fossil fuel infrastructure categories and includes new infrastructure categories, helping to decarbonise the gas sector through renewable and low-carbon gases, including hydrogen. The 6th PCI list will be the first list under the revised Regulation, meaning that from the CEF Energy perspective, the 2024 call will be the first one where the new TEN-E comes in.

CEF Energy includes also a new window for cross-border cooperation in the field of renewables. The new window complements the already existing support for transmission grid infrastructure and storage under the TEN-E framework. This window contributes directly to the enabling framework for cooperation on renewables as called for under Article 3 (d) of Directive 2018/2001/EC (Renewable Energy Directive) which is based on the four cooperation mechanisms: statistical transfers, joint projects between Member States, joint projects with third countries and joint support schemes. In July 2021, the Commission and co-legislators adopted a proposal to revise the Renewable Energy Directive, aiming to increase the binding target for renewable energy in the EU energy mix from 32% to 40% by 2030.

Digital:

Consistent deployment of fixed gigabit/terabit and mobile 5G infrastructures is needed to meet the increasing demand for the secure transfer and processing of massive amounts of geographically distributed data. By their nature, trans-European, gigabit and terabit networks enable data to flow and people to collaborate wherever they are. They connect digital capacities such as cloud and high-performance computing as well as millions of objects and data able to transform vertical sectors such as health, education, tourism, manufacturing, transport and logistics. The COVID-19 pandemic has reconfirmed the importance of very high speed, reliable, secure and affordable internet connections for all: businesses, public services, citizens. Digital connectivity infrastructures are supported at European, national, regional and local levels. By addressing projects of common interest and focusing on cross-border interconnections, CEF Digital will contribute to cross-fertilise these investments and act as a catalyst for the EU-wide digital connectivity ecosystem. The underlying goal is to bring together, in an effective manner, public support and private investment. CEF Digital will thus contribute to bridging the investment gap in the area, accelerate the achievement of EU's connectivity targets, contribute to EU's strategic autonomy and support an EU-wide digital ecosystem.

Alternative sources of public support, such as the Recovery and Resilience Facility, as well as the cohesion policy funds can complement and ensure synergies with the financing offered by CEF Digital, as well as complement the cross-border infrastructure developed under CEF Digital.

1.5. Actions

The programme will provide financial support primarily in the form of grants and procurement. Moreover, it may contribute to blending operations in accordance with the InvestEU Regulation.

In principle, only actions contributing to the achievement of the above specific objectives, taking into account long-term decarbonisation commitments, are eligible for funding.

Such actions include studies, works and other accompanying measures necessary for the management and implementation of the programme and the sector- specific guidelines.

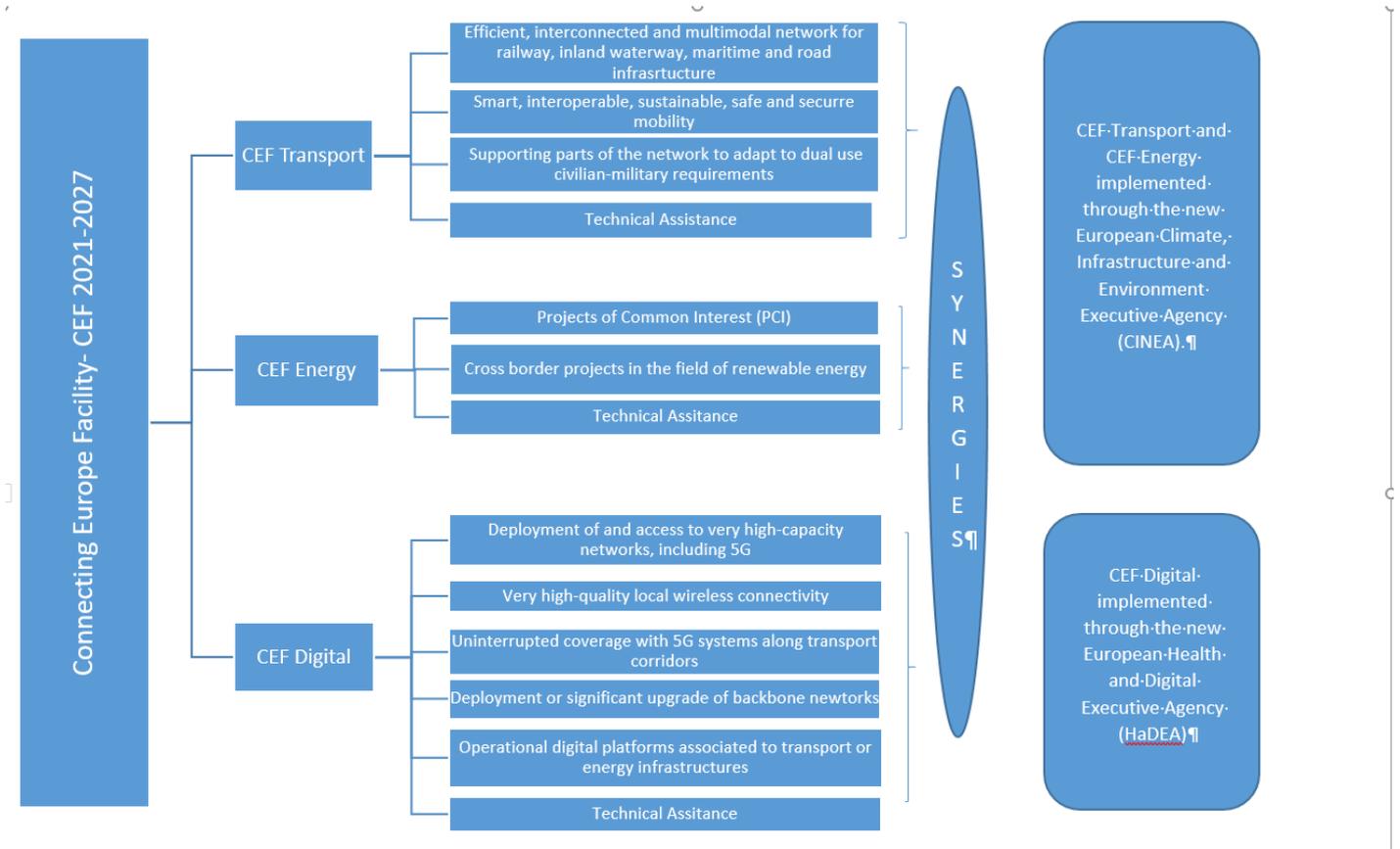
1.6. Delivery mode

The programme will be implemented through direct management. On an ad-hoc basis and if justified, specific actions may be implemented in indirect management.

Three Directorates General are identified as CEF parent DGs, namely the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), the Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER) and the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT).

The programme will be implemented through Executive Agencies. The transport and energy strands will be implemented by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) while the CEF digital programme has been delegated to the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)	116/1189	

Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 (OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, p. 38).	2021 - 2027	20 733.46
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1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	4 511.0	4 561.1	4 675.4	4 595.4	4 737.7	4 947.7	5 080.4	33 108.8
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

For the transport sector, the CEF programme will continue contributing to the achievement of the TEN-T policy objectives, in particular focusing on the completion of the TEN-T Core Network by 2030, through the support to projects of common interest, in line with the priorities set in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. Moreover, and differently from the CEF 2014-2020 programme, a stronger focus will be put on the modernisation of the TEN-T network, with a dedicated share of investments on smart application for transport, new technologies and innovation (including alternative fuels), interoperability, road safety, infrastructure resilience, accessibility and security of transport. Moreover, the programme will support for the first time interventions aiming at improving the civilian-military components of the Network.

The CEF transport strand will continue contributing to the EU climate-related objectives, aiming at the decarbonisation of the transport sector. In accordance with the European Green Deal, CEF 2021-2027 will target a contribution of 60% of its overall financial envelope to co-financing actions supporting climate objectives and moving fast towards zero-emission mobility.

For the energy sector, CEF programme will continue contributing to the implementation of projects of common interest and in turn to the achievement of the TEN-E policy objectives including the further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market, interoperability of networks across borders and sectors, facilitating the decarbonisation of the economy, and promoting energy efficiency and ensuring security of supply. The European Green Deal has further emphasized the key enabling role of energy infrastructure in the transition to a climate neutral economy. Hence, more focus will be put on contributing to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Paris Agreement as well as the 2030 climate and energy targets and long-term decarbonisation objective. In addition, the CEF programme aims to enable cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy.

CEF Digital will depart from the past CEF Telecom 2014-2020 by being fully dedicated to support, through grants or financial instruments, the deployment of high performance digital communication infrastructures. While building on the experience gained with the previous CEF, CEF Digital 2021-2027 will represent a step change as regards the scope, volume and intensity of the proposed EU support.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Information related to CEF Transport can be found at:

https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/infrastructure-and-investment_en
<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport>
https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/connecting-europe-facility/transport-infrastructure_en

All information related to CEF Energy can be found by accessing the following link:
<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-energy>

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/connecting-europe-facility/energy-infrastructure-connecting-europe-facility_en

Information related to CEF Digital can be found at:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/cef-digital>

https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en#ecl-inpage-289

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	4 510.1	33 108.8	14%
Payments	18.5		0%

After the adoption of the CEF 2021-2027 Regulation¹, the procedure for the adoption of the first sectoral Multi-Annual work programmes (MAP) started. This led to the adoption of the CEF-T² and CEF-E³ 2021-2027 first MAPs (referring to the period 2021-2023) on 05 and 06 August 2021 respectively and to the adoption of the first CEF Digital MAP⁴ (referring to the period 2021-2025) on 16 December 2021. As a result, the first call for proposals under the CEF programme (Transport and Energy) have been launched in September 2021, while for the Digital sector on 12 January 2022.

The split per strand is as follows (no dedicated table for Military Mobility):

Transport⁵:

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 221.5	23 872.7	13%
Payments	15.3		0%

For the transport sector 100% of the commitments for 2021 have been allocated through a global commitment (October 2021) to upcoming actions resulting from the first set of 13 calls for proposals launched in September 2021. The 2021 allocation corresponds to 13% of the overall commitments foreseen for the strand. The calls closed in January 2022 and the evaluation of proposals is currently ongoing. The calls were launched for an estimated budget of around EUR 7 billion (legal commitments to be covered by several years in commitment appropriations up to 2027). The calls have been very well received by the stakeholders, with more than 400 proposals submitted: under the General envelope there is an oversubscription rate of more than three times the allocated budget; for the Cohesion envelope there is an oversubscription rate of around twice the allocated budget; the Military Mobility call has an oversubscription rate of around 1.3 times the allocated budget. For year 2021, no payments have been disbursed as no grants were signed in 2021. The pre-financing of grants selected under the first set of calls is planned in 2022 and will constitute the main part of payment appropriations in 2022.

It is expected that the second set of call for proposals for the transport sector will be launched in September 2022, as announced in the MAP, along the same schedule, for a similar overall amount and including the same topics. It is expected that the majority of 2022 appropriations will be globally committed to cater for these calls, and individualised in 2023.

¹ REGULATION (EU) 2021/1153 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014

² C(2021) 5763 final COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the financing of the Connecting Europe Facility - Transport sector and the adoption of the work programme for 2021-2027

³ C(2021) 5791 final COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the financing of the energy sector under the Connecting Europe Facility and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for the period 2021-2027

⁴ C(2021) 9463 final COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the financing of the Connecting Europe Facility – Digital sector and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2021-2025

⁵ The table refers to appropriations transferred to CINEA for the management of CEF Transport main projects. The appropriations related to the Technical Assistance projects managed both in CINEA and at DG MOVE are not included.

Appropriations requested for 2023, reflect the announced schedule and amounts of the future call for proposals (2023) and also takes into account expected commitment and payments needs for the projects selected under the CEF 2021 (intermediate payments) and 2022 MAP calls (pre-financing).

Energy⁶:

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	784.3	5 830.0	13%
Payments	0.1		0%

For the energy sector, 100% of the commitments for 2021 have been allocated through a global commitment (October 2021). No payments were disbursed for 2021.

After the entry into force of the CEF II Regulation and the subsequent adoption of the MAWP, the first call for proposals for PCIs under the CEF Energy programme, based on PCIs on the 4th PCI list⁷, was launched on 7 September and closed on 19 October 2021. The call was launched for an estimated budget of EUR 785 million and allocated EUR 1.037 billion to 5 actions using multiannual instalments and the budget flexibility of the MAWP. The 5 actions, relating to 5 PCIs, concern 3 actions on electricity transmission (construction works), 1 for gas storage (construction works), and a study on CO2 transport.

The 5 actions that were funded are:

- **EuroAsia interconnector** (€657 million): this electricity project interconnects the transmission networks of Cyprus and Greece, which allows for the bidirectional transmission of electricity, supports the uptake of renewables, and ends Cyprus' energy isolation.
- **Baltic Synchronisation Project Phase II** (€170 million): this includes funding for grid reinforcement in Poland and upgrading the transmission infrastructure in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - thus supporting the integration of the Baltic States' electricity system with other European networks. The Baltic Synchronisation project also received funding under previous CEF calls leading to a total CEF support of more than €1.2 billion, underlining the political importance of this project.
- **Aurora line** (€127 million): CEF funding will support the development of a third transmission line between Sweden and Finland in order to increase electricity transmission capacity between the 2 countries and support the integration of onshore and offshore renewable electricity.
- **Chiren expansion** (€78 million): this project supports the capacity increase of a gas storage facility in Bulgaria, which is necessary for regional security of energy supply in South-East Europe, as well as reducing gas supply costs and decarbonising the energy sector.
- **Northern Lights Phase II** (€4 million): a study to support the expansion of CO2 transport and storage networks open to emitters from across the EU, covering technical studies for onshore and offshore infrastructure to plan the expansion of annual transport capacity of the facilities.

The first call for proposals on cross-border renewable projects was launched on 22 September and closed on 1 February 2022, making EUR 1 million available to support both EU Member States and private project promoters through preparatory studies, aiming to prepare the project concept and develop the cooperation set up of a cross-border renewable energy project. Three proposals were submitted, requesting a total amount of EUR 470.000. The results of the evaluation process are expected to be announced in Q2 2022.

The fifth PCI list⁸ adopted in November 2021 under the TEN-E framework includes 98 projects: 67 electricity transmission and storage projects, 20 gas projects (listed previously in the fourth PCI list), six CO2 network projects and five smart grid projects. With its emphasis on electricity transmission and storage projects, it reflects the Green Deal objectives. PCIs on the fifth list will be able to apply under the 2022 call for proposals. This second call for proposals for the energy sector will be launched in Q2, another call for projects to get the status and be included in the "list of cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy" will be launched in March. This list will be adopted by the Commission in autumn 2022, based on which a call for works and studies for cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy can open in Q4 2022. In addition, a new call for preparatory studies for cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy will be launched in 2022. Appropriations requested for 2023 reflect the announced

⁶ The table only refers to C1 voted appropriations on operational budget lines transferred to CINEA for the management of CEF Energy projects.

⁷ SWD (2019)395

⁸ SWD (2021)335

schedule and amounts of the future call for proposals and is based on the expected commitment and payments needs for the actions selected under the CEF 2021 and 2022 MAP calls. These appropriations concern only the first pre-financing payments which will be paid in 2022 and 2023.

The Transparency Platform provides for an interactive map with up-to-date information for each PCI: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/transparency_platform/map-viewer/main.html.

Digital⁹:

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	277.4	1 715.4	16%
Payments	2.1		0%

As the CEF digital multiannual work programme was adopted in December 2021, the 2021 budget appropriations were globally committed to 2022. The first calls for proposals were launched on 12 January 2022, with deadline for submissions 20 April. As a result, the grant agreements for the first projects will be signed towards the end of 2022, corresponding to the 2021 global committed budget. A second call for proposals (related to 2022 budget appropriations) is foreseen in autumn 2022, with a corresponding global commitment foreseen for 2023. A third call for proposals is foreseen in 2023. The payment appropriations for 2022 -2023 result from the pre-financing and interim payments foreseen for the grant agreements to be signed as a result of the first three calls. The payments in 2021 relate to the administrative appropriations.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	29 860.5	29 875.9	100%
Payments	15 225.1		51%

The CEF 2014-2020 cumulative implementation rate in Commitment appropriations reflects the progress of the projects selected for co-funding during the past 7 years of implementation of the programme. The cumulative implementation rate in payment appropriations (51%) mirrors the specificity of the programme, where investments are mainly channelled to complex infrastructure projects implemented over a considerably long time span (e.g. CEF Transport actions are expected to be completed by end of 2024). Moreover, specific sectoral issues further delayed the implementation of the programme.

Transport¹⁰:

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	23 608.6	23 696	100%
Payments	12 431.6		52%

* around 81% of the consumed PA refer to accepted cost claims, the remaining amount refers to pre-financing payments. In total 257 final payments have been processed.

In the 2014-2020 period, CEF Transport co-funding is currently allocated to 1036 actions. While addressing infrastructures along both Core and Comprehensive Network of the Trans-European Network for Transport, the Programme focuses its support on the Core Network, with more than EUR 20 billion of CEF support.

⁹ The table refers to the total C1 voted appropriations (including programme support actions) of CEF Digital that were allocated to EuroHPC JU, HaDEA and CNECT for the management of CEF Digital projects.

¹⁰ The tables refer to appropriations (including internal assigned revenues) transferred to CINEA for the management of CEF Transport projects. The appropriations related to the Programme Support Actions projects managed both in CINEA and at DG MOVE as well as the Financial Instruments appropriations are not included.

CEF Transport actions are usually characterised by long implementation periods as they refer to works for large and technically complex transport infrastructure projects, often entailing a risk component. In this framework, payments are disbursed during the entire project life cycle and upon request for payment by the beneficiaries. As indicated in the CEF Transport model Grant Agreement, request for payments must be submitted at least every two years and must refer to eligible costs incurred during the project's reporting period.

As per assessment of the yearly reporting of 2021 (covering implementation up to end of 2020), CEF transport projects experienced some delays and their implementation rate is slower than the one indicated in the indicative spending profile within the ongoing Grant Agreements. Under the three specific objectives supported through the transport strand, the following issues were identified: public procurement issues, legal and environmental issues, technical and technological issues, project coordination issues and interdependency with other CEF or EU funded project. Furthermore, based on the exchanges with the project promoters during 2021, the impact of the COVID19 has further affected the implementation of some CEF supported actions.

The overall reported financial progress by the end of 2021 for the transport sector is around 52% (compared with the expected 59% as included in the latest Grant Agreements in force) and is the result of delays experienced during the projects' implementation. The delays described above affect the spending profiles of the actions, shifting the expenditures to later years, in particular to year 2022 onwards. This situation has been further impacted by the COVID crisis.

In this framework, the Commission, in strong cooperation with CINEA, has undertaken a series of actions to mitigate the impact of the above reported issues on the overall spending performance of the programme. These include a close monitoring of CEF actions, providing for an optimal use of EU-funding. In particular, the agreement reached with beneficiaries for the inclusion of specific monitoring milestones for the Grant Agreements that still include tasks within the critical path of the project, has allowed to re-allocate unused funds to other mature projects as result of the last CEF Transport call for proposal during 2021. Furthermore, the Agency continues to implement its monitoring tools, through the assessment of reports, site visits and follow-up meetings with CEF beneficiaries, ensuring a thorough assessment and identifying the actions for which amendments are needed.

In addition, the Agency continues monitoring and proactively responds to the issues still pending in the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic, fully implementing the revised extension policy agreed with DG MOVE and applying, when necessary and duly justified, the flexibility measures in place. The CEF Transport projects' maximum end date is currently fixed at 31 December 2024.

In 2022 and 2023, payment appropriation will be used for interim and final payments related to ongoing Grant Agreements.

CEF Debt Instrument (Financial Instruments)- Transport:

Further to the amendment of the Delegation Agreement with the EIB in mid-2019, the roll-out of the CEF Debt Instrument to support green mobility projects continued and the pipeline of operations kept on growing. The CEF-DI budgetary envelope was paid in full to the EIB in 2020, operations were signed in 2021 both under CEF and NER300 resources¹¹, thereby confirming the effectiveness of channelling NER resources through CEF-DI. During 2021, and despite the delays in investment decisions due to COVID19, two new operations were signed, leveraging total investments of EUR ~670 million. These operations bear on the deployment of battery trains and on the greening of airport infrastructure. In parallel, the pipeline under the high-risk "Future Mobility" product remains strong, covering various sectors contributing to the transition to green and sustainable mobility, which highlights the capacity of the Future Mobility instrument to address the transition to green mobility in an integrated manner. The operations in pipeline bear on Mobility-as-a-Service, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles and associated charging infrastructure, waterborne transport as well as H2 trains. The CEF-Debt Instrument approval period ends in 2022 and the upcoming InvestEU programme will support its policy objectives.

Energy¹²:

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	4 746.6	4 755.6	100%
Payments	1 624.4		34%

*around 76% of the consumed PA refer to accepted cost claims

In the period 2014-2020, CEF Energy co-funding of a total of EUR 4.746 billion was allocated to 149 actions contributing to 107 PCIs. CEF Energy has helped to kick-off and implement key energy infrastructure investments in Europe. By the end of 2021, in total 93 actions which received CEF support have been completed, i.e. 46 electricity and storage, 45 gas, 1 smart grid and 1 CO₂, of which 85 studies and 8 works.

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/funding-climate-action/ner-300-programme_en

¹² The table refer to appropriations (including internal assigned revenues) transferred to CINEA for the management of CEF Energy projects.

The implementation rate of 34% for CEF Energy is lower compared to the overall CEF implementation. This is due to several large multi-annual actions with long lead times due to their very complex nature and possible delays for identical reasons as explained above, for CEF Transport and in paragraph 3.1.3. Some of these projects may only be completed by 2025. CEF financial assistance for works has been critical to advance their implementation. These projects include the Baltic Synchronisation Project (PCI 4.8) which will synchronise the three Baltic States' electricity grids with the continental European network and allow the three Baltic States to gain full control of their electricity networks and to strengthen energy security, the Biscay Bay electricity interconnector (PCI 2.7) between Spain and France which will further integrate the Iberian Peninsula into the European electricity market, and the Celtic electricity interconnector (PCI 1.6) that will establish the first electricity link between Ireland continental Europe and end Ireland's energy isolation after Brexit. In addition, the Baltic Pipe project (PCI 8.3) which will establish a new, bi-directional offshore gas pipeline connecting PL and DK through the Baltic Sea as well as the Poland – Slovakia gas interconnection (PCI 6.2.1), which are both expected to be completed in 2022 with an important contribution to energy security and diversification of supply sources. The completion of the Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania (GIPL), interconnecting both countries gas systems, is also expected for 2022.

The total payments in 2021 consisted of around 76% of interim and final payments, and 24% of first and further pre-financings. In 2022 and 2023, payment appropriations will be used.

A provision in the grant agreements requires project promoters to regularly submit an Action Status Report (ASR) to CINEA. ASRs provide an overview on the technical and financial progress of the Action. In addition, PCIs are subject to yearly monitoring by national competent authorities and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) pursuant to Art. 5 of the TEN-E Regulation. This allows the Commission to monitor the PCIs progress and the implementation of the PCIs.

CEF Debt Instrument (Financial Instruments) - Energy:

In the energy sector, the first CEF Debt Instrument was expected to be concluded by the EIB in 2018. However, the financial closing of this operation was eventually cancelled by the project promoter. Therefore, the amount initially committed under CEF Debt Instrument for this operation (EUR 89 million) is available for other energy projects and has been transferred to the EIB, which can commit to projects until the end of 2022. Possible PCIs that may receive financing under the CEF Debt Instrument are currently under appraisal by the EIB.

Telecom¹³:

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 035	1 043.2	100%
Payments	758.5		73%

The contributions to the guarantees for the CEF Debt Instrument (EUR 70 million) have been paid prior to 2021. Concerning the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (EUR 100 million), payments executed from 2018 till the end of 2021 amount to 31,7 million.

Regarding WiFi4EU, the last commitments were done in 2020. The total budget of the awarded vouchers (commitments) sum up to EUR 132 million, out of which EUR 90,945 million have been paid and EUR 21,57 million are expected to be paid in 2022.

Concerning the CEF Telecom core service platforms and related generic services, the EU contribution reached to +/- 681 million by the end of 2020 out of which payments executed by the end of 2021 amount to +/- 510 million.

The **Connecting Europe Broadband Fund**, established under the CEF Equity Instrument with EFSI support, was launched in June 2018, raising EUR 420 million at first closing, through commitments from the European Commission (EUR 100 million) as well as the EIB, three national promotional banks, and one private investor. A second closing took place in July 2020, with two new private investors joining in for EUR 50 million additional commitments. To date, the CEBF has invested into 8 companies across Europe and has raised the targeted funds from private investors to reach EUR 555 million on final close¹⁴, held in June 2021.

Regarding the **CEF Debt Instrument** (CEF DI), the EIB signed a loan agreement with a project promoter for fibre rollout for a total amount of EUR 100 million, of which EUR 70 million guaranteed by the Commission's commitment to the CEF DI. Total project costs are estimated at EUR 241 million. The EIB has estimated that, upon completion of the project in Slovenia in 2023, an additional 225 000 households (about 25% of the country) will have access to very high-capacity networks.

Regarding WiFi4EU for the period of 2018-2020, more than 8 800 vouchers have been awarded through the programme, with a budget of EUR 130 million spread over four calls. A voucher of EUR 15 000 is granted to municipalities to install free public Wi-

¹³ The table refers to C1 appropriations managed by CNECT, HaDEA/INEA and EuroHPC JU and includes the appropriations for programme support actions as well as the financial instruments ones.

Fi in parks, squares, public buildings, libraries, health centres, and museums throughout Europe. Despite the pandemic environment, the network installations are steadily increasing, reaching more than 7000 in the last quarter of 2021, exceeding expectations.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

As indicated in article 3 of the CEF Regulation, the CEF general objectives for the three strands are to build, develop, modernise and complete the trans-European networks. The completion of the networks will contribute to the long-term decarbonisation commitments, to an enhanced European competitiveness, towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, ensuring territorial, social and economic cohesion and the access to and the integration of the internal market.

Considering the delayed adoption of the CEF 2021-2027 legal basis and the consequent delayed launched of the first calls for proposals, performance related information mostly cover the calls setup and, in some cases, some preliminary information about the ongoing evaluation procedures. More detailed information on performance of the CEF 2021-2027 programme will be available as soon as the CEF supported sectoral projects will be selected and a relevant share of the expected implementation period is completed.

Nevertheless, lessons learned from the previous programming period, for all three strands, led to the following improvements streams, through the newly adopted Regulation and through inter DGs initiatives. These aim at improved efficiency, transparency and effectiveness when implementing the programme.

Improved predictability:

Article 20 of the CEF 2021-2027 Regulation foresees that the Commission adopts the first sectoral work programmes indicating the timetable of the calls for proposals and the topics covered for the first three years of implementation of the CEF. This provides enhanced transparency and predictability for stakeholders, also improving the quality and the maturity of the applications.

Streamlined evaluation:

Following the recommendations issued by the ECA in its special report 19/2019, a revised evaluation procedure has been put into place. After assessment of the lessons learned from the legacy programme and taking into account the ECA conclusions, the three parent DGs reached an agreement on a streamlined evaluation procedure, including a common interpretation of the award criteria included under article 14 of the CEF Regulation as basis for possible adjustments to the specificities of each sector, while preparing the ground for the full programme onboarding into the Corporate IT solution (eGrants).

Corporate IT solutions:

During 2021, the CEF programme has completed the full onboarding into the eGrants corporate solution for the management of the entire project life cycle. After the agreement reached with the horizontal services on the new CEF Corporate Model Grant Agreement (MGA), the full IT on boarding procedure took several months and required important adjustments to the structure of the CEF programme, compared to the legacy one. In particular, several issues related to the IT environment, fully build around a programme with a very different nature (Horizon Europe), led to compromise solutions that created additional challenges. To mention, the organisation of topics and FAQ in the funding and tender portal, delays for retrieving call related data, limited GIS services and partial inclusions of key financial information for the Grant Agreements' preparation.

Despite these initial difficulties, it is expected that further IT improvements building on lessons learned and the full electronic management in the EC Corporate solution for the CEF grants implementation, will lead over the years to increased efficiencies and simplified procedures both on the side of the CEF beneficiaries and for the Commission/ Executive Agencies.

Moreover, the following sectoral developments also aim at contributing to an enhanced programme implementation:

Transport:

Lessons learned:

Following the recommendations issued by the ECA in its special report 19/2019, more stringent conditions for the assessment of the maturity of the works proposals have been included¹⁵. This novelty is expected to trigger the submission of more mature projects and lead to the selection of actions ready to deliver and less exposed to risks. In addition, these measures have also been accompanied by the adoption of the directive on streamlining measures¹⁶, with the objective of advancing the completion of the

¹⁵ Point 10.3 of the Annex to the Decion adopting the 2021-2127 Multi-Annual Work Programme. <https://transport.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-08/c20215763-cef-financing-annex.pdf>

¹⁶ DIRECTIVE (EU) 2021/1187 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 on streamlining measures for advancing the realisation of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T)

Trans-European transport network and aiming at simplifying permitting and granting procedures for cross-border transport infrastructures.

Furthermore, the CEF 2021-2027 legal base includes an enhanced consistency with the Corridor work plans and better integration of the Core Network Corridor Coordinators advice¹⁷, further enhancing the contribution of the programme for the achievement of the TEN-T objective and strengthening the network impact of the programme.

Blending:

For the period 2021-2027, the lessons learned from the CEF 2014-2020 Blending call and Blending Facility experiences also allowed to develop a new solution with the aim to improve geographical balance and further enhance the maturity of the project proposals. In detail, the new Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF), while keeping cooperating with Implementing Partners (IPs), opens the possibility for projects promoters to seek a financing from other public or private financial institutions. Furthermore, it aims at further enhancing maturity, requiring a financing approval ahead of the application, but also requiring a signed financing agreement before the signature of the CEF Grant Agreement. As an additional element, the duration of the Grant Agreements has been reduced to 36 months from the date of cut-off. In this framework, IPs remain privileged interlocutors, ensuring a more comprehensive due diligence, through a comprehensive risk-based appraisal process including financial, technical, environmental and social, economic, legal risk and compliance assessment. As another novelty, the AFIF opens for the first time the possibility of blending for the cohesion envelope budget.

In terms of policy priorities, the AFIF further focuses the scope of its intervention, aligning its priorities to the Green Deal objectives and in particular to the Commission proposal for a Regulation on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (AFIR)¹⁸, contributing to the measures proposed in the framework of the “fit for 55”¹⁹ package. The AFIF aims to support alternative fuels infrastructure, recognised as a market segment with a considerable potential to attract market-based financing in the near future. In this respect, the AFIF takes into account the recommendation of ECA in its Special Report 05/2021 in the field of electromobility and the requirement for an infrastructure gap analysis, focussing on ultra-fast charging infrastructure for Light Duty Vehicles (LDV). Moreover it supports charging infrastructure for Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDV) mainly for distant transport along the TEN-T road network. The support will be channelled to sections presenting infrastructural gaps by means of eligibility maps displayed on the TENtec interactive maps (updated regularly with the cut-off dates of the AFIF rolling call). Finally, with the ambition to speed up the roll out of ultrafast electric charging infrastructure on the roads, the support of the AFIF takes the forms of simplified forms of funding with unit contributions per charging point.

Simplified forms of funding:

In the same way of the AFIF and building on the successful experience of the CEF 2014-2020 programme, the use of simplified forms of funding has been further promoted. In particular, updated decisions on the use of unit contributions for different supported priorities/topic have been adopted²⁰ (ERTMS and Rail Freight Noise) and a new framework identifying unit contribution and lump sums²¹ for Member States and Railway Infrastructure Managers (RIM) has been developed for the disbursement of Technical Assistance support. This approach aims at further increasing the programme’s performance, through enhanced efficiency.

Learning from the experience of the CEF Energy 2014-2020 calls for proposals, the Commission has focused its attention on the careful assessment and inclusion of key improvements under the CEF 2021-2027 programme. The first Multiannual Work Programme under CEF II covers three years, which increased the predictability for potential applicants regarding call dates and available budget. Following a recommendation from the ECA special report of 2019, the indicators used to measure performance are improved by including results-based indicators.

In terms of policy priorities, the MWAP focuses on the European Green Deal objectives and the enabling role that cross-border infrastructure and projects in the field of renewable energy play in decarbonisation. This alignment with Green Deal objectives is supported by the framework of the revised TEN-E Regulation, which is fit for the infrastructure needs of the energy system of the future (see also section 1.4).

Digital:

Considering the delayed adoption of the CEF 2021-2027 legal basis and the adoption of the first multiannual work programme for CEF Digital in December 2021, it is too early to assess programme performance. The first calls for proposals were launched on 12 January 2022. With a planned budget of €258 million, the topics called for aim to improve digital connectivity infrastructures, in particular Gigabit and 5G networks, across the Union, and contribute to Europe's digital transformation.

These first calls aim to equip Europe's main transport routes and providers of key services in local communities with 5G connectivity, as well as actions to deploy or upgrade backbone networks based on advanced technologies. The actions will focus on

¹⁷ Article 14.4 of Regulation 2021/1153

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/revision_of_the_directive_on_deployment_of_the_alternative_fuels_infrastructure_with_annex_0.pdf

¹⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0550&from=EN>

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/cef/guidance/unit-cost-decision-cef-ertms-afif-evri-rfn_en.pdf

²¹ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-12/2021-12-08-lump-sum-cef-assistance_0.pdf

infrastructure connecting federated cloud services, backbone infrastructures for digital global gateways, such as submarine cables, as well as preparatory actions to set up operational digital platforms for transport and energy infrastructures across the EU.

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

In general, the approach of the Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020 is good. In particular, CEF is an effective and targeted instrument for investment in trans-European infrastructure (TEN) in transport, energy and the digital sector. CEF funding is therefore expected to strongly contribute to the Commission's priorities on jobs, growth and investment, the internal market, Energy Union and climate and the Digital Single Market by providing the infrastructure. The direct management of CEF grants has proven very efficient, with a strong project pipeline and a competitive selection process, a focus on EU policy objectives, coordinated implementation and the full involvement of Member States.

Closed projects supported under the CEF 2014-2020 programme clearly show their added value in contributing to the overall and sectoral CEF objectives and have achieved important outputs, paving the way for the completion of the trans-European networks. In this framework, it is important to underline that CEF projects target infrastructural interventions (mostly for the transport and energy sectors) and hence the level of information that can be provided is limited to their outputs. In fact, as an example, the construction of 20 km cross-border railway infrastructure is not telling on the services that will run on the same infrastructure. For this reason, while results and impacts are often estimated when a project is presented for EU funding, several variables (often out of the EC control) enter into play (e.g. national decisions on the railway services, transposition of EU Directives, e.g. interoperability and others) when trying to assess the actual results achieved.

Regarding synergies, in the 2014-2020 period there has been one synergetic call involving the transport and energy sectors. The stakeholders' reaction was not as successful as expected and for this reason no further synergy call was organised. As a lesson learned, in the context of the revised CEF Regulation, new specific provisions regarding synergies were included. In particular, article 10.2 presents the notion of synergetic element, allowing co-financing elements of any other sector under a sectoral specific action, following specific criteria and within a limit of maximum 20% of the total eligible costs of an action. Thanks to this new provision, in the coming years it is expected to set-up synergy work programmes that are the result of a bottom-up approach and are driven by the stakeholders' needs.

Furthermore, both the revised TEN-E Regulation and the proposal for the revised TEN-T Regulation support synergies among the CEF sectors.

With reference to the output indicators presented below, it is currently too early to conclude whether the programme's targets will be achieved as the nature of large-scale infrastructure projects makes it difficult to already present information. Nevertheless, the close monitoring of the projects provided by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) ensures the identification of actions for which amendments are needed, making the instrument very reactive to new needs and constraints.

Furthermore, the CEF parent DGs and the CINEA have worked and will continue working to improve the programme's performance through periodic exchanges. In particular, following the mid-term evaluation of CEF and in line with the recommendations of some ECA special reports, areas for improvement were identified (see point 2.2 above)

Transport:

Projects co-funded under the CEF Transport aim at supporting the completion of the Core and Comprehensive Transport Networks, with a specific focus on the nine Core Network Corridors (CNC). Moreover, the CEF co-financed projects backed the decarbonised and digitalised transport sector objectives. In this framework, the CEF actions foster the completion of a smart, high-performance and sustainable transport network, allowing seamless mobility for passengers and freight around Europe. This contributes to the overall EU policy goals of a complete single market, boosting jobs and supporting a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU.

The 1036 actions signed within the CEF transport 2014-2020 support more than EUR 23 billion CEF contribution and trigger more than EUR 50 billion of private and public investments. These have strongly contributed to pave the way for the achievement of the key TEN-T and wide EU policy objectives. In particular, the CEF has been one of the front running EU spending programmes supporting sustainable and digital transition. In line with the European Green Deal, transport investments for infrastructures strongly contributed to climate objectives, feeding the EU long-term decarbonisation commitments. Around 80% of the CEF support has been allocated to the rail and inland waterways sectors and to the support to the acceleration of the deployment of alternative fuels facilities, fostering a new mobility paradigm (please see point 6.1.3 below). Moreover, data and digital infrastructure have received targeted support, enhancing the deployment of digital solutions for all transport modes, backing the ecological transition for all sectors, including for transport.

Over the years the selection of CEF Transport projects and the outputs of closed projects, have always contributed to the achievement of the TEN-T objectives addressing the removal of bottlenecks and enhancing interoperability, ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems and optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes.

Moreover, the efficient management of CEF funds and the mitigating measures adopted by the Commission services and its Executive Agency (as described under point 2.2), allowed to channel additional re-allocated funds to mature projects that responded to the same key goals.

As a result, the last call for proposals has been launched in 2020, to allow for mature projects to benefit from CEF support. On top of it, the last three cut-off related to the Blending Facility were completed. Overall; in 2021 these procedures led to the signature of 107 additional grant agreements with an overall CEF contribution of more than EUR 480 million, triggering investments for more than EUR 1.5 billion.

On one hand, the 2020 MAP call for proposal focused on studies supporting the future completion of the railway, inland waterways and maritime transport modes along the TEN-T networks while the Blending Facility awarded funds for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (mostly along the road network) and ERTMS technology. In detail:

MAP 2020 calls for proposals:

As a result of the call, in 2021 the Commission has selected 45 studies with an awaited focus on the improvement of railway cross border sections. These encompass future works to complete [Rail Baltica](#) and the access to the [Fehmarn Belt fixed link](#), studies to improve interoperability and connectivity between [Austria](#), Germany, [Poland](#) and the [Czech Republic](#), as well as studies aiming at enhancing cross-border connections [between Spain and Portugal](#) and between [Hungary](#) and the [Austrian/Slovakian border](#). The overall CEF contribution is of more than EUR 220 million, supporting almost EUR 400 million of total eligible costs.

For the Inland waterways sector, the 2020 MAP call resulted in 14 selected studies and a CEF support of around EUR 17 million. The actions mainly concern future planned interventions to improve navigability, improve cross-border sections along inland waterways as well as the fostering modal shift through the future construction of multimodal terminals along the waterway. An illustrative action relates to the studies to develop [multimodal logistic platforms along the Canal du Nord](#) alignment, part of the cross-border Seine-Scheldt network, playing an important role in promoting modal shift and developing waterside industrial and logistic activities.

The last CEF call for proposals also supported 18 studies for the maritime sector, mostly encompassing preparatory steps for future improved maritime, river and land access to ports and enhanced multimodality through upgraded port infrastructures. The CEF support amounts to more than EUR 44 million. To note, the joint efforts of the North Adriatic Port Association (NAPA), for the completion of studies at [ports in Italy and Slovenia](#), with the aim to improve port access, increase multimodal options and deploy alternative fuels solutions. Furthermore, out of these projects, CEF support has been awarded to 6 studies addressing the future deployment of onshore power supply (OPS) and energy transition at ports, in particular at the port of [Piraeus \(Athens\)](#), [Rotterdam](#) and Leixões (Porto), hence contributing to the Green Deal objectives.

Blending Facility (cut-off 3, 4 and 5):

In the same period, the evaluation of the last three cut-off of the CEF Transport Blending facility took place, leading to the selection of 19 projects for the Alternative Fuels priority, with a CEF support of almost EUR 115 million and the selection of 5 projects under the ERTMS priority, with a total CEF contribution of more than EUR 50 million. For the Alternative Fuels priority, the selected projects focused on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructures for road, with a particular attention to the public transport sector, supporting the deployment of low and zero emission solutions (bio-CNG, electricity and hydrogen) in urban areas such as [Paris](#), [Lyon](#), as well as in [Groningen](#) and [Barcelona](#). For the ERTMS priority, to mention the support to the retrofitting, upgrade or fitment of 221 railway vehicles (freight locomotives and passenger trainsets) with 349 ERTMS Level 2, Baseline 3 (set #2 or #3) on-board units (OBUs) circulating along the French, German and Luxembourgish TEN-T rail network.

CEF Transport indicators:

When assessing the indicators reported below, it is important to have in mind that their targets are based on the on-going actions, and therefore increase every time a new action is selected. In addition, there is a time lag of approximately one year and a half between the actual completion of a project and its registration as a result: this delay corresponds to the administrative closure of the projects.

At the same time, as underlined under section 2.2 above, the implementation pace of the programme and the performance against its related indicators has been delayed by issues not always under the direct control of the Commission. Moreover, the COVID pandemic has further jeopardised the achievement of the expected results during year 2021, delaying the projects implementation as reflected in the extension policy adopted in 2020²².

For the above-mentioned reasons, around 50% of actions within the CEF Transport portfolio have undergone an amendment to extend their duration, with an average extension request of 19 months. This led to the postponement of the actual end date of many projects and generated a situation by which more than 50% of the actions within the CEF Transport portfolio and more than 75% of the projects still ongoing are expected to be completed between 2022 and 2024.

²² Information note to the CEF Transport Committee of 11 June 2020- Ares (2020) 3101743-
https://ec.europa.eu/inea/sites/inea/files/cefpub/new_info_note_to_the_cef_committee_on_extension_policy.pdf

In the light of above, it can be confirmed that the long-term success and performance of the CEF Transport programme cannot be currently reflected in the indicators reported below. In fact, the majority of the CEF Transport actions signed as outcome of past calls for proposals are still ongoing and their results (outputs) will be achieved up to end of 2024. Nevertheless, for 2021 it could be observed that the performance achievement start to materialise. It is considered that in the coming years more achievements will be reached, towards meeting the expected targets.

Energy:

CEF Energy funded actions have significantly contributed to the decarbonisation of the EU energy market by strengthening cross-border connections aiming to end energy isolation and eliminate bottlenecks, therewith decreasing dependence on fossil fuels. CEF Energy also supports projects increasing security of supply in Member States where this issue is most pressing. Examples include the Estonia-Latvia third electricity interconnection that will increase the security of supply in the Baltic region by reinforcing north-south electricity connections (see also below), the Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania, the first gas interconnector between the eastern Baltic Sea region and continental Europe, and Balticconnector, the first gas interconnector between Finland and Estonia.

In 2021, the following PCIs were completed and supported by CEF grants for works in previous years:

- PCI 4.2.2: Internal line between Harku and Sindi (EE), part of the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan in electricity. Commissioned in August 2021, this new double circuit has a capacity of 1143 MVA/240 MVA and a length of 175 km. Known as the 3rd interconnection between Estonia and Latvia, it aims to increase the security of supply and develop the electricity market in the Baltic region.
- PCI 6.5.1: Development of an LNG terminal in Krk (HR) up to 2.6 bcm/a– Phase I and connecting pipeline Omišalj – Zlobin (HR), which comprises a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), a jetty and a connecting high-pressure pipeline, for an approximate send-out capacity of 2 bcm/year. The terminal will enhance the diversification and security of natural gas supply for the region.

In addition, other PCIs, which received the CEF support for studies on earlier implementation stages, were completed in 2021 include:

- PCI 1.7.2: Interconnection between Tourbe (FR) and Chilling (UK) [currently known as "IFA2" project], part of the Northern Seas offshore grid. This project entails a new subsea 320 kV – 390 kV HVDC link with a capacity of around 1000 MW between the UK and France, the CEF supported study contributed to the preparation of necessary studies required to enable positive Final Investment Decision (FID) decisions on behalf of both beneficiaries and signature of construction contracts.
- PCI 1.10.1: Interconnection between Blythe (UK) and Kvittdal (NO) [currently known as "North Sea Link"]. The CEF supported study included the technical design studies for cable equipment, technical design tasks associated with converters, as well as reception of required permits, planning conditions and licenses for a HVDC subsea interconnection with a capacity for 1.4 GW between Norway and the United Kingdom.
- PCI 3.7.3: Construction of a new 400 kV AC line (OHL) of 13 km and with a capacity of 1500 MW between Maritsa East and Maritsa East 3 (onshore).
- PCI 3.16.1: Interconnection Hungary – Slovakia between Gabčíkovo (SK) and Gönyű (HU) and Veľký Ďúr (SK)
- PCI 3.17: Interconnection Hungary – Slovakia between Sajóivánka (HU) and Rimavská Sobota (SK)
- PCI 3.7.4: Construction of new 400 kv OHTL between Maritsa East and Burgas
- PCI 3.8.1: Construction of a new 400 kV line between Dobrudja and Burgas.

Overall, it is important to note that CEF Energy is a strong catalyst in bringing together project promoters, National Regulatory Authorities, and government representatives to solve issues so that cross-border infrastructure projects can be realised. Its grants component is making the difference in promoting cooperation between countries to develop and implement energy interconnection PCIs that otherwise would not happen. This is especially the case for cross-border projects located in countries with smaller population sizes or in a more remote location, where energy tariffs would need to be increased substantially to cover the investment needs. The Celtic electricity Interconnector between Ireland and France and the Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania are examples of projects that could not have been funded in a purely national context.

The success in awarding CEF Energy co-funding to numerous actions of the PCIs and its contribution to policy objectives of the TEN-E Regulation may not be fully reflected yet in the indicators and results reported below due to the long implementation time of the grants for works for large and technically complex energy infrastructure projects. In addition to the long lead-time, it takes time before actual results will be reported. Delays may occur for various reasons including securing sufficient co-funding (national or other sources), public procurement issues (e.g. complaints/appeals during tender procedures) as well as legal and environmental issues (e.g. permitting, spatial planning, other authorisations and land acquisition). The Covid19 sanitary crisis has also led to additional delays for some actions, e.g. the need to reschedule public consultations resulting in longer than expected permitting procedures. Moreover, the reporting and monitoring on actual results will only be done with some delay once the project is closed after the final report has been received and assessed, the outputs verified and the final payment (if need be) performed.

For specific objectives 4 and 5²³, it is to be noted that the initial list of 248 energy infrastructure projects that are Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) is updated every two years and that the PCIs referred to are those on the fourth list, published by the Commission on 31 October 2019. The selection of PCIs is an on-going process to cater for emerging projects geared to fulfil future needs. It is therefore of prime importance to indicate to which edition of the list indicator values refer to. The fourth Union list of PCIs²⁴ contains 149 projects (of which 85 received CEF support), i.e., 100 electricity transmission and storage, 6 smart grid deployment, 32 gas, 6 oil and 5 cross-border carbon dioxide networks. Electricity and smart grids account for more than 70% of the projects, mirroring the increasing role of renewable electricity in the energy system and the need for network reinforcements enabling the integration of renewables and more cross-border trade. On 21 November 2021, the Commission published its fifth PCI list, expected to enter into force in March 2022; the projects on this list will be able to apply as of the 2022 call.

The actions supported by CEF Energy are overall progressing well with several actions/PCIs completed in 2021 for which CEF Energy provided co-funding for works and/or studies (see below for further details). Only 5 actions have been terminated since the beginning of the programme. Most of the closed actions demonstrated full technical completion and made an important contribution to the PCI implementation. In some cases, delays affecting the end date of the action are however observed. Main reasons for the delays relate to procurement, permitting, public acceptance, regulatory and political issues (see also above). Despite many key projects still on-going, as explained above, some important PCIs could be completed in 2021 and previous years contributing to the specific objectives. A study supporting the evaluation of the TEN-E Regulation concluded that commissioned PCIs have increased market integration, security of supply and supported the integration of renewable energy sources into the energy system²⁵.

Specific objective 4 - Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders

In the period 2014-2020, CEF Energy funded actions have significantly contributed to the integration of the EU energy market through strengthening cross-border connections aiming to end energy isolation and increasing transmission power. PCIs contributing to this specific objective are progressing, but some face significant delays, mostly due to external factors. Delays in the permitting phase, often related to public opposition, prevent timely completion. In addition, in some cases it was not possible to implement the projects with the originally envisaged route which required the identification of alternative routes making additional studies and assessments necessary.

When the gas PCIs currently under implementation will be in operation, Europe should achieve a well-interconnected and shock-resilient gas grid and all Member States will have access to at least three gas sources or the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market. 23 Member States will have access to the global LNG market with increasing liquidity which is a key element to improve the Union's energy security through the diversification of gas sources. The completion of two Hungary-Slovakia interconnections will increase market integration in central Europe. With the completion of the LNG terminal in Krk (Croatia) in January 2021, which comprises a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), a jetty and a connecting high-pressure pipeline, for an approximate send-out capacity of 2 bcm/year, an important milestone was achieved to enhance the diversification and security of natural gas supply for the region.

Specific objective 5 - Enhancing Union security of energy supply

CEF Energy also supports projects increasing security of supply in Member States where this issue is most pressing; concerning this objective it is important to note that the number of gas PCIs on the fourth PCI list has considerably decreased compared to the third PCI list. Examples include the Estonia-Latvia third electricity interconnection that will increase the security of supply in the Baltic region by reinforcing north-south electricity connections (see also below), the Gas Interconnector Poland-Lithuania, the first gas interconnector between the eastern Baltic Sea region and continental Europe, and Balticconnector, the first gas interconnector between Finland and Estonia.

In addition to CEF financial assistance, four High-Level Groups set-up by the Commission in different regions of the EU with a scope of providing high-level political support and direction to assist infrastructure development in these regions, have made an important contribution to the successful completion of action/PCIs. These four groups are the Central and South-Eastern European Connectivity (CESEC) Initiative, the North Sea Energy Cooperation (NSEC), the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) and the High-Level Group on Interconnections for South-West Europe (HLG SWE). For instance, CESEC has been important to advance the completion of the Krk LNG terminal, and BEMIP plays an important role in ensuring good progress with the Baltic Synchronisation project.

Telecom:

²³ **Specific Objective 4:** Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders;

Specific Objective 5: Enhancing Union security of energy supply;

²⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/8409 of 19 November 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Union list of projects of common interest. OJ L 74, 11.3.2020, p. 1 http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/389/oj

²⁵ Ecorys et al. (2021): Support to the evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure. Final report, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/19bec11f-5f86-11eb-b487-01aa75ed71a1>

For the objective of contributing to the efficient flow of private and public investments to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks, CEF Telecom invested into two complementary actions: WiFi4EU and the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (CEBF).

The figures on WiFi4EU networks in operation and in preparation show that the initiative has been performing well and had delivered on the political promise to attribute wireless connectivity vouchers (of EUR 15 000 each) to about 8 800 municipalities, across the EU. By December 2021, around 8 800 municipalities have received WiFi4EU support, with more than 7000 networks already installed and currently used by European citizens.

Extensive, but small, ground-level, schemes like WiFi4EU bring significant impact in terms of raising awareness of the importance of connectivity and supporting digital inclusion, especially in rural areas. However, in order to efficiently manage the thousands of beneficiaries it was essential to put in place an adequate IT infrastructure to support the execution of the programme from the outset. The experience gained in WiFi4EU is a precious start point for any future similar scheme. In the future CEF Digital, WiFi4EU will evolve to support 5G deployment and take up by local communities, by offering innovative services based on 5G (*5G for Smart Communities*)

The CEBF is the first investment platform ever created in Europe to boost investments in broadband infrastructures. The anchor investors are the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB), and three National Promotional Banks and Institutions (NPBIs). The mandate is to finance broadband infrastructure “greenfield” projects, in order to contribute achieving the objectives set forth in the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) and the European Gigabit Society (EGS) communication.

The CEBF is supporting deployment projects focusing mostly in remote or rural areas, where population density is low and there is a strong risk of a 'digital divide'. It is contributing to closing the funding gap in the market via direct financing to private sector (focusing on mid-caps and SMEs), publicly owned companies, public and private partnerships, and via financial intermediaries.

The private sector is involved at two levels: 1) at Fund level, to facilitate private investments, by using public funds (first loss piece contributed by CEF Telecom) to absorb part of the risks; 2) at investment level (project promoters), CEBF financing complements private sector funding, as well as public sector support, to cover the financial needs of broadband deployment projects.

Due to the nature of the projects (“greenfield”, rural areas, market-failure), the CEBF is de-facto acting as a “business angel” for most of those projects. This allows projects to go beyond the stage after which it will be able to raise additional funding from private banks. The role of the Commission’s first loss piece is therefore essential to lower the risk exposure of projects and closing the deal with private investors.

The Connecting Europe Broadband Fund has performed well. Based on the EUR 100 million “first loss piece” provided by the Commission, EUR 290 million from the EIB and the three National Promotional Banking Institutions (NPBIs) the fund reaches today EUR 555 million in capital after final closing. This includes EUR 165 million from six private investors, representing a leverage of 30% of the fund value. The portfolio to-date includes 8 projects which, together with the projects currently in the pipeline, ensure a balanced geographical coverage of the EU Member States. In terms of connectivity results, the currently available data (30 September 2021) shows that 225,789 households have access to high speed fibre communication networks as a result of the deployment projects supported by CEBF.

One lesson learnt is that future financial vehicles should have a broader and more flexible scope for strategic investments so as to address policy needs as they emerge. This flexibility is needed to support a sector like digital, which is evolving very rapidly in terms of technologies and markets.

3.2. Key achievements

TRANSPORT achievements in 2021²⁶

In 2021, despite the difficulties related to the COVID pandemic context, some projects selected under previous calls for proposals (between 2014 and 2017) were opportunely completed, contributing to the achievement of climate and digitalisation objectives for the transport sector:

143	204	4200	More than 150
Ultra-fast, fast and standard charging stations deployed across the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Austria,	km of double track railway line equipped with ERTMS in the Czech Republic, improving safety and allowing for enhanced interoperability along the Baltic- Adriatic Core	km of TEN-T road where harmonised and synchronized ITS services have been deployed	Km of railway lines improved along the Austrian and German railway networks, including 21 km of tunnels (Koralalm) and a 1,5 km cross border section between the two countries (Freilassing-

²⁶ The achievements mentioned in this section refer to projects closed during 2020. It is anyhow to be noted that the achievements in term of KPIs have been attributed to the year of the CEF supported Action end date.

Slovakia and Poland.

Network Corridor.

Salzburg).



ENERGY achievements in 2021

12.43 GW	1,455 km	5.4 bcm/y	497 km
Additional electricity transmission capacity	of electricity lines installed in Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Norway and the UK	Additional gas transmission capacity through completion of 2 supported PCI projects	of gas pipelines installed in Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Estonia and Latvia

Nine CEF-supported PCIs completed in 2021 contributed to this additional increase in electricity and gas capacity and electricity and gas lines.

TELECOM achievements in 2021:

WiFi4EU ²⁷ vouchers awarded	Networks installed		WiFi4EU operational access points
8 802	7 348		76 178

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the latest evaluations have been presented in the Programme Statement 2019 ⁽²⁸⁾.

Transport:

After the publication of the Staff Working Document on its evaluation in May 2021, the closure of the open public consultation in the same month and the finalisation of the impact assessment exercise, in December 2021, the Commission presented its proposals for the review of the TEN-T Regulation (EU) N° 1315/2013. The files have started its legislative procedure and will be negotiated with the co-legislators.

Specific studies:

- **TEN-T Core Network Corridor studies:** Corridor studies for 2020-2021 (5th version) are currently in preparation and are expected to be finalised and published during 2022. The studies provide an updated overview of the TEN-T completion along the 9 Core Network Corridors and for the 2 horizontal priorities of European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and Motorways of the Sea (MoS).

Energy:

In December 2021, the Commission and co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the revision of the TEN-E Regulation, see above (section 1.4) for more information.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to efficient and interconnected networks and infrastructure for smart, sustainable, inclusive, safe and secure mobility (Transport strand)

²⁷ Data as of February 2022

⁽²⁸⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/swd-2018-0044-mid-term-evaluation-cef-ia-part2.pdf>

Indicator 1: Number of cross-border and missing links addressed with the support of CEF

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0				5			50			77
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest related to efficient interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility (art. 3.2 a) i) of CEF 2021-2027 Regulation. In particular, it refers to eligible actions relating to efficient, interconnected, interoperable and multimodal networks for the development of railway, road, inland waterway and maritime infrastructure (art. 9.2 a) of the CEF Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Under the CEF 14-20 data for a similar indicator were collected: number of new or improved cross-border connections and number of removed bottlenecks and sections of increased capacity on transport routes for all modes. However, it was not clear against which set of data this indicator had to be collected (all CEF projects, only pre-identified projects, etc.) and a clear definition of bottlenecks and sections of increased capacity was missing. Moreover, CEF Actions might only partially address a cross-border connection (through a study or through a first phase of the works); hence, it was not clear how to measure the CEF intervention.
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number of cross-border and missing links addressed will depend on several factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that the indicator is on-track as first measurable results should be achieved during year 2024, when it is estimated that some studies awarded under the first calls for proposals will be completed. The bulk of the projects (works) addressing this indicator are expected to be completed in a much larger timeframe (5 to 7 years), considering their complexity.

Indicator 2: Number of CEF supported actions contributing to the digitalisation of transport, in particular through the deployment of ERTMS, RIS, ITS, VTMS/e-maritime services and SESAR

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0				160						200
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest related to efficient interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility (art. 3.2 a) i) of CEF 2021-2027 Regulation. In particular, it refers to eligible actions relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and supporting telematics application systems in accordance with article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 for the respective transport modes and art. 9.2 b) ii) of the CEF Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator measuring number of CEF supported actions does not have any correspondence in the CEF 14-20 programme. In the previous programme, output indicators measured in terms of number of kilometres were established for some of the priorities, such as ERTMS, RIS and ITS.
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number of actions contributing to digitalisation of transport will depend on several

	factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that this indicator is on track, estimating the same average reply by stakeholders as for CEF 14-20 and considering the budget allocated (with an important frontloading for the first 3 years of implementation, around 70%), the foreseen level of CEF Transport grants should be reached.

Indicator 3: Number of alternative fuel supply points built or upgraded with the support of CEF

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0						12 000				38 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest related to efficient interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility (art. 3.2 a) i) of CEF 2021-2027 Regulation. In particular, it refers to eligible actions relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and supporting alternative fuels infrastructure for all modes of transport, in accordance with article 33 of the Regulation (EU) 1315/2013 and art. 9.2 b) iv) of the CEF Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Under the CEF 14-20 data for a similar indicator were collected: number of supply points for alternative fuels for vehicles using the TEN-T core network for road transport and number of ports and inland ports of the Core network equipped with supply points for alternative fuels. However, the two indicators measured on one side supply points for one single mode (road) and number of nodes (ports or inland ports) for other two transport modes. Moreover, CEF 14-20 supported alternative fuels which are not covered anymore under CEF 21-27 (e.g. CNG and LPG).
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number of alternative fuel supply points addressed will depend on several factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that the indicator is on-track as first measurable results should be achieved during year 2026, when it is estimated that part of the projects awarded under the AFIF rolling call will be completed.

Indicator 4: Number of CEF supported actions contributing to the safety of transport

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0				60						90
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest related to efficient interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility (art. 3.2 a) i) of CEF 2021-2027 Regulation. In particular, it refers to eligible actions relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and supporting safe and secure infrastructure and mobility for road, in accordance with Article 34 of the Regulation (EU) 1315/2013 and art. 9.2 b) vii) of the CEF Regulation.

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator, measuring number of CEF supported actions, does not have any correspondence in the CEF 14-20 programme. In the previous programme, an indicator measuring reduction of road casualties was included. It was nevertheless very difficult to link the infrastructural intervention only with the reduction of road casualties.
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number actions contributing to the safety of transport will depend on several factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that this indicator is on track, estimating the same average reply by stakeholders as for CEF 14-20 and considering the budget allocated (with an important frontloading for the first 3 years of implementation, around 70%), the foreseen level of CEF Transport grants should be reached.

Indicator 5: Number of CEF actions contributing to transport accessibility for persons with reduced mobility

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0				20						30
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest related to efficient interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility (art. 3.2 a) i) of CEF 2021-2027 Regulation. In particular, it refers to eligible actions relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and improving transport infrastructure accessibility in all modes of transport and for all users, especially users with reduced mobility, in accordance with Article 37 of the Regulation (EU) 1315/2013 and art. 9.2 b) ix) of the CEF Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator, measuring number of CEF supported actions, does not have any correspondence in the CEF 14-20 programme. Moreover, CEF supported grants related to accessibility issues were not monitored in the legacy programme.
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be very difficult to monitor with a greater granularity. In fact, tasks related to the improved accessibility of passengers with reduced mobility are always embedded into other activities and cannot be captures at Grant Agreement level. Moreover, it is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number of actions contributing to transport accessibility for persons with reduced mobility will depend on several factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that this indicator is on track, estimating the same average reply by stakeholders as for CEF 14-20 and considering the budget allocated (with an important frontloading for the first 3 years of implementation, around 70%), the foreseen level of CEF Transport grants should be reached.

Indicator 6: Number of CEF supported actions contributing to reduce rail freight noise

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0				14						20
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA

Link to the objective	The indicator aims at monitoring and measuring the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest related to efficient interconnected and multimodal networks and infrastructure for smart, interoperable, sustainable, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility (art. 3.2 a) i) of CEF 2021-2027 Regulation. In particular, it refers to eligible actions relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility and supporting the reduction of rail freight noise (art. 9.2 b) iii) of the CEF Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator, measuring number of CEF supported actions, does not have any correspondence in the CEF 14-20 programme. Moreover indicators for CEF supported grants related to reduction of rail freight noise were not reported in the legacy programme.
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number of actions contributing to the reduction of rail freight noise will depend on several factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that this indicator is on track, estimating the same average reply by stakeholders as for CEF 14-20 and considering the budget allocated (with an important frontloading for the first 3 years of implementation, around 70%), the foreseen level of CEF Transport grants should be reached.

Specific Objective 2: To adapt the TEN-T networks to military mobility need (Transport strand)

Indicator 1: Number of transport infrastructure components adapted to civilian-military dual-use requirements

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0				90						140
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units- cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	This indicator is relevant for CEF specific objective 7. The indicator will monitor and measure the CEF programme, fulfilling the specific objective of contributing to the development of projects of common interest to adapt parts of the TEN-T for the dual use of the transport infrastructure with a view to improving both civilian and military mobility (art. 3.2 a) ii) of CEF II Regulation. It refers to eligible actions or specific activities within an action, supporting parts, new or existing, of the TEN-T suitable for military transport, in order to adapt the TEN-T to dual-use infrastructure requirements (art. 9.2 c) of the CEF 2021-2027 Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Military Mobility supported actions are a novelty of the CEF 21-27 programme. No such actions were supported under CEF 14-20.
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that the methodology used for the definition of targets and milestones presents some shortcoming as the number of actions contributing to the reduction of rail freight noise will depend on several factors such as budget availability and stakeholders' response to call for proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As of 31/12/2021, the CEF 2021 calls launched in September 2021 are still under evaluation hence no Action has been supported through the programme under the Transport strand. Nevertheless, it is considered that this indicator is on track, considering the budget allocated (with an important frontloading for the first 3 years of implementation, around 70%), the foreseen level of CEF Transport grants should be reached.

Specific Objective 3: To contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to further integration of the internal energy market, interoperability of networks across borders and sectors, facilitating decarbonisation and the facilitation of cross-border cooperation in the area of renewable energy (Energy strand)

Indicator 1: Number of CEF actions contributing to projects interconnecting MS networks and removing internal constraints

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030

0				35						95
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Link to the objective	One of the specific objectives of the CEF Energy is to contribute to the development of the projects of common interest relating to further integration of an efficient and competitive internal energy market. The indicator shows the contribution of actions supported by CEF to this specific objective in electricity and gas sectors.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator follows up on two indicators used for the 2014-2020 MFF: 'the reduction or elimination of MS energy isolation' (in amount of PCIs) and 'the percentage of electricity cross-border transmission power in relation to installed electricity generation capacity in the relevant Member States' (in amount of Member States), which were used to measure the specific objective 'Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders'.
Other methodological comments	This indicator includes all CEF actions, except for storage projects, electrolysers and smart grids. The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The progress is 0 but the Grant Agreements to be signed in 2022 are expected to include 4 actions addressing the indicator, a number which is expected to increase, hence contributing to reach the milestone of 35 signed grant agreements in year 2024 and 94 in 2030 respectively.

Specific Objective 4: To contribute to the security of energy supply (Energy strand)

Indicator 1: Number of CEF actions contributing to projects ensuring resilient gas network

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0				3						3
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA. The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Link to the objective	The projects of common interest in the gas sector are aimed to develop missing or enhance existing interconnections to increase security of gas supply, cross-border trade and competition. The indicator shows the contribution of the actions supported by CEF to the trans-European energy networks policy objective to ensure the security of supply.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator follows up on one indicator used for the 2014-2020 MFF: 'System resilience, taking into account the number of supply disruptions and their duration' (in amount of Member States), which was used to measure the specific objective 'Enhancing Union security of energy supply'.
Other methodological comments	This indicator includes CEF actions in the categories of gas and gas storage. The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The progress is 0 but the Grant Agreements to be signed in 2022 are expected to include 1 action addressing the indicator, a number which is not expected to increase significantly, hence contributing to reach the milestone of 3 signed Grant Agreements in 2024 and 2030.

Indicator 2: Number of CEF actions contributing to the smartening and digitalisation of grids and increasing energy storage capacity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
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2020	Milestones								2030
0				10					25
	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Unit - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Link to the objective	Developing a smart and efficient energy system including storage and demand response solutions that help balance the grid significantly contributes to the ambitious EU long-term decarbonisation objectives, ensures efficiency and security of energy supply. Smart grid projects play key role in energy transition by integrating electricity generation, distribution or consumption using real time system management and influencing cross-border energy flows. The indicator shows the contribution of the CEF funded actions to achievement of these specific objectives.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator follows up on an indicator used for the 2014-2020 MFF: 'The number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes' (in amount of PCIs), which was used to measure the specific objective 'Enhancing Union security of energy supply'.
Other methodological comments	This indicator includes CEF actions related to smart grids and energy storage. The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The progress is 0 but the Grant Agreements to be signed after 2022 are expected to include actions addressing the indicator, hence contributing to reach the milestone of 10 signed grant agreements in year 2024 and 25 in 2030 respectively.

Specific Objective 5: To contribute to sustainable development through enabling decarbonisation (Energy strand)

Indicator 1: Number of CEF actions contributing to projects enabling increased penetration of renewable energy in the energy systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones								2030	
0				42						117
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2022.
Link to the objective	The focus of the TEN-E policy is shifting towards the accelerated integration of increasing amounts of renewable energy in line with the ambitious energy and climate targets, related energy security and the completion of the internal energy market by addressing remaining bottlenecks. Deployment of electricity interconnectors and storage facilities, development of the smart grids is crucial for integrating energy markets and enabling more renewables in the system. At the same time, biogas and renewable hydrogen are expected to play an important role in the future EU energy mix. The indicator will show the number of the CEF supported actions contributing to the projects of common interest enabling the increased penetration of renewable energy in the energy systems.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In this Programme Statement, the indicators under the CEF I objective 'Contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, inter alia by the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network, and by the development of smart energy networks and carbon dioxide networks' were not continued, hence in this case there is no Link with the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Includes actions on electricity, smart grids and storage. Potential inclusion of new categories of revised TEN-E Regulation, e.g. renewable hydrogen.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The progress is 0 but the Grant Agreements to be signed after 2022 are expected to include actions addressing the indicator, hence contributing to reach the milestone of 42 signed grant agreements in

year 2024 and 117 in 2030 respectively.

Indicator 2: Number of CEF actions contributing to cost efficient reaching of the EU shared RES target on the basis of cross-border cooperation in the area of renewables

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0				21						48
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The data will be collected after grant agreement signature and will be available as of that moment. The first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2021.
Link to the objective	The RED II Directive establishes a share EU target for RES by 2030. To create opportunities for reducing the cost of meeting the EU target and to give flexibility to Member States to comply with their obligation not to fall below their 2020 national targets after 2020, it is allowed the consumption in Member States of energy produced from renewable sources in other Member States and Member States are allowed to count energy from renewable sources consumed in other Member States towards their own renewable energy share. Bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements (statistical transfers, joint projects between Member States or joint support schemes) and the voluntary opening of support schemes to projects located in other Member States are supported under CEF actions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The cross-border renewables window is newly introduced under CEF II, hence there is no link to the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Includes actions on electricity, smart grids and storage. Potential inclusion of new categories of revised TEN-E Regulation, e.g. renewable hydrogen.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The progress is 0 but the Grant Agreements to be signed after 2022 are expected to include actions addressing the indicator, hence contributing to reach the milestone of 21 signed grant agreements in year 2024 and 48 in 2030 respectively.

Specific Objective 6: To contribute to the deployment of very high capacity digital networks and 5G systems, to the increased resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks on EU territories by linking them to neighbouring territories, as well to the digitalisation of transport and energy network (Digital strand)

Indicator 1: New connections to very high capacity networks for socio-economic drivers and very high quality connections for local communities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0	0	25	50	90						140
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	Project promoter /Monitoring data
Link to the objective	Contribution to the objective of increasing coverage with gigabit networks and 5G systems.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with CEF 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	Milestone figures relate to the first Multiannual Work Programme 2021-23. The figures represent the number of socio-economic drivers expected to have access to 5G systems for new, innovative, use cases, as a result of the projects funded (grants signed in a particular year). Given the adoption of the CEF digital WP only in December 2021, the first call for projects is only in 2022 and the first grants will be signed before the end of 2022. The number of actions foreseen is based on the budget available for the respective call, divided by the expected average size of the projects and assuming at least one socio-economic driver is connected.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Given the adoption of the CEF digital multiannual work programme in December 2021 and the first call for projects in January 2022, there is no data available yet.

Indicator 2: Number of CEF actions enabling 5G connectivity along transport paths

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2028
0	0	5	5	17						46
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units -cumulative
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	Implementing agency HaDEA
Link to the objective	Contribution to specific objective 6 of increasing coverage with 5G systems, in particular along transport corridors, thus contributing to achieving the 2025 gigabit society connectivity target “5G coverage along major transport paths” and the "5G for Europe: an action plan” and the 3rd mobility package Communication - On the road to automated mobility: an EU strategy for mobility of the future (COM(2018)283)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with CEF 2014-2020 (new topic)
Other methodological comments	Milestone figures related to the first Multiannual Work Programme 2021-23; Given the adoption of the CEF digital WP only in December 2021, the first call for deployment projects is only in 2022 with the grants to be signed before the end of 2022. The assumption is that the grants for the projects called for in 2023 will be signed in 2024 (therefore no new actions in 2023). The number of actions foreseen is based on the budget available for the respective call, divided by the expected average size of the projects. The actual progress (number of actions) will depend on the actual size of the projects to be funded.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Given the adoption of the CEF digital WP only in December 2021, and the first call for deployment projects in January 2022 with the grants to be signed before the end of 2022, there is no data yet available.

Indicator 3: Number of actions enabling new connections to very high capacity networks

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2028
0	0	11	29	36						50
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	Implementing agency HaDEA
Link to the objective	Direct relevance for the objective of increasing resilience and capacity of digital backbone networks in the EU (art. 3.2.c of the CEF Regulation). The co-funded actions will address, under different topics, the deployment of new, or significant upgrade of cross-border backbone networks.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with CEF 2014-2020, as it is a new topic/programme.
Other methodological comments	Milestone figures are related to the first Multiannual Work Programme 2021-23. The number of actions reported will integrate projects developed under the topics set out in the work programme, such as quantum communication infrastructures, interconnection of cloud centers, submarine cables. Given the adoption of the CEF digital WP only in December 2021, the first actions will be launched (grant agreements signed) only towards end of 2022. The number of actions foreseen is based on the budget available for the respective call, divided by the expected average size of the projects. Actual progress (number of actions) will depend on the actual size of the projects to be funded.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Given the adoption of the CEF digital WP in December 2021 and the first calls for proposals launched in January 2022, the first projects will be launched (grant agreements signed) only towards the end of 2022, therefore no data yet available.

Indicator 4: Number of CEF actions contributing to the digitalisation of energy and transport sectors

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
0	0	1	0	2						2
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Unit - cumulative
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	Future implementing Agency HaDEA
Link to the objective	Will contribute to the digitalisation of transport and energy networks
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with CEF 2014-2020 projects, new topic.
Other methodological comments	One dedicated call for proposals for one, or more, works projects is intended to be launched in 2024, to be specified in the next CEF digital multiannual work programme (covering 2024-27) A comprehensive coordination and support action will be executed in the meantime (grant signature expected by end of 2022).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The discussions on the 2021-23 CEF digital work programme resulted in the decision to start with a preparatory Coordination and Support Action, in order to prepare the works projects to be launched in the next work programme.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

General Objective 1: Developing modern and high-performing trans-European networks and creating an environment more conducive to private, public or public-private investment

Indicator 4: Volume of public and private investment in projects of common interest for fast and ultra-fast broadband internet funded by CEF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Private investments										
2013	Milestones									2020
0	0	0	0	0	0	30	100	100	100	110
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0	0	0	0	0	30	85	165		
Are we on track :	On track									
Public investments										
2013	Milestones									2020
0	0	0	0	0	0	390	390	390	390	390
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0	0	0	0	0	390	390	390		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	EUR million
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Report by Fund Manager
Narrative	Some reported figures are expected to vary more than others, in particular as the fund continues to invest in new projects and progressively starts disinvesting in existing ones. Also, additional investments (follow-on) are permitted after the initial Investment Period (currently 5 years following initial closing).
Methodology	The tables above present the private/public investments at fund level (for CEBF). At first close (2018), the capital of the fund was EUR 395 M out of which EUR 390 M public funds (EUR 100 M from the EC, EUR 140 M from EIB, EUR 150 M from three NPBI). Currently, the total capital of the fund is EUR 555 M, meaning that the fund has leveraged EUR 165 M of private funds. Private investment (at project level) is only available for debt taken on by the promoter of the projects but not

	for equity. In other words, leverage is under-estimated in this table. Private investment (at fund level) is expected to remain at EUR 165 M, as no new closing is expected to take place during the remaining term of the fund. The target fund size is EUR 500 M (EUR 110 M private and EUR 390 M public), but it should be kept in mind that (i) management fees reduce the capital actually available for investments, while (ii) the actual fund size (EUR 555 M) is actually higher than the target fund size.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Fund will continue to invest in projects aligned with the DG’s policy objectives, in particular focusing on Gigabit (fiber) networks.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The fund started to invest into projects only in 2019 with a significant increase in 2020.

Specific Objective 1: Removing bottlenecks, enhancing rail interoperability, bridging missing links, and improving cross-border sections

Indicator 2: Km of lines in service equipped with the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS), linked to TEN-T

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Km of track-side to be equipped with ERTMS through actions funded by CEF grants (double-track equivalent)										
2013	Milestones									2024
5 000										5 861
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	0	30	30	234	234		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Estimated total private, public or public-private partnership investment (i.e. eligible costs) triggered by CEF funding in a given year for actions achieving this indicator										
2013	Milestones									2024
										4 665.9
	Actual Progress									Final
	36	118.5	292.9	686.4	1 388.7	2 206.7	2 546.8	3 318.3		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km (additional to baseline) and EUR million respectively
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Narrative	Km are reported for the year during which the action was/is expected to be completed.
Methodology	Data shown cumulative. The target 2024 is the cumulative outputs for projects signed until 2021. The target is final as no more CEF 2014-2020 projects will be signed. The milestones are expected results by actions still ongoing while actual results correspond to outputs achieved by closed CEF Transport actions. To be also noted that CEF supported actions contribute to the reporting only once assessed by the CINEA and closed. In this framework, beneficiaries have 12 months after the final end-date of implementation of the Action to submit their final report. To this, the additional time for CINEA to assess the report and close the Action shall be considered.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Data collection on the KM or railway lines equipped with ERTMS will continue under the CEF 2021-2027 at level 3 indicators. Level 2 indicators enshrined in the CEF 21-27 legal base only aim at measuring the number of CEF supported projects concerning the digitalisation of transport.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In 2021, the “real” milestone (i.e. considering a 15 months gap to administratively close the action) is estimated to be 331 km. The indicator is hence on track if the additional administrative time-frame is considered. It is to be noted that the COVID pandemic still affected the timely submission of reports and hence the achievement of the expected results for year 2021. Milestones and target reflect the current programme portfolio, following amendments and terminations due to implementation issues (use it or lose it principle). Changes of the national deployment plans, long procurement procedures and dependence on other rail projects conditioning its deployment and technical difficulties are the main delay factors observed. These factors are not under the direct control of the Commission.

Indicator 5: Length of the railway network in the EU-28 upgraded following the requirements set out in Article 45 (2) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total Gauge										

2013	Milestones									2024
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	216	280	662
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Total Electrification										
2013	Milestones									2024
				51	60	127	376	1 048		2 052
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	0	51	60	100	109		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Total Freight										
2013	Milestones									2024
				0	22	113	119	478	1 537	1 916
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	9	22	113	115	160		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Narrative	Km are reported for the year during which the action was/is expected to be completed.
Methodology	Data shown cumulative. The target 2024 is the cumulative outputs for projects signed until 2021. This is the final target as no other CEF 2014-2020 projects will be signed. The milestones are expected results by actions still ongoing while actual results correspond to outputs achieved by closed CEF Transport actions. To be also noted that CEF supported actions contribute to the reporting only once assessed by the CINEA and closed. In this framework, beneficiaries have 12 months after the final end-date of implementation of the Action to submit their final report. To this, the additional time for CINEA to assess the report and close the Action shall be considered. Please also note that after data quality check, the input on the gauge sub-indicator for the previous years had to be corrected.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Data collection on km railway lines supported by CEF on specific parameters such as gauge, electrification and capacity to accommodate 740 m freight trains are going to be measures at level 3 under the CEF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	It is to be noted that a data control check confirmed that no achievement was made for the number of Km of gauge supported by CEF. Wrong feature in the encoding system at CINEA provided wrong information for the previous years.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In 2021, the “real” milestones (i.e. considering a 15 months gap to administratively close the action) are estimated to be 216 km for the gauge, 376 km for the electrification and 478 km for freight. The indicator is hence moderately on track if the additional administrative time-frame is considered. It is to be noted that the COVID pandemic has further delayed the submission of reports and hence the achievement of the expected results for year 2021. Milestones and target reflect the current programme portfolio, following amendments and terminations due to implementation issues (use it or lose it principle). In particular, railway actions feeding to this indicator have been mainly affected by public procurement issues (e.g. complaints/appeals during tender procedures) as well as legal and environmental issues (e.g. permitting, spatial planning, other authorizations and land acquisition). Moreover, technical issues related to unforeseen events (such as landslides) and COVID affected timely completion.

Specific Objective 2: Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems in the long run, with a view to preparing for expected future transport flows, as well as enabling the decarbonisation of all modes of transport through transition to innovative low-carbon and energy-efficient transport technologies, while optimising safety

Indicator 1: Number of supply points for alternative fuels for vehicles using the TEN-T core network for road transport in the EU-28

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total										
2013	Milestones									2024

	0	0	9	247	592	947	1 366	1 745	11 567	20 969
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	9	247	592	944	1 259	1 259		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Hydrogen										
2013	Milestones									2024
	0	0	0	0	0	3	23	27	59	152
90	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Electric										
2012	Milestones									2024
	0	0	9	247	592	944	1 343	1 718	11 508	20 817
29 800	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	9	247	592	944	1 259	1 259		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of supply points. Additional to baseline
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Narrative	Foreseen milestones are expected results by still ongoing CEF actions. Each supply point is assumed to be operational in the year in which the CEF funded action has been completed. A CEF-funded action can include several supply points. The number of supply points is attributed to the year when the full action defined in the grant agreement has been completed (e.g. if a grant stipulates the creation of 100 supply points, the action is only considered as completed in the year when all 100 supply points have been set up. All the 100 supply points are then attributed to that year, even if most of them had already been set up in previous years).
Methodology	Data shown cumulative. The target 2024 is the cumulative outputs for projects signed until 2021. The target is final as no other CEF 2014-2020 projects will be signed. The milestones are expected results by actions still ongoing while actual results correspond to outputs achieved by closed CEF Transport actions. To be also noted that CEF supported actions contribute to the reporting only once assessed by the CINEA and closed. In this framework, beneficiaries have 12 months after the final end date of implementation of the Action to submit their final report. To this, the additional time for CINEA to assess the report and close the Action shall be considered.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Data on the number of supply points for alternative fuels for road will continue to be collected as level 2 and level 3 indicators under the CEF 2021-2027 programme.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In 2021, the “real” milestone (i.e. considering a 15 months gap to administratively close the action) is estimated to be 1745 supply points. The indicator is hence on track if the additional administrative time-frame is considered. It is to be noted that the COVID still affected the timely submission of reports and hence the achievement of the expected results for year 2021. Milestones and target reflect the current programme portfolio, following amendments and terminations due to implementation issues (use it or lose it principle). In particular, for alternative fuels infrastructures, issues related to securing appropriate locations and changing market conditions have had important impacts. During the implementation period it also appeared clear that more efforts will be needed to ensure the network effect of these Actions. For this reason, a new Alternative Fuels Facility has been developed and launched for the CEF 2021-2027 programme to boost the use of financial instruments. The facility will also contribute to better allocate the investments according to the needs along the network through the update of a dedicated deployment map.

Specific Objective 4: Increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders

Indicator 2: Reduction or elimination of Member States' energy isolation

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2024
					9	8	6			4
9	Actual Progress									Final
					9	8	6	6		

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	PCIs
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Narrative	While the challenge remain important for peripheral or isolated Member States, by implementation of several projects of common interest the isolation is reduced in several parts of the EU (The Commission Staff working Document (C(2021)335)
Methodology	The indicator is related to the number of PCIs to be commissioned to reduce or eliminate energy isolation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to the 2021-2027 indicator 'Number of actions supported by the CEF contributing to projects interconnecting MS networks and removing internal constraints'.
Other methodological comments	Number of PCIs contributing to the reduction or elimination of Member States' energy isolation to be commissioned. This indicator has been monitored during the programme implementation based on formal monitoring requirements for PCIs set out in the TEN-E Regulation (Art. 5, monitoring and implementation). Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, this indicator is kept until the end of the programme and can be used ex-post.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Despite the completion of PCIs which received CEF financial assistance in the form of grants for works and/or studies, there are still 6 PCIs to be commissioned, also as a consequence of Brexit and the implications for Ireland.

Indicator 3: Percentage of electricity cross-border transmission power in relation to installed electricity generation capacity in the relevant Member States

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2024
16	Actual Progress									Final
	17			17	17	17	19	16		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Member States
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ENTSO-E
Narrative	The number of Member States that are above the 15% by 2030 interconnectivity target as set out in Regulation 2018/1999 of the governance of the Energy Union and replacing the previous target of 10% by 2020.
Methodology	This indicator lists the amount of Member States that are above the 15% interconnection target as set out in the Regulation on the governance of the Energy Union. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, this indicator has been monitored during the programme implementation. It measures the ration of cross-border transmission capacity and the installed generation capacity in a Member State. It can also be used ex-post. The 15% target for 2021 replaces the previous 10% target, which was used until 2020 and based on recital 5 in the 2013 TEN-E Regulation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to the 2021-2027 indicator 'Number of actions supported by the CEF contributing to projects interconnecting MS networks and removing internal constraints'.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	PCIs contributing to this specific objective have been completed and are progressing. However, some PCIs that contribute to the achievement of this indicator face significant delays in particular at the permitting phase. The final target is set for 25, since Cyprus and Ireland are not expected to reach 15% given their geographically isolated location.

Specific Objective 5: Enhancing Union security of energy supply

Indicator 1: Number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2024
	Actual Progress									Final
				40	38		11			1

				40	38	28	13	12		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	PCIs
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Narrative	Number of PCIs supporting EU's security of supply to be commissioned
Methodology	The indicator is related to the number of PCIs to be commissioned to support EU security of energy supply
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to the 2021-2027 indicator 'Number of actions contributing to the smartening and digitalization of grids and increasing energy storage capacity'.
Other methodological comments	12 PCIs supporting the EU security of supply are still to be commissioned.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	One gas project was commissioned in 2021 (LNG terminal in Krk)

Indicator 3: System resilience, taking into account the number of supply disruptions and their duration

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
3		21			22		22			22
	Actual Progress									Final
		19	22	21	20	18	20	20		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Member States
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA
Narrative	This indicator measures Member States' preparedness in the event of a disruption of the single largest gas infrastructure.
Methodology	Baseline: Gas: 3 MS do not meet the N-1 formula (as defined in Regulation (EU) No 994/2010) – Bulgaria, Greece and Portugal Target: Gas: N-1 is met by 22 MS (all except Cyprus, Malta as long as they do not have gas system and Luxemburg, Slovenia, Sweden which have a derogation). For consistency over time, the milestones were not changed to take account of new provisions in the Regulation No (EU) 2017/1938 and the end of the derogation for Malta and Slovenia in 2019.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to the 2021-2027 indicator ' Number of actions supported by the CEF contributing to projects ensuring resilient gas network'
Other methodological comments	The indicator is based on monitoring requirements set out in Regulation No (EU) 2017/1938 on the security of supply for gas, under which Member States have to report every four years to the Commission (last notification: 2019). The progress of the indicator is based on PCIs which are implemented. Although its evolution is only partly related to the CEF budget, it can be monitored during the Programme implementation and can be kept until the end of the Programme. It can also be used ex-post.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Under the new criteria under Regulation No (EU) 2017/1938 which take also into account demand side measures, only one Member State does not meet the new target of 24 Member States. Due to notification every four years, there is no change in actual progress.

Specific Objective 9: Encourage and support entities with a public mission, such as local public authorities, to offer free Wi-Fi connectivity in the centres of community life (e.g. in and around public buildings, health centres, parks or town squares)

Indicator 1: Number of operational free Wi-Fi access points supported by CEF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2023
								65 000	80 000	90 000
	Actual Progress									Final
							32 000	71 800		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of access points
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	WiFi4EU portal
Narrative	The indicator measures the total number of WiFi hotspots installed, as a result of the vouchers, worth 15 000 euros each, awarded to the municipalities
Methodology	The municipalities report the Access Points created in the WiFi4EU networks.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Not applicable, as the first CEF Digital multiannual work programme (2021-23) does not include a similar action.
Other methodological comments	The current (revised) KPIs and their targets have been validated by the implementing executive Agency (HaDEA).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Network installations are increasing steadily and the trend observed in 2021, if confirmed, will lead to at least 85% of projects completed by end of 2022. The trend could decrease as of 2022 due to the expected completion of most of Call 2 and 3 rollouts.

Indicator 2: Number of daily connections generated on free Wi-Fi access points supported by CEF in a given year

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2023
								25000000	35000000	41000000
	Actual Progress									Final
							50000-100000	43000000		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Units
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	WiFi4EU portal
Narrative	The indicator measures the number of daily connections to the WiFi hotspots installed, representing an indication of the usage.
Methodology	Number of connections per day in a given year in all WiFi4EU networks. Connections are defined as “valid connections made by different devices in one day”. Each different device will be counted only once during a day (24 hour period).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Not applicable, as the first CEF Digital multiannual work programme (2021-23) does not include a similar action.
Other methodological comments	The KPIs and their targets have now been validated and implemented by the executive Agency (HaDEA). The cut-off date is end of 2025 as there will be at least a three year monitoring after implementation, for each and every beneficiary.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The use of the network was at an average rate of 117 620 daily connections. It is expected that the trend will keep on growing with the new deployments performed by beneficiaries of calls 2, 3 and 4, and with the launch of Phase II of the initiative which will provide secured connections and seamless roaming.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	4193.78	4323.00	4340.00	4358.00	1225.00	1242.00	1262.00	20943.78	63%

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The CEF 2021-2027 legal base includes in its recital 5 a clear reference to climate tracking objectives and a set of EU coefficients related to the Transport and Energy sectors. Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with Union’s

commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and the commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Regulation should therefore mainstream climate action and lead to the achievement of an overall target of at least 30% of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Actions under this Programme should contribute 60% of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives, based inter alia on the following coefficients:

- i) 100% for the expenditures relating to railway infrastructure, charging infrastructure alternative and sustainable fuels, clean urban transport, electricity transmission, electricity storage, smart grids, CO2 transportation and renewable energy;
- ii) 40% for inland waterways and multimodal transport, and gas infrastructure provided that it enables the use of renewable hydrogen or bio-methane to be increased.

As indicated under recital 5 of the CEF Regulation, “[...] the detailed climate expenditure tracking coefficients applied should be consistent with those set out in Annex 1 of Regulation EU 2021/1060, where applicable. Relevant actions will be identified during the preparation and implementation of the CEF, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes. In order to prevent the infrastructure from being vulnerable to potential long term climate change effects, and to ensure that the cost of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the project is included in the project's economic evaluation, projects supported by the CEF should be subject to climate proofing, where relevant, in accordance with guidance that should be developed by the Commission coherently with the guidance developed for other programmes of the Union [...]”

CEF2 objectives	CALL	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Projects on the Core Network (Total)	CORE	3.620	3.620	3.620	3.620			
Projects on the Core Network (Climate Tracking)*	CORE (80%)	2.896	2.896	2.896	2.896			
Projects on the Comprehensive Network (Total)	COMP	600	600	600	600			
Projects on the Comprehensive Network (Climate Tracking)*	COMP (80%)	480	480	480	480			
Actions related to smart and interoperable mobility (Total)	SIMOB	550	550	550	550			
Actions related to smart and interoperable mobility (Climate Tracking)**	SIMOB (40%)	220	220	220	220			
Actions related to sustainable and multimodal mobility: Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Facility (Total)	AFIF	525	525	525	525	602	602	602
Actions related to sustainable and multimodal mobility: Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Facility (Climate Tracking)***	AFIF (100%)	525	525	525	525	602	602	602
Actions related to sustainable and multimodal mobility: Other (Total)	SUSTMOB	125	125	125	125			
Actions related to sustainable and multimodal mobility: Other (Climate Tracking)****	SUSTMOB (40%)	50	50	50	50			
Actions related to safe and secure mobility (Total)	SAFEMOB	250	250	250	250			
Actions related to safe and secure mobility (Climate Tracking)*****	SAFEMOB (0%)	-	-	-	-			
Military Mobility (Total)	MILMOB	330	330	330	330			
Military Mobility (Climate Tracking)*****	MILMOB (40%)	132	132	132	132			
Total		6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000	602	602	602
Total (Climate tracking)		4.303	4.303	4.303	4.303	602	602	602
%		72%	72%	72%	72%	100%	100%	100%

For the Transport sector, the estimation follows a conservative approach and is based on the budget allocation included in the first set of call for proposals launched in September 2021 and still under evaluation. The contribution also includes the Cohesion envelope. As per first CEF 2021-2027 MAP, an important part of the budget has been front-loaded (around 70% of the budget).

For years from 2021 to 2024, the estimation it is based on the assumption that:

- 80% of the funding attributed to the support to projects on the Core and Comprehensive network will be focused to sustainable modes (e.g. rail or inland waterway), hence contributing at 100%. The remaining 20% is considered contributing at other modes, and hence calculated at 0%;
- For projects co-financed under smart and interoperable mobility calls, the average climate tracking will be at 40%;
- All projects supported under the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) will contribute at 100%;
- Projects co-funded under sustainable and multimodal mobility calls, should in average contribute at 40%;
- Co-financing provided under the safe and secure mobility calls will have a 0% tracking;
- Projects supported through the military mobility call, should in average contribute at 40%.

For years from 2025 to 2027 the estimation is based on the assumption that all remaining budget will be allocated to actions supporting the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructures along the TEN-T, hence contributing at 100% to climate objectives.

A more granular assessment at the project level is currently under preparation with the CINEA Agency. Final consolidated climate tracking information will hence available ex-post.

Energy:

Climate tracking	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Total	786.000.000	797.000.000	811.800.000	830.000.000	845.000.000	860.000.000	880.000.000
Total (climate tracking)	534.800.000	574.280.000	591.000.000	761.000.000	775.500.000	791.000.000	811.000.000
	68%	72%	73%	92%	92%	92%	92%

CEF Energy contributes to climate performance by supporting electricity and CO2 transport infrastructure, which count for a 100% climate tracking coefficient, for example through its support for the EuroAsia interconnector which connects Cyprus to Greece, both under CEF I and CEF II.

For CEF Energy it is expected that the climate mainstreaming contribution will increase significantly in the period 2021-2027 due to a higher share of electricity projects, the revised TEN-E Regulation, and the new window for cross-border renewable projects. The CEF Energy Work Programme for 2021-2027 is expected to contribute to the achievement of at least 60% of the overall financial envelope of the CEF Programme supporting climate objectives.

Based upon the climate tracking contribution of CEF Energy under CEF I, the estimated contribution of CEF II until 2024 is at least 68% for the CEF PCI budget, and 100% for the new cross-border renewables window. It is important to note that the 68% is a cautious approach: Under the last call of the CEF I Regulation (in 2020), the climate contribution was 84%, with 92% respectively under the first call of CEF II (in 2021); similar shares are expected under future calls. Given the revised TEN-E Regulation which will emphasise projects counted under 100% coefficient and will be at play from the CEF perspective as of 2024, after this year the climate tracking percentage is expected to increase to at least 92%.

For both the Transport and the Energy sectors, an accurate calculation of the contribution to climate objectives can only be presented ex-post. The outcome is dependent to the nature, the number and the final co-financing amount of projects awarded as result of CEF calls for proposals and their successful completion.

6.1.3. Key achievements

Using as a reference the above listed tracking methodology and considering that the CEF 2021-2027 programme set itself in continuation with the 2014-2020 legacy (at least for the transport and energy strands), it has been possible to develop the below methodology assessing the climate target contribution of the CEF 2014-2020 programme. The below table also includes the amounts of the Cohesion Fund managed through CEF (Transport).

Sector	Climate tracking	Number of actions	Actual CEF funding	Climate tracking * CEF funding	% OF TOTAL
Energy	0	75	1.634.469.957	-	
Energy	1	74	3.037.716.127	3.037.716.127	
Energy Total		149	4.672.186.084	3.037.716.127	65%
Synergy	0,4	4	8.510.072	3.404.029	
Synergy	1	3	12.291.140	12.291.140	
Synergy Total		7	20.801.212	15.695.169	75%
Transport	0	201	3.018.191.272	-	
Transport	0,4	345	3.515.893.650	1.406.357.460	
Transport	1	490	16.674.501.680	16.674.501.680	
Transport Total		1.036	23.208.586.601	18.080.859.140	78%
Grand Total		1.192	27.901.573.897	21.134.270.436	76%

6.1.4. Performance

It is expected that the CEF programme will strongly contribute to the climate performance of the EU spending programmes. As an example, in the transport sector, for Rail Baltica it is estimated that the project will create CO2 emission reduction benefits worth EUR 3.0 billion– contributing greatly to the EU’s global leadership in environmental sustainability.²⁹

CEF Energy contributes to climate performance by supporting electricity and CO2 transport infrastructure, for example through its support for the EuroAsia interconnector which connects Cyprus to Greece, both under CEF I and CEF II. Under the first call of CEF II, the climate contribution was 98%; we expect a similar share under future calls.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)					Total
		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00				0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %				0.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

²⁹ <https://www.railbaltica.org/rail-baltica-global-cost-benefit-analysis/>

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The programme will contribute to the ambition of 7.5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027 while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity objectives³⁰

In particular, for the transport sector, the first CEF 2021-2027 MAP includes the eligibility of activities relating to the mitigation of environmental impact and the preservation of biodiversity, notably as regards on-site reforestation or specific infrastructure components allowing for the continuity of the natural habitat or the safe crossing of animals³¹. Activities relating to the mitigation of environmental impact may also include noise protection barriers. Considering the setup of CEF Transport Grant Agreements, it will not be possible to isolate the funding allocated to these measures in the signed actions.

CEF Energy complies with the legislation on biodiversity objectives, as stated in recital 5 of the CEF Regulation³².

6.2.3. Key Achievements

As indicated above, investments in biodiversity under the 2014-2020 programme mostly focused on mitigating measures to infrastructural interventions in sensitive areas in order to protect ecosystem or recreating initial biodiversity conditions. Planned interventions mostly concern the safe crossing of animals along transport infrastructures (mostly rail) and the protection of marine and river ecosystems when CEF projects intervene to improve the access to maritime ports or enhance navigability along the Inland Waterways (IWW) Network. Considering the setup of CEF Transport Grant Agreements, it has not been possible to isolate the funding allocated to these measures in the signed actions.

6.2.4. Performance

Considering the framework outlined above, it is expected that, as for CEF 2014-2020, for the transport sector the programme will contribute to biodiversity mostly through mitigating measures required by the national and EU environmental legislation and not through net investments on biodiversity.

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
1 628.00	1 631.00	1 636.00	1 641.00	494.00	499.00	505.00	8 034.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

For the Transport sector, the estimation follows a conservative approach and is based on the first adopted CEF 2021-2027 MAP, including the indicative call planning over the next three years of implementation and includes a forward looking assumption until the end of the programme in 2027. The CEF transport contribution also includes the amount transferred to CEF from the Cohesion Fund. Moreover, as per first 2021-2027 MAP, an important part of the budget has been front-loaded (almost 70%).

For years from 2021 to 2024 the estimation it is based on the assumption that:

- 80% of the funding attributed to the support to projects on the Core and Comprehensive network will be focused to sustainable modes (e.g. rail or inland waterway), hence contributing at 40%. The remaining 20% will be at 0%;
- For projects co-financed under smart and interoperable mobility, the average climate tracking will be at 0%;
- All projects supported under the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) will contribute at 40%;
- Projects co-funded under sustainable and multimodal mobility calls, will include a 0% tracking;
- Co-financing provided under the safe and secure mobility and the military mobility will have a 0% tracking.

For years from 2025 to 2027 the estimation is based on the assumption that all remaining budget will be allocated to actions supporting the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructures along the TEN-T, hence contributing at 40% to climate objectives.

For CEF Energy the estimate is based on a conservative approach building on the climate mainstreaming contribution under CEF 2014-2020.

³⁰ Recital 4 of the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014

³¹ As an example, the tasks supported under CEF Action 2019-EU-TM-0262-S with the objective to prepare a catalogue for the ichthyofauna, ornithofauna, river bottom types (benthos) and floodplain habitats along the Croatian/Serbian Danube common section : <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/2019-eu-tm-0262-s>

³² Regulation (EU) 2021/1153

For both the Transport and the Energy sectors, an accurate calculation of the contribution to climate objectives can only be presented ex-post. The outcome is dependent to the nature, the number and the final co-financing amount of projects awarded as result of CEF calls for proposals and their successful completion.

During the period 2014-2020 the CEF programme has contributed to clean air objectives through investments in the transport and energy sectors. In particular:

CEF Transport

Transport mode	%	Actual funding	Result
Air	0%	1,501,313,716	-
Inland Waterways	40%	1,260,027,854	504,011,141
Maritime	40%	1,229,976,641	491,990,656
Other	0%	50,798,672	-
Rail	40%	16,248,389,422	6,499,355,769
Road	0%	1,481,088,682	-
AF actions (excluding nodes priority)	40%	1,138,586,723	455,434,689
Nodes Priority	100%	298,404,892	298,404,892
Grand Total		23,208,586,601	8,249,197,148

CEF Energy

Energy Sector	%	Actual Funding	Result
☐ Carbon Dioxide	0%	143,938,563	-
☐ Electricity	40%	2,801,616,696	1,120,646,678.52
☐ Gas	40%	1,490,531,394	596,212,557.61
☐ Smart Grid	40%	236,099,431	94,439,772.40
Grand Total		4,672,186,084	1,811,299,009

The amounts in the above tables refer to signed Grant Agreements. Additional grant agreements contributing to clean air objectives are expected to be signed during year 2020 and 2021. The above table (Transport) also includes the amounts of the Cohesion Fund managed through CEF.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates			2022-2027 programming				Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0*: 4 510.1

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**..

The CEF 2021-2027 Regulation, in its recital 6 underlines that: “According to Article 8 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities and to promote equality between men and women. Gender equality, as well as rights and equal opportunities for all, and the mainstreaming of those objectives should be taken into account and promoted throughout the assessment, preparation, implementation and monitoring of the programme”.

Transport:

Transport facilitates access to the labour market, healthcare and education as well as to other services necessary for improving the welfare of individuals and households. In particular, transport infrastructure investments supported through the CEF are a pre-condition to the development of transport services directly contributing to indiscriminate access and allowing for the necessary safety and accessibility conditions for diverse workforce. Nevertheless, given its scope, CEF Transport cannot intervene on the potential inequalities arising from Member States’ internal infrastructure planning, national policies or development of gender discriminatory services along the infrastructure.

The CEF programme supports in majority the development and construction of cross-border infrastructures such as railway substructures, electrification, superstructures, inland waterways canals, berth and quays at maritime ports, as well as infrastructure for alternative fuels supply (charging points). In this context, the programme also awards part of its support to other interventions, such as safe and secure parking infrastructures for trucks, for which the gender dimension can be considered more in detail. As a

reference, when supporting these projects, the CEF co-funding is linked to the respect of a pre-identified set of EU standards related to the infrastructure, divided into four different categories. As an example, please see below the minimum requirements per category related to the perimeter of the safe parking infrastructure and the parking area:

	BRONZE LEVEL	SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
PERIMETER	<p>B.1. Visual deterrent to recognize the secure parking area</p> <p>B.2. Lighting at 15 Lux</p> <p>B.3. Vegetation trimmed, good visibility</p>	<p>S.1. Physical deterrent to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. ditch, rocks, fence) or continuous video monitoring and recording by trained staff</p> <p>S.2. Lighting at 20 Lux</p>	<p>G.1. > 1.8 m physical barrier (height)</p> <p>G.2. Lighting at 25 Lux</p> <p>G.3. CCTV covering perimeter</p> <p>G.4. Measures to prevent unintentional damage to barriers</p> <p>G.5. Clear zone of 1 meter between barrier and parking area</p>	<p>P1. Add-on for physical barrier: Deterrents to climb over</p>
PARKING AREA	<p>B.4. Only freight vehicles and authorized vehicles allowed as indicated by signage</p> <p>B.5. Physical or remote surveillance checks / inspection at minimum once in 24 h</p> <p>B.6. Lanes must be lit at 15 Lux</p> <p>B.7. Vegetation trimmed, good visibility</p>	<p>S.3. Physical or remote surveillance checks/inspection at minimum twice in 24 h (one at daytime, one at night)</p> <p>S.4. If pedestrian lanes exist, they must be lit at 15 Lux</p>	<p>G.6. Onsite or remote staff contact can be contacted 24/7</p> <p>G.7. Marked vehicle and pedestrian lanes</p>	<p>P2. Site manned or video-controlled 24/7</p>

This notwithstanding, in this framework, considering the setup of CEF Transport Grant Agreements and the type of actions funded, it will not be possible to isolate the dedicated funding allocated to gender related measures in the supported actions.

In addition, during the implementation of the programme, the Commission will constantly strive to ensure gender equality, for instance when selecting the experts that support the dedicated services during the evaluation of the call for proposals launched in the framework of the CEF programme.

Energy:

Women and men have different energy needs. Since the scope of CEF Energy is cross-border energy infrastructure, it could contribute to broader energy access. CEF energy also contributes to gender equality in the sense that it ensures gender equality and equal opportunities in its selection of external evaluators for the calls. Yet, given its scope, CEF Energy cannot influence potential inequalities arising from Member States’ internal infrastructure planning or other national policies. There is no gender-disaggregated data available on this strand of the CEF programme.

Digital:

The Digital Agenda for Europe was established with a view to stimulating economic growth while at the same time addressing social challenges through information and communications technology.

The vision set in the Communication “2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade”³³ and the proposal for the 2030 Policy Programme "Path to the Digital Decade"³⁴ demand an even greater quality of connectivity, for instance in terms of bandwidth, low latency, security and resilience³⁵.

However, digital is an area where gender inequalities persist, including those related to gender gaps and differences in access to and use of digital technologies³⁶.

Coverage of EU households capable of delivering download speeds of at least 30 Mbps reached 90% in 2021, while fixed very high capacity networks (VHCN), offering gigabit connectivity, covered 70% of EU homes in 2020³⁷.

Even though [these data are not disaggregated by sex, studies](#) suggest that access to the Internet is probably less widespread among women-headed households for various reasons, such as lower income, lower digital skills and less interest in Internet technologies³⁸.

³³ [EUR-Lex - 52021DC0118 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

³⁴ [Proposal for a Decision establishing the 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade” | Shaping Europe’s digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)

³⁵ See COM(2021) 574 final - Staff Working Document Accompanying the Commission’s Proposal for the Digital Decade Policy Programme, section 3.3.1.1

³⁶ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/digital-agenda>

³⁷ Digital Economy and Society Index report 2022- Connectivity: to be published

³⁸ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/digital-agenda>

Together with other funding instruments, including the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#) and the [InvestEU](#), CEF Digital will help support an unprecedented amount of investments devoted to safe, secure, and sustainable high-performance digital connectivity infrastructure. Furthermore, CEF Digital will contribute to the increased capacity and resilience of digital backbone infrastructures in all EU territories, in particular the Outermost Regions.

CEF Digital will support only the deployment of physical connectivity infrastructures, however, the actual applications and services which will run on top of them, or the end users benefitting from them, will ensure the digital inclusiveness of the targeted geographical areas and typologies of connected entities (households, schools, hospitals, etc.). Although the exact number of covered entities cannot be determined a priori, it can be assumed that state of the art digital connectivity, as well as the innovative applications enabled, will create new opportunities across genders, thus contributing to fill in the gender digital gap.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

CEF Energy supports SDG7 by promoting investments contributing to further integration of the internal energy market and to sustainable development, in particular, by the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and by the development of smart energy networks. In particular, CEF Energy shall contribute to supporting energy infrastructure projects of common interest that have significant socio-economic benefits and ensure greater solidarity among Member States, but which do not receive adequate financing from the market. For instance, the Baltic Synchronisation Project (PCI 4.8) will synchronise the three Baltic States' electricity grids with the continental European network and allow the three Baltic States to gain full control of their electricity networks and to strengthen energy security (CEF financial assistance until 2020: EUR 1 052 million, with an additional EUR 170 million through the first call under CEF II).

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The CEF transport programme aims at contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In particular, CEF Transport supports SDG 9 through investments for building transport infrastructures that are resilient, including the necessary technology to ensure a proper monitoring of the newly built infrastructures in case of natural catastrophes.

Under CEF 2014-2020 programme, the support to this goal has been ensured through dedicated activities within co-funded projects. As an example, as part of the modernisation of the railway infrastructure between Athens and Thessaloniki, in a highly seismic and flood interested region, the monitoring of newly constructed and upgraded bridges has been supported, as well as hydraulic works to protect the railway from floods³⁹.

In this context, the CEF 2021-2027 programme includes a dedicated topic related to actions improving transport infrastructure resilience, in particular to climate change and natural disasters, through infrastructure upgrades.

As regards the energy strand, CEF Energy supports SDG 9 through the investments aiming to increase the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders. For example, the Baltic Pipe project (PCI 8.3, CEF financial assistance: EUR 753 M) will establish a new, bi-directional offshore gas pipeline connecting PL and DK through the Baltic Sea with an important contribution to energy security and diversification of supply sources.

Actions that receive CEF grants for works need to provide evidence concerning the existence of significant positive externalities such as security of supply, solidarity or innovation.

CEF Digital will contribute to the development of projects of common interest relating to the deployment of safe, secure, sustainable and very high capacity digital networks, including 5G systems, to the increased capacity and resilience of digital backbone networks in all EU territories. By their nature, trans-European, Gigabit and Terabit networks connect digital capacities such as cloud and high-performance computing as well as millions of objects and data able to transform and modernise vertical sectors such as health, education and training, tourism, manufacturing, transport and logistics

CEF Digital will contribute to filling some of the existing connectivity gaps and ensure that local/regional infrastructures are efficiently connected through end-to-end high-performance infrastructure, including backbone networks. It will notably support strategic connectivity to remote regions including the outermost regions (e.g. through submarine cables). This all-encompassing and inclusive approach to connectivity will give all citizens and businesses the opportunity to benefit from the digital single market and accelerate economic recovery.

Projects funded by CEF Digital will contribute to invigorate the digital readiness and competitiveness of the EU's business, industrial and public services ecosystem. They are expected to accelerate the modernisation of vertical sectors such as healthcare, transport, education and training and public administration, which depend heavily on access to reliable, affordable high-quality digital networks and can benefit from innovative 5G based solutions.

³⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/2014-el-tmc-0651-w> and https://www.ergose.gr/project/tithorea_domokos/?lang=en

CEF Digital will also support the development of “Global Gateways” by investing in ultra-secure and resilient backbone networks connecting Europe with third countries, including submarine cables and satellite terrestrial backbones.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

CEF Transport programme will continue promoting infrastructural investments enhancing the safety and sustainability of urban transport. This includes an optimal use of public transport, supported by the necessary investments in alternative fuels charging infrastructures and with a special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations. Moreover, the programme aims at supporting the improvement of multimodal passenger hubs, ensuring accessibility for all users, especially for passengers with reduced mobility, allowing for the connection with available long-distance transport modes.

Under the CEF 2014-2020 programme, CEF has supported such infrastructure projects, for instance through the deployment of alternative fuels charging infrastructure for public transport in cities like Lyon⁴⁰, while at the same time supporting works at the city’s railway junction⁴¹ in order to relieve congestion, improve performance, efficiency of rail infrastructure and operating conditions such as robustness, resilience and safety of the network.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

CEF Transport aims at promoting the de-carbonisation of transport with a specific focus on alternative fuels infrastructures. The programme aims at contributing to the EU goal of climate-related spending and decarbonising transport. In accordance with the European Green Deal, CEF 2021-2027 will target a contribution of 60% of its overall financial envelope to co-financing actions supporting climate objectives and moving fast towards zero-emission mobility. In particular, the programme will contribute to this SDG supporting infrastructures related to sustainable transport modes (in particular railways and inland waterways) data and digitalisation backing the ecological transition for transport and accelerating the take-up of alternative fuels solutions for all transport modes. Under the CEF 2014-2020, the support to sustainable transport modes has been wide. In this framework, the allocation of CEF funds to alternative fuels infrastructures represents one of the most direct investments to tackle climate related challenges. As an example, through the Blending Facility, the programme allocated support to the deployment of a reliable network of fast multi-standard chargers for electric vehicles along the TEN-T network in Italy⁴². The action is expected to deploy 550 electric fast chargers across Italy with approximately 1,100 charging points. As a result, the action will contribute to the deployment of an extensive network of electric chargers in the country, contributing to the mass diffusion of electric vehicles and to pollution reduction.

CEF Energy support SDG 13 by financing actions that contribute to the decarbonisation of the energy system, inter alia through the integration of renewable energy into the grid and the transmission of renewable generation to major consumption centres and storage site. For example, the Celtic electricity interconnector (PCI 1.6, CEF financial assistance: **EUR 530.7 million EUR**) will establish the first electricity link between Ireland continental Europe, end Ireland’s energy isolation after Brexit, and help the integration of variable renewable energy sources. The European Green Deal has further emphasized the key enabling role of energy infrastructure in the transition to a climate neutral economy. The revised TEN-E Regulation is fully aligned with the European Green Deal objectives.

⁴⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/2019-fr-tm-0380-w>

⁴¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/2016-fr-tm-0190-w>

⁴² <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/2019-it-tm-0077-w>

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**Digital Europe Programme****Lead DG: CNECT**

Associated DGs: DIGIT

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Europe faces many challenges in the digital arena.

To begin with, there is the increasingly fierce global competition to control the digital technologies, which will shape the world of tomorrow. Today, businesses, the public sector and researchers often have to look outside the Union to access the computing, data or artificial intelligence resources they need. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of jobs in crucial digital areas go unfilled, hampering investment and innovation. Unless Europe can step up its efforts to develop key digital infrastructures, industries and skills, it risks losing out this race, which could threaten Europe's strategic autonomy and competitiveness.

Relatedly, cyberattacks become increasingly more frequent, complex, and disruptive. Europe's vital infrastructure and data are at risk unless it improves its cybersecurity.

Finally, the take-up of digital technologies by businesses - in particular SMEs - and public administrations remains very uneven, requiring determined action at the Union's level to ensure that no region or sector is left behind by the digital transformation.

Given the network effects in the digital area (e.g., the need to promote interoperability at the EU level and/or reaching critical mass to build state-of-the-art capacities) the EU is uniquely placed to act decisively on these challenges. The Digital Europe programme and together with co-investments with Member States and the private sector will achieve a real impact and generate a virtuous circle.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Digital Europe Programme will ensure that Europe drives the digital transformation of the economy and society and brings its benefits to all citizens and businesses. It will focus on:

- Building essential capacities and advanced skills in key digital technology areas, contributing to Europe's technological sovereignty;
- Accelerating their deployment and best use in areas of public interest and the private sector.

1.3. Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1- High Performance Computing (HPC)

The financial contribution from the Union under this Specific Objective shall pursue the following operational objectives:

- deploy, coordinate at Union level and operate an integrated demand-oriented and application-driven world-class exascale supercomputing and data infrastructure that shall be easily accessible to public and private users, in particular SMEs, irrespective of the Member State in which they are located, and easily accessible for research purposes, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1488;
- deploy ready to use operational technology resulting from research and innovation in order to build an integrated Union HPC ecosystem, covering various aspects in the scientific and industrial value chain segments, including hardware, software, applications, services, interconnections and digital skills, with a high level of security and data protection;
- deploy and operate post-exascale infrastructure, including integration with quantum computing technologies and research infrastructures for computing science and encourage the development within the Union of the hardware and software necessary for such deployment.

Specific Objective 2 - Artificial Intelligence

The financial contribution from the Union under this Specific Objective shall pursue the following operational objectives:

- build up and strengthen core AI capacities and knowledge in the Union, including building up and strengthening quality data resources and corresponding exchange mechanisms, and libraries of algorithms, while guaranteeing a human-centric and inclusive approach that respects Union values.
- make the capacities referred to in point above accessible to businesses, especially SMEs and start-ups, as well as civil society, not-for-profit organisations, research institutions, universities and public administrations, in order to maximise their benefit to the European society and economy;
- reinforce and network AI testing and experimentation facilities in Member States; develop and reinforce commercial application and production systems in order to facilitate the integration of technologies in value chains and the development of innovative business models and to shorten the time required to pass from innovation to industrial production and foster the uptake of AI-based solutions in areas of public interest and in society.
- AI-based solutions and data made available shall respect the principle of privacy and security by design and shall fully comply with data protection legislation.

Specific Objective 3 - Cybersecurity and Trust

The financial contribution from the Union under this Specific Objective shall pursue the following operational objectives:

- support the building-up and procurement of advanced cybersecurity equipment, tools and data infrastructures, together with Member States, in order to achieve a high common level of cybersecurity at European level, in full compliance with data protection legislation and fundamental rights, while ensuring the strategic autonomy of the Union;
- support the building-up and best use of European knowledge, capacity and skills related to cybersecurity and the sharing and mainstreaming of best practices;
- ensure a wide deployment of effective state-of-the-art cybersecurity solutions across the European economy, paying special attention to public authorities and SMEs;
- reinforce capabilities within Member States and private sector to help them comply with Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ including through measures supporting the uptake of cybersecurity best practices;
- improve resilience against cyberattacks, contribute towards increasing risk-awareness and knowledge of cybersecurity processes, support public and private organisations in achieving basics levels of cyber security, for example by deploying end-to-end encryption of data and software updates;
- enhance cooperation between the civil and defence spheres with regard to dual-use projects, services, competences and applications in cybersecurity, in accordance with a Regulation establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres (the 'Cybersecurity Competence Centre Regulation').

Specific Objective 4 - Advanced Digital Skills

The financial contribution from the Union under this Specific Objective shall support the development of advanced digital skills in areas covered by the Programme in order to contribute to increasing Europe's talent pool, bridge the digital divide and foster greater professionalism, especially with regard to high performance and cloud computing, big data analytics, cybersecurity, distributed ledger technologies (e.g. blockchain), quantum technologies, robotics, AI, while taking gender balance into account. In order to tackle skills mismatches and to encourage specialisation in digital technologies and applications, the financial contribution shall pursue the following operational objectives:

- support the design and delivery of high-quality, long-term training and courses, including blended learning, for students and for the workforce;
- support the design and delivery of high-quality, short-term training and courses for the workforce, in particular in SMEs and in the public sector;
- support high-quality on-the-job training and work placements for students, including traineeships, and the workforce, in particular in SMEs and in the public sector.

Specific Objective 5 - Deployment and Best Use of Digital Capacities and Interoperability

The financial contribution from the Union under this Specific Objective shall pursue the following operational objectives:

- support the public sector and areas of public interest, such as health and care, education, judiciary, customs, transport, mobility, energy, environment, cultural and creative sectors, including relevant businesses established within the Union, to effectively deploy and access state-of-the-art digital technologies, such as HPC, AI and cybersecurity;
- deploy, operate and maintain trans-European interoperable state-of-the-art digital service infrastructures across the Union, including related services, in complementarity with national and regional actions;
- support the integration and use of trans-European digital service infrastructures and of agreed European digital standards in the public sector and in areas of public interest to facilitate cost-efficient implementation and interoperability;
- facilitate the development, update and use of solutions and frameworks by citizens, public administrations and businesses, including of open-source solutions and the re-use of interoperability solutions and frameworks;
- offer the public sector and Union industry, in particular SMEs, easy access to testing and piloting of digital technologies and increase the use thereof, including their cross-border use;
- support the uptake by the public sector and the Union industry, in particular SMEs and start-ups, of advanced digital and related technologies, including in particular HPC, AI, cybersecurity, other leading edge and future technologies, such as distributed ledger technologies (e.g. blockchain);
- support the design, testing, implementation, and deployment and maintenance of interoperable digital solutions, including digital government solutions, for public services at Union level which are delivered through a data-driven reusable solutions

¹ Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union (OJ L 194, 19.7.2016, p. 1).

- platform aiming to foster innovation and establish common frameworks in order to unleash the full potential of the public administrations' services for citizens and businesses;
- ensure the continuous capacity at Union level to lead digital development, in addition to observing, analysing and adapting to fast-evolving digital trends, and share and mainstream best practices;
 - support cooperation towards achieving a European ecosystem for trusted data sharing and digital infrastructures using, inter alia, distributed ledger services and applications, including support for interoperability and standardisation and by fostering the deployment of Union cross-border applications based on security and privacy by design, while complying with consumer and data protection legislation;
 - build up and strengthen the European Digital Innovation Hubs and their network.

1.4. Public intervention context

The Digital Europe programme, is based on the following provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU): Article 173(3) TFEU, focused on the EU's industrial competitiveness, with regard to most of activities undertaken under this Programme; Article 172 TFEU, notably with regard to the digital transformation of areas of public interest. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the critical role of digital technologies and infrastructures. In light of the exponential development of digital technologies, the constant geopolitical shifts and the large public investments of global competitors in key digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, supercomputing and cybersecurity, and in digital skills, no Member State acting alone can make critical investments in digital capacities at the scale required. Given the challenges ahead and the level of investments needed, the intervention at EU level is necessary in order to improve the competitiveness of Europe in the digital economy and reinforce its strategic autonomy.

The Digital Europe programme's actions are complemented by an array of regulatory measures aiming to eliminate barriers in several critical technological areas, with regard, for instance, to the incentivise business to business and business to government (B2B and B2G) data sharing in across the EU (Data Governance Act, Data Act), the creation of a safer and fairer online environment for users and businesses (Digital Services Act, Digital Markets Act) and the improvement of the level of security of network and information systems across the Union (NIS2 Directive).

1.5. Actions

High-performance computing: DEP will deploy world-class exascale and post-exascale supercomputing capacities and ensure the widest access to and use of these capacities;

Artificial intelligence: DEP will unleash the potential of data with EU-wide common data spaces based on a cloud-to-edge federated infrastructure and promote the testing and adoption of AI technologies with a European AI platform and world-class testing and experimentation facilities;

Cybersecurity and trust: DEP will build up advanced cybersecurity equipment, tools and data infrastructures. It will support the development and best use of European knowledge, capacity and skills related to cybersecurity, promote the sharing of best practices and ensure a wide deployment of the state of the art cybersecurity solutions across the European economy (including a quantum secure communication infrastructure for Europe- EuroQCI).

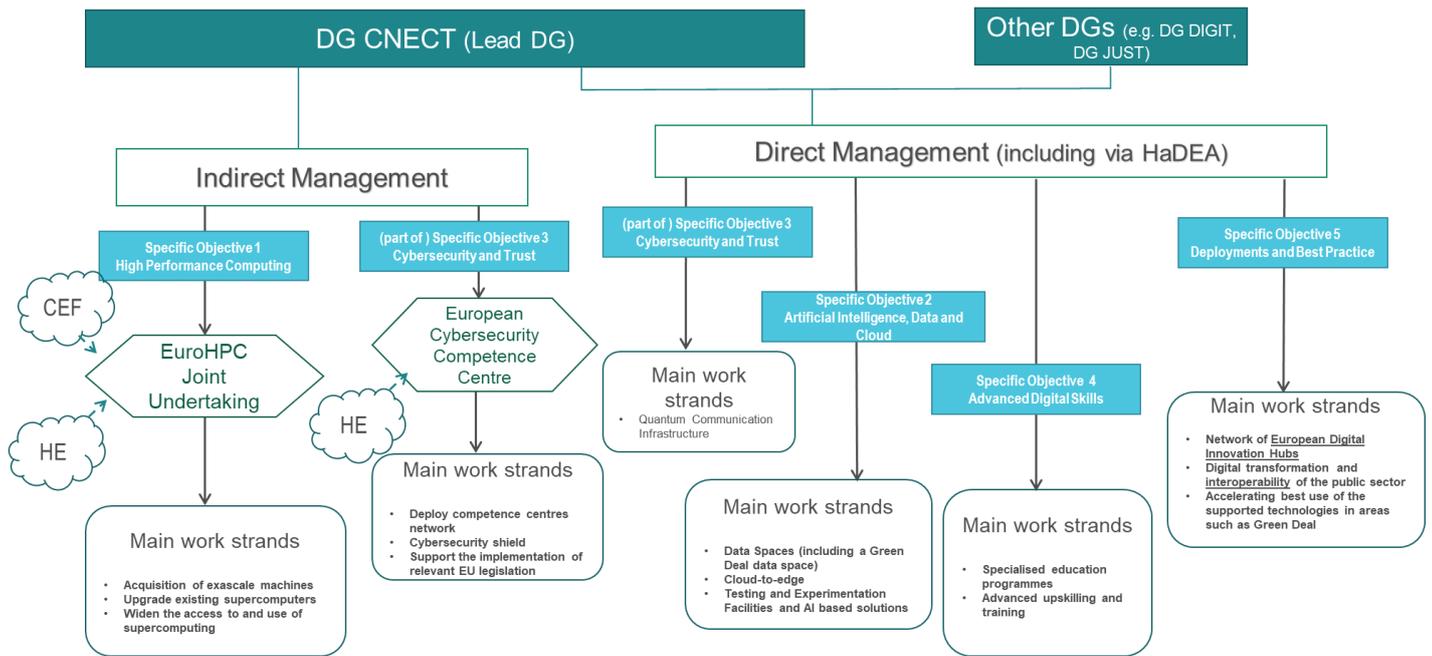
Advanced digital skills: DEP will boost academic excellence in digital, by increasing the education offer in technologies, such as HPC, cybersecurity and AI. Training in these areas will be implemented through cooperation among tertiary education institutions, world-class research centres and innovative businesses.

Adoption and best use: DEP will deploy a network of European Digital Innovation Hubs offering public and private organisations all across Europe access to technology testing and support in their digital transformation. It will contribute to address challenges such as protecting the environment and fighting climate change through high impact deployments, for example, the Destination Earth initiative and the digital twins for smart communities. It will build capacities to reinforce the European blockchain ecosystem through the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI). It will enable cross border interoperable digital public services centred on users, facilitating the sharing of data in areas like, justice and promote an inclusive and trustworthy digital space.

1.6. Delivery mode

For the 'artificial intelligence', 'advanced digital skills' and 'widening the best use of digital technologies' specific objectives, the Commission directly manages the programme. The high-performance computing specific objective is implemented primarily through the EuroHPC joint undertaking and the cybersecurity specific objective will be implemented primarily through the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Cybersecurity Competence Network. The lead DG is CNECT, with other DGs also involved, in particular DG DIGIT for the actions focused on the interoperability of the public administrations.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	7 588.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 130.5	1 247.8	1 023.6	684.7	727.8	871.6	891.4	6 577.3
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	30.5	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	30.5
Total	1 161.0	1 247.8	1 023.6	684.7	727.8	871.6	891.4	6 607.8

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Although Digital Europe is a new programme, some of its activities target the sustainability and continuation of actions deployed under the previous Multiannual Financial Framework.

In particular, the deployment of Digital Service Infrastructures facilitating cross-border interoperability between public administrations, businesses and citizens was funded under the CEF Telecom programme, while the actions in the ISA² programme focussed on interoperability in public administration applications. Part of these solutions are now integrated within the scope of Digital Europe Programme.

In addition, the Digital Europe Programme builds on successful projects funded under H2020 programme, making it possible to move technologies such as high performance computing and artificial intelligence into large-scale deployments. The European High Performance Computing strategy was implemented using funding from both Horizon 2020 and CEF programmes. Horizon 2020 supported artificial intelligence but focused on research and innovation and not on large-scale deployments.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

<https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu>

https://cybersecurity-centre.europa.eu/index_en

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/digital>

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 159.6	6 607.8	18%
Payments	26.1		0%

The first set of Work Programmes of the new Digital Europe Programme were adopted on the 10 November 2021, when the first calls were also launched, triggering the first procedural steps towards the implementation of the programme. The first set of calls for proposals was published on 17 November, and closed on the 22 February. A second set of calls for proposals was launched on the same date. Both calls cover topics in all work strands of the programme. This includes the first steps towards the deployment of common data spaces built on innovative, secure and energy efficient cloud to edge capabilities, and by promoting the testing and adoption of trustful AI technologies with world-class testing and experimentation facilities as well as a library of AI-based resources and a marketplace, for AI tools that are made in Europe. Investments in the area of Cybersecurity cover the deployment of a secure quantum communication infrastructure (EuroQCI), as well as a network of National Coordination Centres with Member States fostering cross-border cooperation, and support for cybersecurity in the health sector. The calls launched also aim to provide education and training opportunities for the future experts in key capacity areas deployed by the programme while also targeting the reskilling and upskilling of the existing workforce through short-term trainings in advanced digital skills reflecting the latest developments. Additional investments covered by these calls also target the establishment of the network of Digital Innovation Hubs, the deployment of the European Blockchain Service Infrastructure, support to the implementation of the European Digital Identity Framework, the continuation of the investments in the previous financial framework for the Safer Internet network, as well as European Digital Media Observatory and its network of hubs.

Following the agreement on the implementation framework for the Destination Earth Initiative, the deployment of the Central platform and Digital Twins has also started in 2022.

Various procurement actions have also started implementation in continuation with the previous multiannual financial framework, especially in the area of eGovernment. For instance under the Specific Objective 5, the first contracts focusing on interoperability-related operational objectives were already signed in 2021 using 28% of allocated commitment appropriations, and their implementation is ongoing. The priority was given to the projects/actions that required business continuity (as the interoperability package for 2021 and 2022 is in fact further evolution of the work under the predecessor programmes ISA2 and CEF Telecommunication); the first results are expected in the coming months.

A third call for proposals is expected to be launched in the third quarter of 2022.

The programme was able to consume an important share of the available commitment appropriations, in the form of global commitments, and 0.3 per cent of the total envelope of payment appropriations has been consumed, in view of the very short time span left for implementation in 2021. Following the corresponding evaluations, the signature of the first grant agreements will start in the last quarter of 2022. Consequently, the first batch of projects stemming from the calls for proposals covered in the first Work

programme, is expected to start the implementation phase in early 2023, when the first payments can be performed as part of the pre-financing.

The Commission services under the leadership of DG CONNECT, together with the Digital Europe Programme Committee have also started to prepare the following Work Programmes using 2023 and 2024 appropriations.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

CEF

With an overall investment of almost EUR 280 million in the core service platforms, the Commission enabled the EU-wide interoperability of specific digital services such as eHealth, Public Open Data, eID and Cybersecurity. With an EU contribution of almost EUR 365 million in generic services and an overall leveraged amount of more than EUR 528 million, the uptake of these services with CEF support reached a portfolio of 735 projects in the Member States and participating countries in the European Economic Area by the end of 2021. Nearly half of these projects are under implementation, due to the duration of the actions funded by the programme, which go up to 4 years. The last Grant Agreements signed for some of these actions have been signed. CEF digital services support EU citizens, businesses and public administrations in interconnecting and adapting their systems to become interoperable across borders.

The cumulative implementation table for CEF-telecom can be found in the CEF Programme Statement.

ISA2

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	131.2	131.2	100%
Payments	123.5		94%

The implementation of ISA² has been efficient. The implementation of some actions funded by the ISA2 2020 programme continued into 2021 as envisaged focusing on the transition to Digital Europe Programme and on sustaining existing operations due to the late adoption of the DEP working Programme 2021-2022 (November 2021). As for the payments 2021 (almost 25 M), they were used to cover the payments for all the actions under WP 2020, with a notable portion spent on the development of key and generic interoperability enablers, support of instruments for public administrations, and EU Policies.

The outstanding payments will be executed mainly in 2022 with the final payments done in 2023.

There was no significant impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the programme implementation in 2021

The integration and coordination of activities funded before by 2 separate programmes, namely CEF Telecommunications and ISA², is expected to rationalise investments in the area of interoperability for public administrations and eGovernment, as well to increase cooperation and coherence of digital funding in domains such semantics, data spaces or public sector innovation.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Given the delayed adoption of the first Digital Europe Work Programmes using 2021 and 2022 appropriations in November 2021, implementation was necessarily very limited in 2021.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of sufficient actions under Digital Europe Programme start.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Performance of ISA² - Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens 2014-2020

The programme's key performance indicators confirm that it has performed well. Some key interoperability enablers have shown even better performance than expected, which is explained by better-than-anticipated government interoperability acceptance and by faster-than-expected technological progress. Member States' positions have evolved from hesitant to very actively involved and

requesting intensified common investment in interoperability enablers. In 2020 and 2021, the programme was able to adapt to the Covid-19 crisis with no major negative impact on the programme implementation. In fact, the outreach of the programme increased due to larger stakeholder participation in online meetings and events, which may potentially boost the [ISA² solutions'](#) uptake. Based on this experience, more online interoperability –focused events for the stakeholders of the new programme are envisaged.

While the ISA² final evaluation reports an overall positive picture of how the programme has performed (see section 3.3), it outlines some lessons learned, which could give rise to future improvements. First, EU Member States call for more coordination and exchange of best practices in the digital implementation of EU policies, and the deployment of new digital solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic has made such needs even more pressing. To act upon them, the Commission may consider enhancing the existing interoperability governance to foster structured and proactive collaboration between all levels of EU public administrations and to give guidance and stimulus for digital-ready policymaking. Second, the programme's stakeholders would welcome a potentially smaller set, but more mature, user-centric and sustainable interoperability solutions, which are accessible through one-stop-shop also at regional and local level. Finally, in view of the good cohesion between the ISA² programme and CEF Telecommunication and the call for more coordinated and targeted actions, this assessment confirmed the usefulness of integrating both past programmes into a single Digital Europe Programme.

Raising awareness: ISA² has increased its outreach to all levels of public administrations and businesses, focusing on SMEs and start-ups. Its involvement in the [Join, Boost, Sustain initiative](#) is a great example of interlinking with related initiatives reaching stakeholders in cities and communities. Also, to expand the role of interoperability, DG DIGIT and DG CONNECT have jointly developed a dedicated European Interoperability Framework for Smart Cities and Communities (EIF4SCC) in the framework of Living-in.eu movement. In 2020, the Interoperability Academy went online as part of the EU Academy (the Commission's e-learning platform for external stakeholders) reaching multipliers directly and opening new cooperation avenues. So far, 1400 people have participated in online courses, webinars or live events under the auspices of Interoperability Academy and focused on interoperability knowledge, skills, and competences. 15 eLearning resources on the interoperability-related topics have been made available in EU Platform. The action on European Interoperability Architecture has closely cooperated with DGs REFORM, SANTE and TAXUD to support Member States, especially those lagging behind, in digitalisation. This cooperation also included on Reform and Resilience Plans to make them “interoperable by design”, and developing national taxation and health digital public services.

The ISA² programme has also intensified its cooperation with other EU programmes and projects such as Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), Structural Reforms Programme (SRSP), and Horizon 2020 as well as their successor programmes (e.g. the Technical Support Instrument). This included organising joint events, sharing results and content, providing advice and support as well as identifying synergies between Member States' requests under the SRSP 2020 and TSI 2021 programme and ISA² actions. ISA² solutions have provided direct support to several EU initiatives, i.e. the Single Digital Gateway, the EU Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), or the Once-Only Principle (TOOP) project. For example, the Core Vocabularies have provided the basis for the data models which will be made available in the semantic repository of the Single Digital Gateway and the repository of links. Also, synergies have been identified both with the TOOP and the Digital Europe for All (DE4A) projects, for example in the context of the revision of the Core Criterion and Core Evidence Vocabulary (CCCEV) and the development of application profiles.

User-centricity: It was a key aspect for the ISA² Programme with dedicated workshops for EU regions or work on the central interoperability user platform Joinup. Potential users of future solutions have increasingly participated in their design phase (e.g. the Legal Interoperability ISA² action on better legislation).

Sustainability: The Digital Europe programme builds on achievements and lessons learnt from the ISA² programme (including the importance of continuous awareness raising and the need for user-driven approach) integrating CEF building blocks and ISA² solutions under the same Programme, and strengthening dedicated interoperability expertise and support.

Performance of CEF Telecom - 2014-2020

CEF Telecom supported from 2014 to 2020, the deployment of an ecosystem of trusted cross-border digital service infrastructures (DSIs)² essential to trigger the digital transformation of public sector services in the Member States all for the benefits of citizens and businesses.

Concretely, in the area of Cybersecurity, for example, the DSI contributes to EU preparedness to deal with cyber threats and incidents by supporting the implementation of the [Directive on security of network and information systems \(NIS Directive, 2016/1148\)](#) and the cybersecurity certification framework through the Cybersecurity Act (Regulation (EU) 2019/881). The Directive provides legal measures to boost the overall level of cybersecurity in the EU, encompassing the need for well-resourced Member State computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) and swift and effective operational cooperation between them. CSIRTs have received funding to create, maintain or expand national capacities to run cybersecurity services and to co-operate across borders. Their operational cooperation is facilitated by interacting with the Core Service Platform co-operation mechanism

² Europeana, eIdentification, eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, eArchiving, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cybersecurity, eProcurement, Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), eHealth, Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI), the European e-Justice portal, European Digital Media Observatory, European Platform on Digital Skills and Jobs, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), Safer Internet, EU Student eCard and Blockchain.

of the Cybersecurity DSI, MeliCERTes which supports information sharing and maturity development for CSIRTs. MeliCERTes provides CSIRTs under the NIS Directive with a common baseline set of tools so as to facilitate a shared understanding of artefacts, threats and incidents, provide secure communications and enhance data exchange between them. As from 2019, an additional cooperation mechanism to facilitate the creation of European-level Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) has been created.

The deployment of DSIs has been marked by a considerable expansion of the ecosystem, passing from 8 in the first Work Programme, to 20 DSIs supported in the last Work Programme. In effect, the programme started supporting the interoperability in a limited set of areas such as egovernment, Cybersecurity and cultural sector. Over the years, the programme started enabling through various solutions the interoperability also in other areas such as health, justice, social security, education and skills to name a few. In practice this meant that CEF has supported and enabled the interoperability of EU businesses, citizens and public administrations in more and more sectors.

An overview of the performance of the actions deployed with the support of the CEF Telecommunications Programme is available [here](#). This data will feed into the ex-post evaluation of the programme.

3.2. Key achievements

ISA² - Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens 2016-2020

54	1344	2	4
actions that focus on developing digital solutions in the interoperability area were supported under the 2016-20 ISA ² programme.	EU initiatives were screened between 2016 and 2021 for potential information and communications technology and interoperability impact using the legal interoperability screening methodology.	EU-wide initiatives (European Interoperability Framework & Digital Public Administration) supported by the 2016-20 ISA ² programme aimed at an integrated interoperability approach in the EU.	pillars of ‘location interoperability solutions for e-government’ action (studies, frameworks and solutions, reports and events) benefit the EU through effective and usable public digital services, improved spatial awareness and analytical skills, and better support for the policy life cycle.
508	4	28	4
events which ISA ² has participated in or organised until 2021 to increase its outreach.	core vocabularies were developed by the 2016-20 ISA ² programme to facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between (a) EU public administrations and (b) public administrations and businesses and citizens.	interoperable digital solution were developed under the 2016-20 ISA ² programme ; they are operational and can be reused free of charge.	Observatories were funded under the 2016-20 ISA ² programme to: 1) help foster the interoperability, capacity building policy and modernisation of public administrations; 2) support the adoption of open source and 3) foster one domain-specific interoperability (location); 4) support innovation and interoperability in the public sector

CEF Telecom - 2014-2020

20 ³	80	735
Trusted cross-border digital service infrastructures (DSIs) have been deployed under the 2014-2020 CEF-Telecom. Together with the Member States, they have been identified as essential to trigger the digital transformation of public sector services in the Member States all for the benefits of citizens and businesses.	Calls for grants have been launched under the 2014-2020 CEF-Telecom, mobilising stakeholders in all Member States and EFTA associated countries for the deployment of Digital service infrastructures	Actions have been funded under the 2014-2020 CEF-Telecom to promote the uptake of an ecosystem of 20 Digital Services Infrastructures fully interoperable cross-border across the EU for citizens, businesses and public administrations.

The Connecting Europe Facility – Telecommunications (2014-2020) supported the deployment and promotion of 20 interoperable Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs). DSIs are based on mature technical and organisational solutions to support exchanges and collaboration between citizens, businesses and public administrations. The vision was to create a European ecosystem of interoperable digital services that will allow all citizens, businesses and administrations across the EU to fully benefit from living in a Digital Single Market. Foreexample, the **Cybersecurity Digital Service** Infrastructure (DSI) contributes to the EU preparedness to deal with cyber threats by facilitating the implementation of the EU Cybersecurity strategy. The funding increases the cybersecurity capabilities and the cooperation of key European cybersecurity players, in particular, but not only, those addressed by the Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive, 2016/1148) and the Cybersecurity Act (Regulation (EU) 2019/881). These are operators of essential services (OESs), single points of contact (SPOCs), national competent authorities (NCAs), as well as National Cybersecurity Certification Authorities (NCCAs) and national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs). As a result of the funding received, OESs are boosting their own internal cybersecurity capabilities and engage with relevant Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISAC) involving industry peers and public authorities. National bodies mainly focus on the take-up of the obligations deriving by European legislation. For example, they exchange best practices, train their staff and set-up incident reporting mechanisms. CSIRTs are expanding their capacities to run cybersecurity services and to cooperate across borders. Such cooperation is further facilitated by MeliCERTes, a platform set up by the European Commission with a common set of tools for information sharing and maturity development for CSIRTs. Through the projects concluded so far, governmental/national CSIRTs in 20 Member States received funding to increase their capacities, for example through training and acquisition of specialised tools. To date, 100 projects for Cybersecurity are being deployed in all Member States with an overall funding of EUR 45 million.

Another example is the **eHealth Digital Service** Infrastructure, which facilitates the movement of health data across national borders, ensuring the continuity of care and the safety of citizens seeking healthcare outside their home country, and enabling the pooling of EU-wide medical expertise to treat rare diseases. The actions supported by the eHDSI aim at setting up the necessary Member State infrastructure for such data exchange. They also support infrastructures enabling sustainable patient access to highly specialised care. Moreover, they ultimately contribute to the Digital Single Market through the provision of EU-wide interoperable eHealth services, thus boosting competitiveness and supporting an inclusive e-society. The DSI covers 3 services. Firstly, the cross-border ePrescription/ eDispensation (eP) service allows a patient who is abroad to receive the equivalent medication that he/she would receive in his/her home country. Secondly, the Patient Summary (PS) services provides a health professional access to the verified key health data of a patient needing unplanned cross-border healthcare. Finally, the European Reference Networks (ERN) are virtual networks bringing together healthcare providers and centres of expertise across Europe to tackle complex or rare medical conditions that require specialised treatment and a concentration of knowledge and resources. To the moment, 117 projects for eHealth are being deployed in all Member States with an overall funding of EUR 29 million.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

In 2021, the Commission presented its final evaluation of the ISA² programme – COM (2021) 965.⁴ The evaluation relied on quantitative and qualitative data and focused on seven main criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value, utility and sustainability. It found that the original needs and problems that the programme intended to address remain highly relevant. The COVID-19 pandemic has made existing needs even more pressing, including the need for coordination when

³ Europeana, eIdentification, eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, eArchiving, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cybersecurity, eProcurement, Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), eHealth, Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI), the European e-Justice portal, European Digital Media Observatory, European Platform on Digital Skills and Jobs, Online Dispute Resolution (ODR), Safer Internet, EU Student eCard and Blockchain.

⁴ [ISA2 final evaluation \(europa.eu\)](#)

implementing digital solutions at EU level. The evaluation concluded that, in general, the ISA2 programme was successful: 1) it has gone some way towards achieving its objectives – especially by developing, operating and facilitating the reuse of interoperability solutions and by promoting a holistic approach to interoperability in the EU–; 2) its operation was cost-effective – for those actions where the assessment was feasible, the costs per end-user (e.g. business, citizens, etc.) have been estimated as low; and 3) it demonstrated both internal (among its own actions) and external (with other EU initiatives) coherence. Finally, the evaluation results clearly underlined the EU added value of the programme, while outlining some possible areas for improvement (see section 3.1).

The European Interoperability Framework (EIF) evaluation report received positive comments from RSB and it is undergoing now the final Interservice Consultation. The evaluation relied on quantitative and qualitative data and focused on effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added value and relevance. The conclusions are that the EIF has played in general a positive role in the digitalisation of public services, by providing high-level advice through widely adopted principles that guide the creation of interoperable digital public services. In terms of efficiency, the EIF's benefits outweigh the expenditures incurred by public agencies to implement it. The EIF is coherence with its main principles. On EU added value, the EIF has been considered in the preparation of some legislation in areas where interoperability is vital.

The EIF evaluation was presented along with an impact assessment report for a strengthened EU governments' interoperability policy, following the proposal on the EU governments interoperability strategy, announced in the Commission's Communication 'Shaping Europe's digital future'. The aim is to ensure coordination and common standards for secure and borderless innovative public sector data flows and services.

CEF Telecommunications

The CEF mid-term evaluation⁵ concluded that in the Telecom sector, the dual focus of CEF on digital cross-border services of public interest has an important impact on achieving the EU digital single market goals, enabling citizens and businesses to access high quality digital services across Europe. As such, it was acknowledged already in 2018 that by that time it had helped develop and implement common policies to address societal challenges including the digital transformation of healthcare, cybersecurity and digitisation of governments. These good results are proportionate to the level of funding that the programme counted on, by supporting the very first steps towards a full cross border digital infrastructure in areas of public interest. The mid-term evaluation also concluded that the programme proved to be an effective and targeted instrument for investment in trans-European infrastructure (TEN) in the digital sector, it strongly contributed to the Commission's priorities on jobs, growth and investment, and the Digital Single Market. The direct management of CEF grants has proven very efficient, with a strong project pipeline and a competitive selection process, a focus on EU policy objectives, coordinated implementation and the full involvement of Member States.

The CEF mid-term evaluation also highlighted that in the case of some DSIs, like Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information or Online Dispute Resolution (where EU Regulations and Directives require their deployment), CEF Telecommunications is providing an essential incentive for speeding up this process and important financial support for the Member States to become compliant. Other DSIs, like Cybersecurity, enable mechanisms to be used by Member States on a voluntary basis, by promoting actions that most likely would have not been carried out at EU scale without CEF support.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Make Europe a world-leading region in high-performance computing, improving our scientific potential and industrial competitiveness

Indicator 1: HPC infrastructures jointly procured

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2022
7	7	12								12
	Actual Progress									Final
	7									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022

⁵ See the Report from the European Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, the European economic and social Committee and the Committee of the regions on the mid Term evaluation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and annexed Staff Working Documents COM(2018) 66 final

Data source	EC monitoring
Link to the objective	Acquire and deploy advanced supercomputing capabilities to upraise Europe's scientific capabilities and industrial competitiveness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This work strand continues the work started in the previous MFF by the EuroHPC JU.
Other methodological comments	The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (JU) finalised in 2021 the procurements for two precursor-to-exascale supercomputers and five petascale supercomputers. A new Call for Tenders was published in December 2021 for an additional precursor to exascale following a cancelled tender in 2020. Tender to close in February 2022, for an expected start of the system installation in Q3 2022. In December 2021, the EuroHPC JU launched a Call for Expression of Interest for hosting one EuroHPC supercomputer with next generation supercomputing capabilities targeting exascale performance. A Call for Expression of Interest for hosting additional mid-range supercomputers (petascale and pre-exascale capabilities) was also launched to continue deploying a world leading service and data infrastructure in the Union and boosting national supercomputing capabilities. The outcome of these actions is foreseen in Spring 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Regarding the baseline, 2 precursors to exascale & 5 petascale supercomputers have been acquired in the context of the 2014-2020 MFF. A 3rd precursor to exascale MARENOSTRUM V was foreseen to be acquired in 2020. Following the cancellation of the respective procedure, a new Call for Tenders was published in December 2021. The evaluation of the new Call is currently on going. The calls for tender using 2021 and 2022 Digital Europe appropriations will be launched in 2022, when the number of infrastructures will increase.

Indicator 2: Usage of the exascale and post-exascale computers in total and by various stakeholder groups (universities, SMEs etc.)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2025
0	0	0	5%	7%	10%					10%
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	% of totally available computing time in minutes (expressed as fraction)
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	Measured by the machines themselves
Link to the objective	Ensure the widest access to high-performance computing infrastructures
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new work strand under MFF 21-27. No exascale systems are currently operational (so far, the EuroHPC JU has acquired the pre-cursors to exascale and petascale supercomputers).
Other methodological comments	In December 2021, the EuroHPC JU launched a Call for Expression of Interest for hosting one EuroHPC supercomputer with next generation supercomputing capabilities targeting exascale performance. Therefore, not until 2023 it will be feasible to report on Exascale usage by stakeholders.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No exascale systems are currently operational (so far, the EuroHPC JU has acquired the pre-cursors to exascale and petascale supercomputers). In December 2021, the EuroHPC JU launched a Call for Expression of Interest for hosting one EuroHPC supercomputer with next generation supercomputing capabilities targeting exascale performance. Therefore, only as of 2023, when such HPC capacities are in place their operations will be monitored and reported on it will be feasible to report on Exascale usage by stakeholders. The usage of exascale and post-exascale computers necessarily depends on the development of the required infrastructure. As this activity is currently ongoing and all required preparatory work is being performed, it is on track.

Specific Objective 2: Boost the development of artificial intelligence and use it to respond to critical issues of our time

Indicator 1: Co-investment in sites for experimentation and testing

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	0	50000000	100000000	200000000	275000000			275000000
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Euro
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring (part of the projects reporting requirements)
Link to the objective	Deploy world class reference sites for experimentation and testing in real setting focusing on the applications of AI in essential sectors
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	The budget includes both the edge AI TEF and the sectorial TEFs. The target estimated co-investment is based on an extrapolation of the total funding for TEFs under the entire duration of the programme. For the 1st WP (21-22) a budget of 195M€ has been committed, the remaining amount is speculative as it will depend on the WP development for the remaining time of the programme. The commitment regarding the co-investment will be known at selection stage, as this is part of the project budget, but it will only be confirmed at periodic report stage, when projects have to provide costs statements, and report expenses. (we initially put 2 years as a safety margin, but now put the regular reporting frequency, but there might be delays in reporting– also the distribution takes into account an approximation of the duration of the projects and the launch of successive calls).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track. The calls for which the present KPI aims to measure co-investment have been already launched. The co-investment will materialise during the implementation of the projects, when appropriations will be disbursed. This is expected to happen as of 2024. Although payments have not been performed yet, the procedure enabling the implementation of the underpinning actions is on track.

Indicator 2: Usage of common European libraries or interfaces to libraries of algorithms, usage of Common European Data Spaces and usage of sites for experimentation and testing related to activities under this regulation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	40	80	120	240	400	500	700
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute numbers
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring (part of the projects reporting requirements)
Link to the objective	Ensure wide access to artificial intelligence capacities for businesses and public administrations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27
Other methodological comments	The number refers to legal entities (public and private organisations, including research institutes and SMEs) deploying and using the digital infrastructures made available by SO 2: Cloud, data and AI. By including the deployment of the infrastructures, the projects participants can be added. These are first estimates of the usage of the various resources developed under the programme. These figures should be revised in order to provide more realistic estimates, after the actions launched under WP 21-22 will be finalised by the beginning of 2024.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track. This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27. Actions have not been launched yet but required procedures in preparation of the implementation of the actions are on track. The usage of common European libraries, Common European Data Spaces and sites for experimentation and testing will be monitored after the infrastructure will be in place. First data available as of 2024, when infrastructures start to be operational.

Indicator 3: Cases for which organisations decide to integrate artificial intelligence in their product, processes or services, as a result of the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	0	5	10	20	50	70	100
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
----------------	--------

Unit of measurement	Unique entities
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring (e.g. survey sent to users of the capacities offered by the programme)
Link to the objective	Support the integration of artificial intelligence by businesses and public administrations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27
Other methodological comments	Note that such uptake of AI by companies are not immediate, nor necessarily immediate result of the projects (they might need an integrator or DIH to help them), this is why it would could take longer to fully integrate AI in their products/processes or services. There will be a period of testing, validation, and then finally the convinced ones will fully integrate them. First data will be available as of 2025. These tentative estimates are probably very conservative and should be re-assessed regularly (e.g. every 2 years) once the infrastructures are fully functioning.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track. The cases for which organisations decide to integrate AI in their product depend on the development of such infrastructure. Procedures to launch the actions that will develop such infrastructures are currently ongoing. As soon as these infrastructures are in place, the uptake of AI by organisations will be monitored based on the first data available as of 2025.No data. On track. First data available as of 2025.

Specific Objective 3: Invest in cybersecurity to guarantee the resilience, integrity and trustworthiness of the Digital Single Market, including critical networks, infrastructures and services

Indicator 1: Cybersecurity infrastructure and/or tools jointly procured

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15			15
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Infrastructures, services and tools (see definition)
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring
Link to the objective	Deploy advanced cybersecurity equipment, tools, services and data infrastructures
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	This is a new programme, and the foreseen actions will create infrastructures, such as security operation centres and cyber ranges. Taking into consideration the expected number of proposals under these topics, the target is 15. Such infrastructures will typically only be ready after a 3-year project, hence we do not expect to see them in action before 2027. Projects will be expected to publish reports about such infrastructures and demonstrate them in reviews.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The procedures required to launch the actions that will procure such cybersecurity infrastructure is on track. As it takes approximately 3 years to develop such advanced infrastructures, the target of 15 can be expected to be fully met only when the projects are completed. First Work Programme enabling the underpinning investment was adopted in November 2021. Once the calls will be concluded, evaluated and respective contracts/grant agreements signed, first projects will start to be implemented in early 2023.

Indicator 2: Users and communities getting access to European cybersecurity facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2028
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	300		300
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Unique companies/organisations/entities
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring
Link to the objective	Ensure wide access to and usage of cybersecurity capacities to strengthen the resilience, integrity and

	trustworthiness of the Digital Single Market, including critical networks, infrastructures and services
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	It is expected that the infrastructures created by projects become operational by 2027 and then have on average 10 organisations which will be using them. A year after creation we expect the number to correspond to 20. As we expect around 15 of such infrastructures, 150 users for 2027 and 300 for 2028 are to be expected. Projects will consistently report on the number of users.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	For users to be able to access such facilities, the underpinning infrastructure needs to be developed. Procedures to launch these actions are on track. First Work Programme enabling the underpinning investment was adopted in November 2021. Once the calls will be concluded, evaluated and respective contracts/grant agreements signed, first projects will start to be implemented in early 2023. As of 2024 when the first data will be available, the number of users and communities will be continuously monitored.

Specific Objective 4: Promote advanced digital skills to address the shortage of digital experts, particularly in key technological areas

Indicator 1: Persons who have received training to acquire advanced digital skills

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	2 500	15 000	36 200	82 900	133 600			133 600
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring
Link to the objective	Contribution of the DEP to strengthen advanced digital skills, by increasing the education offer and the number of experts trained (art. 7.1 of the proposed Regulation)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	The milestones and the target showed above should be considered as indicative.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Procedures to launch the underpinning actions that will develop training activities are on track. First Work Programme enabling the underpinning investment was adopted in November 2021. Once the calls will be concluded, evaluated and respective contracts/grant agreements signed, first projects will start to be implemented in early 2023. The number of participants will be continuously monitored after the development of the trainings and the successful delivery.

Indicator 2: Enterprises having difficulty recruiting ICT specialists

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
55,4%	58,7%	61,7%	64,3%	66,4%	68%	69%	69,4%	69,2%	68,4%	68,4%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	Eurostat
Link to the objective	Contribution of the DEP to bridge the gap of experts needed to operate key digital technologies and tackle skills mismatches (art. 7.1 of the proposed Regulation)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	The target is set based on the assumption that the past trend will continue at a gradually slower pace. The indicator is only indirectly linked to the implementation of the DEP, therefore the target showed above should be considered as indicative. It can be assumed that the DEP will contribute to improving the trend observed, but the extent of this contribution cannot be estimated. In addition and importantly, external factors (including business digitalisation, labour market and demographic dynamics) will affect the actual trend and can determine deviations from the milestones and targets

	presented above.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	At the moment of drafting the Programme Statement, the data from EUROSTAT for 2021 is not yet available. A potential positive impact of the training on the recruitment of ICT specialists will only be visible after the implementation of the trainings.

Indicator 3: People reporting improved employment situation after the end of the training supported by the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	1 250	7 500	18 100	41 450	66 800			66 800
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	Survey data (self-assessment by the participants in the Master's programmes supported by the DEP)
Link to the objective	Contribution of the DEP to bridge the gap of experts needed to operate key digital technologies and tackle skills mismatches (art. 7.1 of the proposed Regulation)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	50% of the milestones in indicator 1 of SO 4 account for the vales of the milestones in indicator 3. This means that half of the people who are expected to attend the trainings should report an improved employment situation after the end of the training supported by DEP. These numbers are based on existing calls and the allocation of funding.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Procedures to launch the actions that are necessary to create training initiatives to ultimately improve employment situations are on track. First Work Programme enabling the underpinning investment was adopted in November 2021. Once the calls will be concluded, evaluated and respective contracts/grant agreements signed, first projects will start to be implemented in early 2023. Once the training opportunities have been delivered, the expected improvement in the employment situation will be closely monitored.

Specific Objective 5: Widen the adoption and best use of digital technologies in all regions and sectors to make Europe more competitive and address major societal challenges

Indicator 1: Take-up of digital public services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0			0.5	1				1
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Normalised 0-1 progress scale
Cut-Off Date	01/03/2022
Data source	EC monitoring
Link to the objective	Modernise public services through the use of interoperable, citizen-centric digital solutions in order to increase citizen welfare and EU competitiveness.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Part of the services accounted for in this KPI have been deployed in the context of CEF Telecommunications and ISA2
Other methodological comments	For this first estimation, the 4 work strands, Common service platform, the Once Only Principle, Digital Wallet and Justice and Consumer protection have been taken into consideration. For each digital solution to be used as a proxy, one or several sub-indicators are defined to measure its uptake. e.g. the number of projects reusing a solution and a score evaluated against the completion of the planned work in the context of the maintenance of a core system. For each sub-indicator, a level of progress is computed based on the baseline and target. This figure cannot exceed 1 (100%). Based on this, the progress of the work strands was estimated placing equal weight on all work strands. A value of 1 equals 100% of the objectives have been met, a value of 0,5 indicates that the objectives were met partially, and a value of 0 indicates that the objectives have not been achieved.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The procedures to launch the calls are on track. The First Work Programme enabling the underpinning investment was adopted in November 2021. Once the calls will be concluded, evaluated and respective contracts/grant agreements signed, first projects will start to be implemented in early 2023. Procurement starts as of 2021 and first data is expected as of 2023 upon the completion of some actions part of the larger framework of the four workstrands.

Indicator 2: Enterprises with high digital intensity score

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
15.4%	15.9%	16.5%	17%	17.6%	18.3%	18.9%	19.6%	20%	21%	19.6%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	% of EU enterprises (expressed as a fraction)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Eurostat
Link to the objective	Support the integration of digital technologies by European businesses, notably SMEs
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	The target is calculated as a projection of past trends and based on the assumption that the trend will accelerate. The assumption on the acceleration of the trend is in line with the targets established with the 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade” (COM (2021)574 final). The indicator is only indirectly linked to the implementation of the DEP, therefore the milestones and the target showed above should be considered as indicative. It can be assumed that the DEP will contribute to improving the trend observed, but the extent of this contribution cannot be estimated. In addition and importantly, a large number of exogenous factors can affect its evolution (including economic context and other policies). The list of technologies partially changes every year since 2015 to reflect technological evolutions and policy priorities. This factor reduces the comparability across years and makes projections on future trends very challenging.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	At the moment of drafting the Programme Statement, the data from EUROSTAT for 2021 is not yet available. The impact of the programme on the acceleration of the digital intensity of enterprises will be closely monitored and assessed once the actions that are expected to support such a trend, will be fully implemented.

Indicator 3: Extent of alignment of the National Interoperability Framework with the European Interoperability Framework

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2025
3.750	3.755	3.760	3.765	3.770	3.775					3.775
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	1-4 continuous scale
Cut-Off Date	01/12/2021
Data source	The indicator is calculated from the current European Interoperability Framework (EIF) monitoring mechanism, showing the mean value of the level of implementation at EU level. The data is collected consistently and exhaustively via a detailed survey covering the 27 Member States, combined with existing measurements from existing EC secondary data sources such as Open data portal indicators.
Link to the objective	Modernise public services through the use of interoperable, citizen-centric digital solutions in order to increase citizen welfare and EU competitiveness.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This work strand builds on the EIF implementation monitoring supported under the previous MFF through ISA2.
Other methodological comments	Since the EIF may be updated in the future according to an upcoming legal act on interoperability, the methodology, milestones and target values will be then revisited and adapted in the middle of DEP programme (2024). Therefore, the current target value has been established for 2025.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Member States are already reaching a high level of maturity on interoperability, across a high number

	of areas. Therefore, the improvements are quite small on an annual basis.
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Indicator 4: Businesses and public sector entities which have used the European Digital Innovation Hubs’ services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	3600	9600	17600	33600	57600			57 600
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Unique entities
Cut-Off Date	01/04/2022
Data source	EC monitoring
Link to the objective	Ensure wide access to European Digital Innovation hubs by businesses and public administrations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new initiative under MFF 21-27.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The procedures to launch the underpinning actions to set up the infrastructure required for businesses and the public sector to eventually use the services of the digital hubs is on track. First Work Programme enabling the underpinning investment was adopted in November 2021. Once the calls will be concluded, evaluated and respective contracts/grant agreements signed, first projects will start to be implemented in early 2023. The monitoring and evaluation of this indicator will take place after the implementation of the European Digital Innovation Hubs’ services.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 2: Interoperability Solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2)

Specific Objective 1: to facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations and between them and citizens and businesses, in order to enable the delivery of electronic public services supporting the implementation of Union policies and activities

Indicator 1: Number of key interoperability enablers

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
3			9	9	9	10	10			10
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of “key interoperability enablers” produced
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission, DIGIT D2
Narrative	“Key interoperability enablers” are actions that develop key generic interoperability solutions to help public administrations provide services. This type of solution is essential to facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations as well as between them and citizens and businesses in order to enable the delivery of interoperable electronic public services, which is one of the ISA2 programme objectives.
Methodology	The value of the indicator reflects the number of the ISA2 programme actions that identify, develop and implement interoperability solutions that are considered essential to facilitating interoperability in Members States. The quantity of such solutions depends on the number and type of proposals submitted by the Member States and Commission services and accepted for implementation in each annual work programme following the positive opinion of the comitology committee.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will discontinue in the MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	The number mentioned in the baseline for the indicator corresponds to the major actions that were

	carried over from the previous programme ISA to the new programme ISA2 and should not be confused with the amount of outputs created by the previous programme (ISA)The indicator value for the years 2017-2020 could only be estimated at the beginning of the programme. This is because the number and type of the solutions produced by the ISA2 actions depends on the number and the type of proposals submitted by the Member States and Commission services, and then accepted for implementation in each annual work programme. As a result of proposals received in 2017 for the WP2018, the number of key interoperability enablers produced in 2018 was already higher than estimated in 2015.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	For most of the monitored period, the indicator has been on track except when it over-performed in 2018 and as a result exceeded the target value. This is explained by rates of government interoperability acceptance and technological progress exceeding initial expectations. There has been an increasing demand in Member States for intensified common investment in interoperability enablers. As the funding finished with the closing of the programme in December 2020, no new interoperability enablers were developed in 2021. The payments in 2021 were used to sustain the existing operations.

Indicator 2: Number of supporting instruments for public administrations delivered to and used by European public administrations

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
4			9	9	11	13	13			13
	Actual Progress									Final
			9	9	12	13	13	13		13
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of supporting instruments used by EU public administrations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission, DIGIT D2
Narrative	“Supporting instruments for public administrations” are actions to develop support solutions that can help public administrations build interoperable services and that contribute to the development of more effective, simplified, and user-friendly e-administration at all levels. Delivering such supporting instruments to EU public administrations has been prerequisite to meeting main objectives of the ISA2 programme.
Methodology	The value of the indicator reflects the number of the ISA2 programme actions that identify, develop, and implement support solutions that can help EU public administrations build interoperable state-of-the-art services. The number of such solutions depends on the number and type of proposals submitted by the Member States and Commission services and accepted for implementation in each annual work programme following the positive opinion of the comitology committee.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will discontinue in the MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	The number mentioned in the baseline for the indicator corresponds to the major actions that were carried over from the previous programme ISA to the new programme ISA2 and should not be confused with the amount of outputs created by the previous programme (ISA).The value of the indicator for the years 2017-2020 could only be estimated at the beginning of the programme. This is because the number and type of the solutions produced by the ISA2 actions depends on the number and the type of proposals submitted by the Member States and Commission services, and then accepted for implementation in each annual work programme. As a result of proposals received in 2017 for the WP 2018, the number of supporting instruments for public administrations delivered in 2018 was already higher than estimated in 2015.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In general, the indicator has been on track except when it over-performed in 2018, which is explained by the increased need of Member States to modernise their public services and to improve electronic interaction among Member States as well as between Member States public administrations, individuals and companies. The target value has been reached as planned. As the funding finished with the closing of the programme in December 2020, no new supporting instruments were developed in 2021. The payments in 2021 were used to sustain the existing operations.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	35.96							35.96	1%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

By bringing European human centred AI-solutions and by unleashing the powers of digital, the Digital Europe Programme is expected to contribute to Europe’s common goal of being climate neutral by 2050 as set out in the European Green Deal. Several actions in the first Work Programmes (i.e. using 2021 and 2022 appropriations), have the potential to contribute to climate mainstreaming.

In particular, based on their scope, several actions will contribute directly to this target. Such is the case of selected actions contributing to the creation of a European Green Deal data space, the Urban Digital twins or the Destination Earth initiative. Another example would be the Digital Product Passport aiming to achieve sustainable and circular systems in three key value chains by improving product sustainability, boosting material and energy efficiency, enabling new business models and circular value extraction based on data sharing.

Partial contributions to climate action can also be expected from other actions where the scope of the action could cover use cases that address challenges linked to the climate change. In these topics, the assessment can only be done after the evaluation, depending on the scope of the awarded projects. This is the case for the data space for smart communities or the projects deploying the data space for mobility which could for instance support the monitoring of GHG emissions or the adaptation of transport policies to reduce climate impact.

Finally, also worth mentioning, that other actions might also marginally contribute with positive externalities although the climate action is not their main objective. Such is the case of the requirements of energy efficiency in the build-up of the cloud-to-edge capacities, or the actions supporting the digitalisation of justice which are expected to contribute by fostering paper-less communication in civil and cross border proceedings.

The tracking will be performed at commitment level, directly on the financial system of the Commission when each operation is registered. As DEP is a new programme with no historical data, and as use cases for some calls cannot be anticipated, it’s not possible to forecast climate expenditures for the whole period.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 1130							

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

In line with the Commission’s methodology to track gender equality related expenditure, the programme has been attributed a score 0*, which means that the programme’s impact on gender will be determined ex post once sufficient information from the programming and implementation phase is available. The contribution from Digital Europe to gender equality in the first set of Work Programmes could be relevant for two actions, namely the “Specialised education programmes in key capacity areas” and “Short term training courses in key capacity areas” under Specific Objective 4, in line with article 7 of the Digital Europe Regulation. Should the implementation of the abovementioned actions in SO4 confirm a contribution, this will be reflected in the respective Programme Statement.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Digital Europe programme is expected to contribute to this SDG through the support provided for the digitalisation of the health sector in particular through the uptake of digital health solutions and services.

Several actions in the first Work Programme are expected to contribute directly to this goal. Such is the case of the Data spaces for Health or the Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health which together are meant to constitute an investment from 2021 and 2022 EU budget of up to 68 million EUR.

Other topics might also marginally contribute with positive externalities although healthcare is not their main objective. Such is the case of support to specialised education programmes in key digital technologies for professionals in various areas, including the health sector.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The Digital Europe programme will promote learning opportunities in advanced digital skills in key capacity areas like data and AI, cybersecurity, quantum and HPC. The support will target training opportunities for the future experts as well as upskilling of the existing workforce through short trainings reflecting the latest developments in the above mentioned key capacity areas. An example of such investment would be the “Specialised educational programmes in key capacity areas” with a total support from EU 2021 and 2022 budget of 122 million EUR.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Digital Europe programme is expected to contribute in bridging the investment gap in Europe and to generate jobs and economic growth. The programme will support the promotion of the advanced digital skills needed for the deployment of the technologies funded by the programme. An example of such investment would be the “Short-term training courses in key capacity areas” with a total support from EU 2021 and 2022 budget of 25 million EUR.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The Digital Europe programme will contribute to the broader digital transformation of areas of public interest and of industry. The acquisition and deployment of advanced supercomputing capabilities aim to enhance Europe’s industrial competitiveness. Moreover, the reinforced network of European Digital Innovation Hubs will contribute to the digitisation of industry and address issues of technological accessibility, ensuring that businesses, including SMEs, have access to cutting-edge technologies and finance for adapting to digital change. The deployment of cross border interoperable digital solutions, will enhance collaboration between European Public administrations. An example of such investment would be in the setup of the network of Digital Innovation Hubs with a total support from EU 2021 - 2023 budget of 321 million EUR.

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

Selected actions under the Digital Europe Programme as well as the legacy solutions deployed in the context of the ISA2 and CEF Telecommunications Programmes aim to enlarge and maximise the benefits of the digital transformation for citizens and businesses. Contribution to this SDG is expected from selected topics that aim to support the digitalization and interoperability of public administrations, piloting of AI applications in law enforcement domain, as well as the digital transformation of Justice and consumer protection. The digital transformation of public administrations shall foster trust in online services, improve the service delivery and the convenience of services for European businesses and citizens, and reduce digital administrative barriers. An example of such investment would be in the work strands supporting the digitalisation of justice and consumer protection under the first Work Programme, which sum up to a support from EU 2021 and 2022 budget of 17 million EUR.

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**Single Market Programme, including COSME, ISA2, ESP, consumer involvement in fin. Services, financial reporting, Food and Feed, consumer programme****Lead DG: GROW**

Associated DGs: COMP, ESTAT, FISMA, JUST, RTD, SANTE, TAXUD

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Specific Objective 1 :To provide statistical information, in a timely manner, to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the Union properly reflecting priorities, while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields and serving the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort. 207

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Specific Objective 1 :to improve the conditions for the efficient functioning of the internal market by supporting the transparent and independent development of international financial reporting and auditing standards..... 207

Previous Program 4 : Food and Feed 208

General Objective 1 :contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases and pests and by ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment, while enhancing the competitiveness of the Union food and feed industry and favouring the creation of jobs . 208

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The single market programme (SMP) will improve the functioning of the internal market and help protect and empower citizens, consumers and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The programme will support the design, implementation and enforcement of Union legislation underpinning the proper functioning of the single market for goods and services. It will also assist the digitalisation of services and business operations, facilitate market access and international co-operation especially in the areas of company law and contract and extra-contractual law, anti-money laundering, free movement of capital, financial services and competition, for the area of plants, animals, food and feed. Overarching and contributing to all areas, the programme will support the development, production and dissemination of European statistics on all EU policies.

The programme will contribute to a range of Commission priorities including a European Green Deal, a Europe fit for the digital age and an economy that works for people, as well as a stronger Europe in the world. Further improvements to the functioning of the internal market can help develop the competitiveness of the European economy and thereby support the effective recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission’s updated industrial strategy for Europe announced a focus on industrial "ecosystems" to lead the transition towards a green and digital economy. A well-functioning Single Market, as Europe’s competitiveness driver, should be the basis of effective economic recovery of each ecosystem after the crisis.

In a context of budgetary constraints, the EU needs to seek synergies and prevent duplication and fragmentation in its support to the Single Market. It also needs to ensure greater visibility and coherence of its action towards Single Market users. The overarching goal is to help the Single Market reach its full potential and remain the ultimate engine of Europe’s recovery.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The programme brings together six predecessor programmes from different policy areas: the grants and contracts part of COSME (support to SMEs); the programme on consumer protection; the programme for enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policymaking in the area of financial services; the programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing; the programme for a high level of health for human, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas; and European statistics. It includes several previously independent budgetary lines connected to the functioning of the internal market, concerning, market surveillance, company law, contract and extra-contractual law,

standardisation and support for competition policy, customs and taxation and financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union. These previous programmes and budget lines are now brought under the SMP banner.

The SMP's integrated setup will allow a more agile financing framework, which will lead to efficient use of synergies and prioritizing across all 14 ecosystems. One of the ambitions of the SMP is to create and develop synergies and further simplify the programme, beyond the mere juxtaposition of policy objectives.

1.3. Specific objectives

The programme-specific objectives are:

- Making the internal market more effective, especially in the light of the digital transformation by supporting:
 - the development, implementation and enforcement of Union law covering the internal market in goods and services, including the free movement of capital and financial services; and
 - effective market surveillance throughout the Union;
- Improving the competitiveness of businesses, especially SMEs;
- Ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through standardisation and supporting the development of high-quality financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards;
- Promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high-level of product safety and consumer protection by empowering and assisting consumers, ensuring access to efficient redress mechanisms, supporting enforcement authorities and consumer organisations, by enhancing the participation of consumers and other end users of financial services in financial services policy making, promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and the different forms of commercialised financial products;
- Contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants throughout the food chain; and
- Producing and communicating high-quality statistics on Europe.

1.4. Public intervention context

The SMP will help facilitate a well-functioning Single Market as the basis of an effective economic recovery after the crisis crisis, in line with its specific objectives

The Internal Market objective aims at making the internal market more effective, especially in the light of the digital transformation, by supporting the development, implementation and enforcement of Union law covering the internal market in goods and services, including the free movement of capital and financial services; and effective market surveillance throughout the Union. This should ensure that citizens and businesses enjoy the benefits of the internal market and, through a range of tools, ensure they are aware of and can exercise their rights. Through this pillar, the SMP will implement, enforce and develop rules in areas including company and contract law, anti-money laundering, the free movement of capital and financial services. This pillar will support effective market surveillance, to ensure only safe and compliant products are made available. The SMP will ensure financial services meet the needs of consumers, civil society and end-users and enhance tools and expertise of the Commission to enforce effectively competition rules in the digital economy.

The Competitiveness (SME) objective of the SMP will support measures to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs which also achieve additionality at European level. This encompasses measures to foster growth, scale-up and creation of SMEs, access to markets, including through internationalization, entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial skills, enhancing the business environment, digital transformation, new business opportunities for SMEs, including those with innovative business models, competitiveness of industrial ecosystems and sectors, the development of industrial value chains, and the modernisation of industry, contributing to a green, digital and resilient economy.

Effective standards: The SMP will provide financial support to organisations that develop European wide standards to ensure that products and services meet an agreed level of quality and safety.

Under the **Financial Reporting and Auditing Standards** objective will also provide financial support for the development of international financial reporting and auditing standards. Those international standards underpin the EU's own legal framework on financial reporting (accounting and auditing) and are an essential element of the legislation regulating EU capital markets and the strengthening of the Capital Markets Union. The SMP will also contribute to the development of European and, thereby, global standards on sustainability reporting standards, which will be fundamental for the achievement of the Commission's priorities set out in the European Green Deal. Co-financing will be provided to:

- the IFRS Foundation, which develops international financial reporting standards (IFRSs) via its International Accounting Standards Board (IASB),

- the European Financial Reporting and Advisory Group (EFRAG) which provides the European Commission with endorsement advice on new or modified standards and monitors the standard setting activities undertaken by the IASB to ensure that European interests are safeguarded,
- the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) which oversees three Standard Setting Boards supported by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in the areas of audit and assurance, education, and ethics.

Through the **Consumer protection** objective, the programme supports the enforcement of consumer protection and safety rules. The Programme empowers consumers and put them at the heart of the internal market by supporting and complementing Member States' policies in seeking to ensure that consumers can fully reap the benefits of the internal market and that their safety, legal and economic interests are properly protected. Furthermore, it ensures that products circulating on the internal market, including online, are safe for consumers and it supports coordinated approach to market surveillance rules across the EU. The SMP also boost consumers and traders trust by giving them access to more efficient and cost-effective means of out-of-court redress. The Consumer protection strand activities implement priorities of the New Consumer Agenda, which presents a vision of EU consumer policy for 2020-2025, addressing consumers' needs in particular those the most vulnerable, enforcing consumer rights, increasing their resilience in the longer term and promoting a greener, more digital and faired single market.

Under the **Enhancing consumers involvement in the EU policy making in the field of financial services** objective, the programme will provide continued financial support for enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and civil society in financial services policy-making as well as for promoting a better understanding of the financial sector. By doing so the SMP will contribute a main Commission priority for 2019-2024, i.e. "An economy that works for people" and shall help the Commission in its efforts to shape an economy that can fully respond to the needs of the EU's citizens.

The programme identifies two not-for-profit organisations that may be awarded grants to undertake activities to these ends. As well as together reinforcing the voice of consumers in relation to financial services policymaking, the organisations also have complementary strengths and expertise:

- Finance Watch strives to address also the bigger societal challenges related to finance, focusing on financial inclusion and sustainable finance;
- Better Finance grew into a centre of financial expertise, advocating for an open, transparent and efficient financing of the real economy, served by financial institutions that keep in mind the interests of customers and the public.

An evaluation of the predecessor programme conducted in 2020 found that "there are currently no alternative organisations at EU level covering a similar range of topics in financial services and in the same depth." However, were other potential beneficiaries to emerge, having as among their primary objectives representing the interests of consumers and end-users at Union level and that have, through their membership a broad geographical coverage and range of interests, then a call for applicants should be open to them.

Through **the Food Strand**, the SMP will prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases and plant pests, support sustainable food production and consumption, and the improvement of animal welfare, and improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls.

The SMP will cover veterinary and phyto-sanitary programmes, emergency measures and official controls related activities. From 2021 on, under the new MFF and the SMP, the EU will be able to financially support measures and actions related to animal welfare, to the prevention of food waste and fraudulent practices, the fight against antimicrobial-resistance (AMR) and to promote a sustainable food production and consumption.

The SMP will provide funding to National Statistics Institutes, under **the European statistics** objective, for the development, production and dissemination of high-quality statistics to monitor the economic, social, environmental and territorial situation, thereby providing for evidence-based decision making in the EU and measuring the impact of EU initiatives. This will be done in a timely, impartial and cost-efficient manner, through a strengthened European Statistical System (ESS) and enhanced partnerships within that system and with all relevant external parties. Multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems and digital technologies will be used and a national breakdown, and where possible, a regional one, will be provided.

Eurostat will continue to provide statistics and data to support the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The European Statistical Recovery Dashboard, containing monthly and quarterly indicators from a broad range of statistical areas that are highly relevant for monitoring economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, was launched in December 2020 and will continue to be improved and regularly updated. Furthermore, under the Trusted Smart Statistics initiative, Eurostat will continue seizing the opportunities provided by new technologies and new data sources, especially those originating from the digitalisation of society and of the economy. This will result in improving the official statistics portfolio along key quality dimensions: better timeliness, finer granularity, improved cost-effectiveness, and more transparency. This initiative is gradually providing the European Statistical System with capabilities that are essential for adapting the official statistics to the digital era. Eurostat will also better communicate and better promote European statistics and facilitate their use by different stakeholders by increasing its presence across different dissemination channels (Eurostat website, social media), by disseminating flagship publications (Key figures on Europe, SDGs,

Regional Yearbook) and also by producing new interactive digital publications. Moreover, it will expand the range and reach of the statistical products, such as Statistics Explained articles and Statistics 4 beginners articles.

1.5. Actions

The main activities of the programme include:

- Support for the effective enforcement and modernisation of the Union legal framework through data-gathering and analyses;
- Studies, assessments, analyses and evaluations;
- Capacity-building activities and facilitation of joint actions between Member States and between their competent authorities and the Commission and the decentralised Union agencies;
- Support for projects, tools and services to identify and address specific challenges for competitiveness and sustainability faced by businesses and industrial ecosystems;
- Financing of mechanisms allowing individuals, consumers and business representatives to contribute to decision-making processes;
- Support for bodies involved in developing high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, facilitating their integration into the Union law, and promoting the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting;
- Support for actions improving awareness, digital literacy and life-long education of consumers about their rights and redress possibilities in particular for the most vulnerable, fostering sustainable consumption, facilitating access to quality out of court dispute resolution and action supporting enforcement authorities and consumer representative organisations.
- Support for actions enhancing the participation of consumers and other end-users of financial services in financial services policy making, promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products and ensuring that the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services are protected; Strengthening the exchange and dissemination of expertise and knowledge.

This is complemented by very specific and targeted types of actions in a number of areas including: improvement of competitiveness, notably of SMEs; standardisation and emergency measures along the food chain and protection of human, animal and plant health, as well as animal welfare.

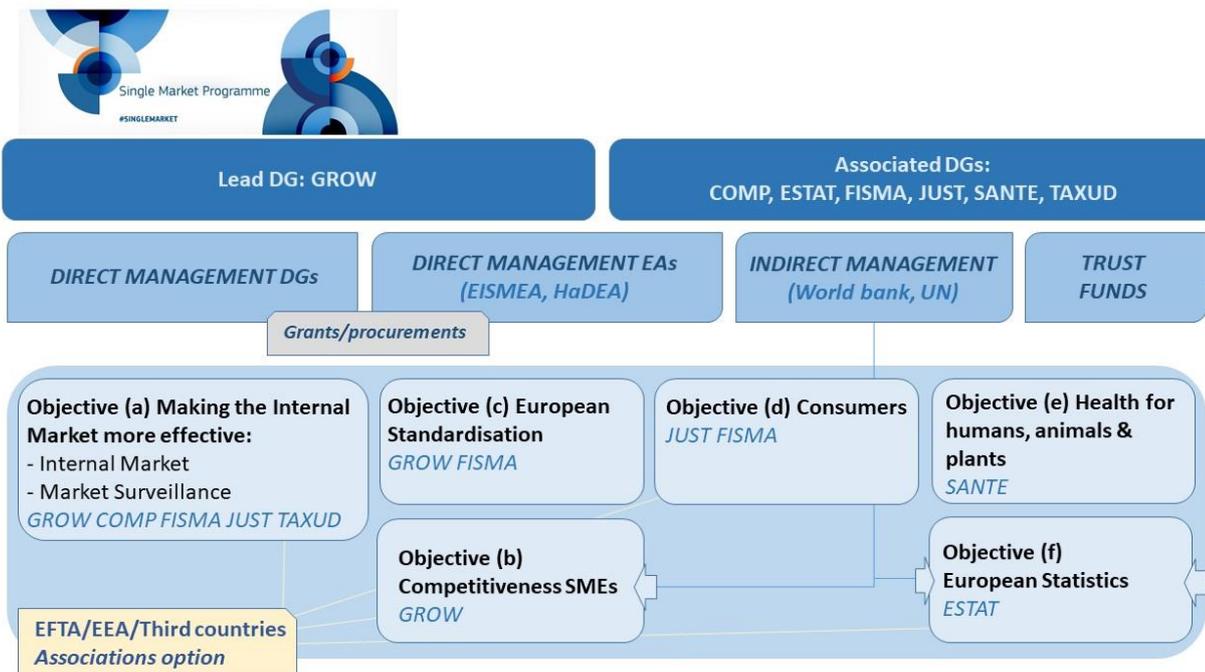
The SMP also includes specific activities for implementing the framework for financing the development, production and dissemination of European statistics within the meaning of Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009.

1.6. Delivery mode

The programme is mainly implemented through direct management using in particular (but not exclusively) grants and procurement. The participating DGs are COMP, ESTAT, FISMA, GROW, JUST, SANTE, TAXUD.

Parts of the programme are implemented by two executive agencies. These concern in particular specific activities for strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of businesses and SMEs that are delegated to the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), activities for promoting the interests of consumers, activities relating to the protection of the health of humans, animals and plants along the food chain, and to the support of the welfare of animals. The majority of the actions under the Food strand of the SMP will be delegated for implementation to the newly established Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). The programme is coordinated along the lines set out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the seven participating Directorate-Generals, with the provision of a coordination secretariat provided by DG GROW.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



THE SMP STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

GENERAL OBJECTIVES	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES
Improve the functioning of the Internal Market	Improving the Internal Market and market surveillance
	Support to SMEs
	Standardisation
	Promoting the interests of Consumers
	High level of health and safety for humans, animals and plants
High quality Statistics	European Statistics (covering all EU policies)

2



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	4 208.04

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	583.1	613.5	592.8	601.5	610.2	619.7	620.6	4 241.4
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	24.6	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	24.6
Total	607.8	613.5	592.8	601.5	610.2	619.7	620.6	4 266.1

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The programme brings together six predecessor programmes from different policy areas. It also includes several previously independent budgetary lines connected to the functioning of the internal market.

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Regulation for 2021-2027 (the MFF Regulation) sets the budgetary framework and main orientations for the Single Market Programme (SMP) for the period 2021-2027.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

[Single Market Programme legal texts and factsheets](#)

[Funding-tenders Single Market Programme overview](#)

[Single Market Programme \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Consumers | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Single Market Programme \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Food chain](#)

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	596.0	4 266.1	14%
Payments	86.0		2%

The SMP was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in April 2021. The Work Programmes for the full SMP and the 2021 Financing Decision were adopted in May 2021. The 2022 Work Programme was adopted on 17 February 2022.

Competitiveness of enterprises (SME) objective:

In 2021, the SME strand had a voted budget of EUR 117 443 450. This budget was fully committed, and two multiannual calls were launched for the Enterprise Europe Network in May and the Joint Cluster Initiative in late September. The evaluations for the August cut-off date for the Enterprise Europe network call were completed (58 of the 73 eligible proposals were successful and the

preparation of the signature of grant agreements ensuring coverage of the network in the vast majority of EU Member States with 12 grant contracts signed before the end of the year, The remaining 46 are due to be signed in early 2022). The December cut-off concluded with 32 proposals due to cover the EU Member States where coverage was not achieved in the first cut-off date for this call. The evaluations of these proposals are ongoing. Other calls such as the Social economy and local green deals call were published in the autumn or foreseen in January/February 2022. The tourism call “COVID-19 - Recovery Through Sustainable Tourism Growth and SME Support” for just over EUR 12 000 000 was published in December 2021 and will be followed in 2022 with a second call of EUR 20 500 000 which will provide additional much-needed support for building sustainability and resilience in the tourism sector.

In 2022, the SME strand has a voted budget of EUR 151 450 000. The 2022 Work Programme provides for continuity of proven concepts such as the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, the IPR SME helpdesks, the EU-Japan Business Centre, the SME Envoy Network, the SME Performance Review, the Single Digital Gateway and Public Procurement for Innovation. It also supports the new Joint Cluster Initiative (Euroclusters), the tourism sector including specifically earmarked budget, and backs the implementation of the SME strategy. It also ensures the rollout of new tasks in EEN such as those linked to sustainability and digitalisation.

Example of an initiative for supporting Ukraine: In the framework of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, the EU Clusters Support Ukraine Forum has been created to enhance the ability of European industry to contribute to the delivery of humanitarian aid for Ukraine and to support Ukrainian refugees in Member State countries. This forum enables European industry to share information, register offers of assistance, propose collaboration and request assistance in order to facilitate procurement and delivery of urgent humanitarian support (see: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/content/eu-clusters-supporting-ukraine>).

Financial and Non-Financial Reporting and Auditing Standards objective

In 2021, the first year of SMP implementation, grants totalling EUR 8 078 058 of commitment appropriations were awarded to the three beneficiaries supporting the development of high-quality financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards that are identified in the Regulation establishing the Single Market. Commitment appropriations not needed for 2021 have been reprogrammed for later years of the multiannual financial framework period.

In addition, in 2021 EUR 4 666 529 of payment appropriations were used to provide operational cash flow to the grant beneficiaries in the form of pre-financing for the implementation of their 2021 work programmes.

The commitment appropriations available for 2022 (EUR 8 662 095) will be used for the 2022 operating grants to designated beneficiaries of the programme in the area of financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards. The three organisations concerned have submitted their applications for Union funding for 2022, which are being assessed by the Commission services with a view to their award before end-April 2022.

The payment appropriations available for 2022 will be used to provide operational cash flow to the grant beneficiaries for the implementation of their 2022 work programmes as well as to honour the outstanding commitments from 2021.

At around EUR 8 944 000, the estimated commitment appropriations that will be made available in 2023 for the award of operating grants to the three designated beneficiaries would be slightly higher than in 2022. They will be used for the operating grants to be awarded in 2023. The forecast payment appropriations of EUR 8 847 000 for 2023 will be used to provide operational cash flow to the grant beneficiaries for the implementation of their 2023 work programmes as well as for honouring the outstanding commitments from 2022.

Consumer objective

The Consumer strand activities are part of a biennial work programme that covers 2021 and 2022 with a total budget of ca. EUR 49 million (incl. EEA EFTA contribution and internal transfers) out of which ca. EUR 39 million is implemented by the Executive Agency EISMEA.

The late adoption of SMP Regulation and related Financing Decision - together with related policy reconsiderations - led to delays in the call planning for both grants and procurement actions, meaning that some actions originally planned for 2021 will be finalised in 2022.

In June 2021, six calls/invitation to submit proposals were launched (five for the action grants and one operating grant). The calls covered areas including: offering assistance to consumers in Member States in the form of Alternative Dispute Resolution, promoting stable debt advice services; supporting joint actions of the European Consumer Centres (ECC); co-operation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection law (CPC); support for the activities of Member States authorities participating in EU consumer policy; and support for the activities of the consumer organisation at the Union level – BEUC. In total 80 proposals from 29 countries, including EU member states, Norway and Iceland were submitted. Five grant agreements have been signed in 2021, the other are under evaluation and will be finalised in Q1/2022.

In addition, several service contracts signed focused on training and capacity building for consumer policy stakeholders; communication of the changes brought by the directive on better enforcement and modernisation of EU consumer protection; behavioural and evaluation studies supporting Consumer policy development; as well as for an Informal Ministerial Meeting under the French Presidency, the Consumer dialogues and consumer summit events.

Enhancing consumers involvement in the EU policy making in the field of financial services objective

In 2021, the first year of SMP implementation, grants totalling EUR 1 496 375 of commitment appropriations were awarded to the two beneficiaries that are identified in the Regulation establishing the Single Market for their actions supporting consumers and other end-users of financial services.

In addition, in 2021 EUR 918 550 of payment appropriations of were used to provide operational cash flow to the grant beneficiaries in the form of pre-financing for the implementation of their 2021 actions.

The commitment appropriations available for 2022 (EUR 1 497 691) will be used for the 2022 action grants to designated beneficiaries of the programme in the area of enhancing the participation of consumers and other end-users of financial services in financial services policy making, promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products and ensuring that the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services are protected; Strengthening the exchange and dissemination of expertise and knowledge. The two organisation concerned have submitted their applications for Union funding for 2022, which are being assessed by the Commission services with a view to their award.

The payment appropriations available for 2022 will be used to provide operational cash flow to the grant beneficiaries for the implementation of their 2022 actions as well as to honour the outstanding commitments from 2021.

In the first year of implementation, the focus was on a number of key topics such as sustainable finance (the Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy), financial inclusion, Capital Markets Union, digitalisation (the Digital Finance Package), financial stability, the impact and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemics, and other emerging priorities. In 2021, the beneficiaries of the programme engaged in activities that not only contributed to substantive achievements in relation to the objectives of the SMP but also broadened the outreach and impact on EU policy-making in the area of financial services of organisations representing the interests of consumers and end-users of financial services. In general terms, such activities included:

- publication of research and policy papers;
- contribution to public consultations;
- communication and outreach activities, including organisation of high-level conferences, participation in hearings, good press coverage and social media activities, and financial education and training;
- increasing the representation of consumer and end-user interests in the Union policy-making through regular meetings with EU policymakers and participation in expert or stakeholder groups and European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs).

Also in 2021 continued efforts were made to develop methodology and best practices on how to increase the engagement of consumers and financial services end-users in order to identify issues relevant for Union policy-making and ensure that the interests of consumers in the area of financial services are protected.

In 2021, the global COVID-19 pandemic continued to hamper the beneficiaries' physical participation (including as speakers) in various events. Both organisations have, however, taken part in online conferences and webinars and thus ensured that the voice of financial service users was heard.

Food objective

Under the SMP umbrella, a common single Financing Decision and Work Programme was adopted. All Food chain related activities are presented in an Annex to the Financing Decision (i.e. veterinary programmes, phyto-sanitary programmes, EURLs and Food and Feed activities that include the new activities: animal welfare, AMR, food sustainability, food fraud, food waste, etc.). The formal adoption of the Financing Decision will take place in February 2022. Member States have then submitted their veterinary and phyto-sanitary programmes by 31/05/2022 as per SMP provisions. The timing for grants preparation and finalisation will go to January 2023.

As regards the 2021-2022 activities, transitional provisions under the current SMP Regulation allow the measures implemented from 1/1/2021 to be eligible for financing, even if the grants are signed later, in order to avoid disruption on the fight against animal diseases and pests.

By letters sent to contracting authorities end of December 2020, beneficiaries (MS and EURL/EURCs) have been informed of the above timing and on the step to be taken to ensure continuity of the actions to be implemented.

In the first year of implementation (2021), a total budget of around EUR 230 million in commitment appropriations was implemented. The initial approximate allocation designated to the different food chain activities within the SMP was as follows:

- Veterinary programmes – 46.5 %
- Phyto-sanitary programmes – 9.0%
- Veterinary and phyto-sanitary emergency measures – 9.0 %
- Official controls: European Reference Laboratories/European Reference Centres – 9.5 %
- Better Training for Safer Food – 4.5%
- Animal welfare, food waste and fraud, AMR, sustainable food production and consumption – 6.4%
- Other expenses (communication, IT, contingency, ...) – 13.0%

- Better Training for Safer Food – 4.5%
- Animal welfare, food waste and fraud, AMR, sustainable food production and consumption – 6.4%
- Other expenses (communication, IT, contingency, ...) – 13.0%

For 2021, 130 national **veterinary programmes** covering the monitoring and eradication of 12 diseases and implemented by 27 Member States, have been approved and implemented in accordance with pre-defined priorities; their final report is due at the end of April 2022. Around EUR 107 million was allocated to co-fund them, which accounts for the largest proportion of spending under the Food and Feed budget. For 2022, 129 national veterinary programmes covering the monitoring and eradication of 12 diseases and implemented by 27 Member States, have been approved and implemented in accordance with pre-defined priorities. In addition, 9 programmes in neighbouring third countries have been approved for 2022. The total budget allocated to the veterinary programmes in 2022 is EUR 107 million.

In 2021, 19 Member States had EU-approved national programmes in place for control and eradication of ASF with a total allocation of EUR 12.6 million and 13.3 million are envisaged for 2022.

As regards the **national survey programs for organisms harmful to plants**, in 2021, 24 programmes were implemented for which the final report is due at the end of April 2022. The budget allocated for these activities is EUR 20 million for 2021 and EUR 20 million for 2022, covering 24 Member States.

There were 44 EU funded European Reference Laboratories (EURLs) in 2021. These laboratories helped ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market, the protection of human health and animal health, and the maintenance of consumers' confidence. The budget allocated to the EURLs/EURCs for 2021 and 2022 is 20 million per year.

Preparations are ongoing for the support of the emergency measures, both veterinary and phytosanitary. As a result of outbreaks of ASF and highly pathogenic Avian Influenza, substantial requests for co-financing are expected to be submitted by Member States, going far beyond the available budget. In this respect, a recourse might have to be done to the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR).

European Statistics objective

In the domain of European statistics, the EUR 74 million commitment appropriations of the 2021 voted budget were implemented completely, supporting calls for proposals, tenders and other actions detailed in the Annex of the Financing Decision/Work Programme. Due to the delay in the adoption of the legal basis as well as the FD/WP, certain agreements could not be finalized within the year and consequently EUR 0.8 million payment credits initially foreseen to provide advance payments to beneficiaries were not used.

In 2022, the European Statistics objective has a voted budget of EUR 75 million, which will be used for the implementation of the annual work programme via the traditional instruments of the statistical programme, namely open grant calls, grants to members of the European Statistical System, as well as calls for tenders and other actions serving the purposes of the objective producing and communicating high quality statistics on Europe.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME)

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	2 358.7	2 359.0	100%
Payments	1 762.1		75%

COSME Financial Instruments: At the end of 2020, all commitment appropriations as authorised by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU for the period 2014-2020 were used in line with the planned operational implementation. The implementation rate of payment appropriations vis-à-vis commitment appropriations varies between the two COSME financial instruments.

Whereas, the Loan Guarantee Facility has a rather accelerated budgetary implementation ratio (e.g. 84% budgetary execution rate of payments vis-à-vis commitments as of 31 December 2021), the respective ratio for the Equity Facility for Growth is lower (i.e. 38% budgetary execution rate of payments vis-à-vis commitments as of 31 December 2021) due to the implementation specificities.

In the case of the Loan Guarantee Facility, payment appropriations are needed to allow the implementation partner (the European Investment Fund) to honour guarantee calls from financial intermediaries for defaulting loans and to pay implementation fees.

Furthermore, the Loan Guarantee Facility was additionally reinforced by the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. Since 2015, it has enhanced the Loan Guarantee Facility by adding additional risk-taking capacity and doubling the available resources in terms of commitment appropriations. It is expected that by the end of 2022 the budgetary implementation ratio will reach almost 100%, i.e. payment appropriations should match almost in full commitment appropriations.

In the case of the Equity Facility for Growth, payment appropriations are needed to allow the implementation partner (the European Investment Fund) to honour cash-calls from fund managers, who will use the cash to invest in portfolio companies, and for implementation fees. Since it is industry standard that venture capital fund managers have up to 5 years to make the first initial investments in SMEs following the creation of the venture fund, there is a significant delay between the time of signature of a fund agreement by the EIF and the respective cash calls by the fund managers. Furthermore the initial investment by the fund manager, funds can hold on to their portfolio companies for up to 10 years during which they can undertake follow-on investments to grow the companies. This pattern of activity explains why there is a significant time delay between commitment and payment appropriations in the case of venture capital investments.

In any case both COSME financial instruments are planned to last until 31 December 2034 when the last guarantee and equity operations are wound down by the EIF. All details are available in the Working Document Part X dedicated to the financial instruments.

Financial Reporting and Auditing Standards

Over the period 2014-2020 commitment appropriations of EUR 55 307 969 had been used for the programme's operational implementation.

However, budget appropriations totalling EUR 2.9 million were decommitted over the same period. This represents 5.4% of the total budget appropriations initially committed. The decommitment was mainly due to a beneficiary underspending the awarded Union funds for particular reasons. Arrangements were put in place to mitigate the likelihood and impact of recurrence which were successful in mitigating the problem whilst allowing the objectives of the programme to be achieved.

The payments executed over the period 2014-2020 amount to EUR 48 819 949 and represent 88% of the total commitment appropriations for the same period. The operating grants implementation period runs from 1 January to 31 December and balance payments due to the beneficiaries were made in 2021 which explains the difference between the cumulative commitment appropriations (taking into account the aforementioned decommitment) and the cumulative payment appropriations..

Consumer Programme

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (EUR million):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	187.8	188.4	100%
Payments	161.9		86%

The implementation of the Consumer Programme 2014–2020 is well on track and at the end of 2021, all commitment appropriations (including the credits on the global commitment) were used according to the planned operational implementation.

In 2020 and 2021, following the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on some of the procurement activities (cancellation of meetings, conferences and study visits), the budget allocated to grants was slightly increased (within the 20% flexibility foreseen in the Financing Decision), which allowed to increase the overall implementation rate.

The implementation of the payment appropriations over the period 2014-2020 represent 86% of the total commitment appropriations for the same period. The payment appropriations will continue to be executed in the coming years (estimated until 2023), to allow for the finalisation of ongoing projects related to grants and procurement activities. They concern mainly multi-annual activities which are still in progress or in the finalisation phase.

Enhancing consumers involvement in the EU policy making in the field of financial services

Over the period 2017-2020 commitment appropriations of EUR 5 532 382 had been used for the programme's operational implementation.

However, budget appropriations totalling EUR 0.3 million were decommitted over the same period. This represents 5.4% of the total budget appropriations initially committed. The decommitment was mainly due to a beneficiary underspending the awarded Union funds for particular reasons. Arrangements were put in place to mitigate the likelihood and impact of recurrence which were successful in mitigating the problem whilst allowing the objectives of the programme to be achieved.

The payments executed over the period 2017-2020 amount to EUR 4 828 690 and represent 87% of the total commitment appropriations for the same period. The action grants implementation period runs from 1 January to 31 December and balance

payments due to the beneficiaries were made in 2021 which explains the difference between the cumulative commitment appropriations (taking into account the aforementioned decommitment) and the cumulative payment appropriations.

Food and Feed

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 827.2	1 827.3	100%
Payments	1 539.8		84%

European Statistical Programme

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	446.7	449.1	99%
Payments	391.3		87%

During 2014-2020, 99% of commitments were implemented in the framework of the European Statistical Programme, thereby allowing to reach the foreseen goals.

The payment appropriations continue to be executed in the coming years, to allow for the finalisation of ongoing projects related to grants and procurement activities. In 2021, some expected submission of deliveries and cost claims from beneficiaries and contractors were delayed, in specific related to the pandemic situation, which resulted in EUR 3.3 million unused payment appropriations.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

All the 2014-2020 programmes are on track to achieve their objectives or have already achieved it.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 has progressed further

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME)

The COSME programme addresses the full range of challenges that SMEs face for boosting their competitiveness. The financial instruments and other support for access to finance provided under this programme do not just provide financial support to numerous SMEs that have difficulties in obtaining finance. They also have a positive impact on the SMEs' assets, share of intangible assets, sales, employment rates and even reduce the SMEs' probability of default. This is empirically demonstrated by the econometric work carried out from various studies on the COSME predecessor activities related to access to finance (see "The real effects of EU loan guarantee schemes for SMEs: A pan-European assessment, European Investment Fund, June 2019).

Several activities of the COSME programme indirectly contribute to the general objective of 'strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs.. Looking at the time and cost to establish a business, the updated methodology shows a reduction from 2014 of 15 days to 12 days in 2020, while the cost (expressed in % of income per capita) has reduced from 4.8% to 3.2% in 2020 (EU-27). This is now measured using World Bank Doing Business data. While this is a positive trend, it shows there is still work to do in improving the business environment.

The work of the SME envoys and SME Performance Review ensure a flow of information for businesses and policymakers, contributing indirectly to improve the business framework and the competitiveness of SMEs. The SME Performance Review reports, including a specific report on the digitalization of SMEs contributed to the Commission's analyses of SME relevant issues

at European and national level in the context of the European Semester, and in 2020/2021 in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The second general objective is to encourage entrepreneurial culture and to promote the creation and growth of SMEs. EU-28 SMEs in the 'non-financial business economy' followed a solid growth path up to 2019. In 2014-2019, SME value added increased by 18.2 %, and SME employment increased by 7.6 %. Nevertheless, the growth in value added of large firms was significantly higher, at 49.2 %. More recently, in 2019, all enterprise size classes recorded growth in the number of enterprises, value added and employment, and EU-27 SMEs posted stronger growth than in large enterprises, especially in terms of growth in value added. Moreover, within the EU-27 SME population, micro-SMEs outperformed by far small and medium-sized SMEs in 2019.

In 2019, SMEs accounted for over 60% of the increase in EU-27 value added, and 70% of the increase in EU-27 employment. In both cases, SMEs' contribution was driven by micro-SMEs, which accounted for 31% and 56% of the total growth in value added and employment respectively.

However, in 2020, the COVID-19 crisis brought to an abrupt halt or even reversed the gains made by the EU SME sector over the past decade. Many industries, especially in the SME-intensive services sector, experienced large declines in sales as a result of the various lockdowns and other measures introduced by Member States, while some other industries saw their sales increase. The various business support measures implemented by Member States during the pandemic limited the employment impact of the decline in economic activity. The 2021 SME Performance Review shows that across the EU, the number of SMEs has fallen by -1.3% in 2020. Employment in SMEs fell by -1.7% in 2020 (representing 1.4 million jobs lost in SMEs) and SME value added by -7.6%. SME employment has not yet reached 2019 levels even by the end of 2021.

Specific projects showed continued success and growth although some adjustments were necessary in 2020. The Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs mobility scheme (active since 2009 as a pilot action and continued under COSME) demonstrates the need for entrepreneurial exchange whereby would-be or newly established entrepreneurs receive practical support from experienced entrepreneurs. Experienced entrepreneurs in return increase their knowledge and access to other markets as well as gain new ideas and techniques for their business. The programme was strongly hit by COVID-19 and the number of matched entrepreneurs dropped significantly in 2020 (1 684 entrepreneurs were matched compared to 2 672 in 2019). 2021 performance was still affected by the COVID 19 sanitary measures. Measures to react to the situation were taken and remote exchanges were offered to start with. However, the programme has maintained its broad geographical spread, implemented by a network of over 180 local intermediary organisations in 37 countries (out of 39 participating), including in Kosovo* and in Martinique (EU outermost region).

Around 263 898 SMEs received advisory services from the Enterprise Europe Network from 2015-2020. Specific actions initiated in 2020 to help SMEs overcome the COVID crisis were continued and consolidated in 2021, in particular virtual brokerage events to help SMEs find alternative business partners, advice on access to finance and single market advisory services. According to a survey by the Enterprise Europe Network, about 74% of the responding companies were strongly or moderately affected by the crisis, forcing them to deal with supply chain disruptions, employee absences and temporary shutdowns among others. The most obvious reasons were delays due to transport and logistics problems, border closings and national lockdown measures.

COSME Financial Instruments: Until September 2021, the Loan Guarantee Facility under the COSME Financial Instruments allowed more than 790 000 SMEs to receive more than EUR 49 billion financial support in 2014-2021. In reaction to the 2020 COVID crisis, EUR 714 million from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) were redirected to the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility to allow the European Investment Fund (EIF) to incentivise banks to provide liquidity to SMEs affected by the COVID crisis. More flexibility was given to users of the Facility, and the guarantee rate was increased from 50 to 80%. Until September 2021, this helped more than 100 000 European SMEs to access more than EUR 9 billion of liquidity finance under the COSME COVID measure.

Until September 2021, the funds supported by the Equity Facility for Growth had invested more than EUR 2.7 billion in more than 400 companies. Out of this amount, more than EUR 1.9 billion were invested in more than 240 SMEs in their growth and expansion stage. The latter two indicators (EUR 1.9 billion and 240 SMEs) were below the initially foreseen long-term targets for 2020. Some of the drivers behind that performance were:

- Signature of agreements for the Equity Facility for Growth continued to take longer, as equity entails more complex due diligence and fund-raising processes.
- The Equity Facility for Growth prioritised funds focused on investments in COSME third countries participating in the programme, whereas these third countries cannot be supported under the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. However, demand from these jurisdictions continues to be limited.

Based on lessons learned from audits and other assessments of operational expenditure for the previous financial years highlighted in previous Programme Statements, the Commission proposed to set up one single InvestEU Programme 2021-2027. This established one single fund (InvestEU Fund). It builds on the successful model of the European Fund for Strategic Investments. The InvestEU ensures a streamlined approach towards the management and reporting on financial instruments/budgetary guarantees. Under the InvestEU fund, financial products tailored for the Commission's policy priorities, including financing of SMEs, are being established.

All details are available in the Working Document Part X dedicated on the financial instruments.

Challenges and conclusion: The most recent evaluation found that COSME actions were highly relevant in addressing the challenges related to fostering economic growth and jobs. The Programme had a good proximity to SMEs thanks to an extended network of intermediaries, a high multiplier effect and showed EU added-value. It supported types of SMEs (with measures such as Loan Guarantee Facility and Enterprise Europe Network). The programme was small but showed flexibility in adapting quickly to new priorities.

However, 20 % of the budget was fragmented in a number of small actions with a low potential for effectiveness and cost-efficiency. In relation to monitoring, the evaluation points to a lack of centralised data about implementation and notes that indicators are mostly based on outputs rather than on long-term effects. Some efforts are still needed to centralise the data that is currently dispersed between the coordinating team, the units managing individual actions and the delegated entities. The programme delivers in terms of jobs and growth creation, but it does not address directly global and societal challenges. The programme is coherent and works without big overlaps with other EU programmes and national/regional SMEs' support schemes, however there is scope for improving synergies, mainly at national and regional level.

The fragmentation into smaller actions was gradually addressed in the last two years of the work programme, ensuring that the larger actions were reinforced where appropriate, and the amount of smaller supporting actions reduced. This also fed into the preparation of actions under the Single Market Programme where the most impactful actions are being reinforced. However, the programme should retain its ability to launch smaller pilot actions to meet the changing landscape of SMEs.

Specific Activities in the Field of Financial Reporting and Auditing

As previously noted for these activities included in Working Document No.1 for the draft 2021 Union budget, in 2019 the [Commission assessed](#) the achievements resulting from the funding programme established by Regulation (EU) 258/2014, an assessment which confirmed the relevance and the benefit of the EU funding programme. The same conclusion can be drawn for 2020, the last year of the funding programme. In particular, Union support strengthened the legitimacy of the three beneficiaries (the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) and the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB)) to serve the European public interest by developing and promoting European views in the field of financial reporting and auditing and ensuring these views are properly considered in the IASB and IFAC standard-setting processes. In terms of achievements, the funding programme enabled the three beneficiaries to develop standards, which enhance the transparency and comparability of financial information about financial instruments, revenue recognition, and lease contracts.

Over 2017-2020 the progress made by IFRS Foundation was in line with its work programme. Four major standards were issued: IFRS 9 - *Financial Instruments*, IFRS 15 - *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, IFRS 16 - *Leases* and IFRS 17 - *Insurance Contracts*. The IASB also published its updated *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* to describe the objective of and concepts for general purpose financial reporting. In 2018, the focus of the IASB agenda evolved from major standard-setting projects towards research projects, maintenance-type activity and initiatives aimed at improving the communication through financial statements. In 2019, the IASB started to revise its new standard IFRS 17 at the request of major stakeholders including the EU, the amendments to which were issued in June 2020. The IASB also in 2019 started to work on a project to enhance the presentation of *Primary Financial Statements*, with feedback on the Exposure Draft being discussed in December 2020.

Over 2017-2020 EFRAG fulfilled its work programme in a satisfactory manner, and in line with the recommendations from the Maystadt Report (October 2013). On financial reporting EFRAG's work was largely driven by the IASB work programme, the IFRS Interpretations Committee, and the IFRS Foundation. Throughout the period, EFRAG provided substantial comment letters to all new draft standards issued by the IASB at an early stage of the IFRS Foundation's due process. To support decision making on endorsement, EFRAG issued timely advice on whether the final IFRS standards issued by the IASB complied with the technical criteria of the IAS Regulation, including the true and fair view principle, and were conducive to the EU public good. In 2020, EFRAG worked on research projects that were continued in 2021: Discounting with low interest rates; Better information on Intangibles; Crypto Assets; and Variable and Contingent Considerations. EFRAG also published a Discussion Paper on the Accounting for crypto-assets (liabilities), on which the outreach was undertaken in 2021.

EFRAG has also widened the scope of its work in recent years and established a European Corporate Reporting Laboratory ("the Lab"), which became operational in February 2019, when the Lab's Task Force on climate-related reporting started its work, the report on which was published in February 2020. A second project about reporting of non-financial risks and opportunities, and linkage to the business model started in September 2020.

The PIOB continued to carry out its oversight function of the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) and the International Ethics Standards Boards for Accountants (IESBA).

Since March 2020 the global COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the work of the IFRS Foundation, EFRAG and PIOB in several ways. The three entities not only adapted by changing the way they worked (crisis meetings were conducted as on-line meetings, outreaches have been cancelled, postponed or turned into webinars) but also deadlines were extended to recognise the circumstances of stakeholders and to allow them to provide input and where applicable seek input from their constituents. The IASB supported stakeholders with some COVID-19 related amendments that provide targeted accounting relief, and by adjusting the Board's work plan including postponing less critical consultations. One example of this is the amendment to IFRS 16 to

facilitate the accounting by entities for COVID-19-related lease concessions such as rental holidays and temporary rent reductions. On the other hand, the IASB prioritised time-sensitive projects such as those related to IBOR reform and the IFRS 17.

In March 2020, EFRAG called on the IASB to extend their consultation periods of non-time critical projects and the IASB extend the consultation periods of several of its projects. EFRAG also revisited the timelines of its projects in light of the IASB decisions and the particular circumstances of the pandemic recognising the priorities of its stakeholders. Although the COVID-19 crisis had an impact on EFRAG's working methods in 2020, it does not seem to have influenced the implementation of their work programme. For example, EFRAG has been able to meet fully the deadlines, including the extensive preparation process of the endorsement advice of IFRS 17 and the outreach and field test of the IASB Exposure Draft General Presentation and Disclosures and the IASB Discussion Paper Business Combinations and Disclosures, Goodwill and Impairment.

Overall, the funding programme supported reliable corporate reporting by companies. This in turn facilitates the allocation of savings and the reduction of the cost of capital for companies in the EU. As regards the financial independence of the beneficiaries, their funding diversification has increased their credibility and technical capacity. The EU financing of the PIOB has helped to attract other public sponsors and to ensure a minimum level of independency from IFAC and the auditing profession. The implementation of the Maystadt reform has also broadened the constituency of EFRAG and contributed to better coordination between European stakeholders in the field of financial reporting. The objective of having national financing of the IFRS Foundation that is proportionate to a country's gross domestic product has, however, not been achieved. Further diversification of the funding of PIOB is also needed; it is one of the main objectives of the reform by the Monitoring Group.

Enhancing consumers involvement in the EU policy making in the field of financial services

Since the launch of the programme in 2017, Better Finance and Finance Watch, have been successfully working towards the achievement of the programme's objectives. They have further developed the knowledge and expertise needed to participate in EU and other relevant multilateral policy-making in the area of financial services, in line with the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2017/826. In parallel, the two organisations built up a network and implemented a number of dissemination activities that enabled them to inform consumers and other financial services end-users as well as stakeholders representing their interests, about issues at stake in the regulation of the financial sector.

The 2019 [evaluation](#) of the programme's implementation and its achievements concluded that the objective of further enhancing the involvement of consumers and financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services was achieved. The two organisations also largely achieved the objective of informing consumers and other financial-services end-users on issues at stake in the regulation of the financial sector.

The study further confirmed that the two organisations have provided important input to the financial policymaking process, in particular through their contributions to public consultations, participation in important Commission and European Supervisory Authorities expert groups, and various publications. Based on their research activities, the beneficiaries helped fill gaps in the overall understanding of certain financial phenomena.

While the two beneficiaries have worked on most of the consumer- or user-related topics in the EU policy debate on financial services each of them prioritised some policy aspects and pursued them in line with the objective of Regulation 2017/826. The study showed that the activities implemented by both organisations in relation to the programme are largely appreciated by stakeholders, and considered to be of high quality. However, some stakeholders argued that the beneficiaries could have covered certain topics in greater depth, e.g. the review of the European Supervisory Authorities Regulations and credit assessment.

The study also concluded that advocacy at EU level on behalf of non-industry stakeholders continues to be necessary to ensure that the perspective of consumers and end-users is taken into consideration. The Union programme allows these organisations to maintain the necessary expertise and independence to effectively represent the interests of consumers and end-users in financial policy-making.

Since March 2020 the global COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the beneficiaries' physical participation (including as speakers) in a number of events as many have been cancelled or postponed. Instead, both organisations organised 13 virtual events, provided speakers to 66 online conferences and webinars and attended another 105 on-line events. Thus ensured that the voice of financial service users was heard.

Consumer programme

The implementation of the Consumer Programme progressed well, producing significant results under the programme's different specific objectives.

Product safety and market surveillance

In the field of product safety, the Commission has promoted and facilitated cooperation among enforcement authorities by financing joint sampling and testing activities on specific products, which eventually feed the Safety Gate: the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products, as well as knowledge sharing activities on a variety of market surveillance issues.

Cooperation between national authorities through the Safety Gate has significantly increased over time, since the system's creation in 2003. The ratio of the number of reactions to the number of serious risk notifications increased from 0.90 in 2013 to 1.99 in 2021

(these very good statistics can be explained by the fact that a notification can trigger several reactions from authorities of other Member States). The number of notifications has now stabilised at a regular rate with around 2 000 per year. In 2021, Safety Gate enabled the circulation of 2142 alerts. Toys are, as in many previous years, the most notified product category, followed by motor vehicles and electrical appliances and equipment. Safety Gate has grown into an effective and important tool of the EU market surveillance that is internationally recognised and appreciated by its main target groups across the EU. Safety Gate has also played an important role in tracing dangerous products announced as protecting against COVID-19 infections (mostly face masks, disinfectants and UV sanitizers) which represented 9% of all alerts submitted in 2020 and 6% in 2021.

The **Coordinated Activities on the Safety of Products (CASP)** funded by the Programme enabled cooperation between EU/EEA Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) to reinforce the safety of products placed on the European markets. CASP projects consist of testing the products selected by the MSAs, analysing the outcomes, assessing the risk and taking the appropriate measures on non-compliant products, which are then subject of an alert in the Safety Gate system. The CASP 2021 focused inter alia on toys coming from non-EU web shops, electric toys, baby swings and walkers, e-cigarettes and personal protective equipment. Building on the positive experience of past years, the current CASP relied on an almost exclusively online-based working environment. Furthermore, an additional, horizontal activity was launched focusing on common risk assessment approaches for child appealing and food imitating products.

The ever-growing online offer of products makes it more and more challenging for the MSAs to monitor whether the dangerous products reported on Safety Gate and thus banned from sale are removed from all online listings, and to make sure these products will not re-appear again at a later stage. Manual checks for such products in online shops are time-consuming, costly, and not effective enough. This raised the need for developing a powerful IT tool named the **eSurveillance webcrawler** to monitor whether web shops or any other online marketplaces sell dangerous products and to do this with a coherent, unique and cost-efficient approach. The project is piloting phase and its launched is expected in Q1/2022. Currently, 340 users from 22 countries test the application. After the first two months of the piloting phase, the results are very promising and show a very high level of accuracy (more than 90% of confirmed dangerous products found by application).

In 2021, the Commission organised a second edition of the **EU Product Safety Award** to showcase the best business practices that can serve as an inspiration for other companies. At the same time, the award aims to alert consumers to the importance of product safety. In its second edition, the award focused on two aspects: protecting vulnerable consumer groups and the use of new technologies to enhance consumer safety, with separate awards for small and medium-sized companies and large companies. Eleven winning companies coming from eight different countries were announced in September 2021.

Enforcement of consumer rights and redress:

The Consumer Programme allocated EUR 1 million to support the operational capacities of the national **Consumer Protection Cooperation authorities (CPC)** responsible for the enforcement of EU consumer protection laws. In 2021, intense work took place to fight the continuous impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic on consumers and to ensure that national authorities are well equipped to carry out coordinated activities for the benefit of European consumers. The modern IT system, kicked off in 2020, enabled rapid exchanges between CPC authorities and the Commission on potentially unfair and harmful market trends affecting consumers across Europe. In addition, with the support of the IT system, the external entities such as consumer and trade associations, European Consumer Centres or other designated organisations were able to issue alerts about serious problems for the attention and action by the enforcement authorities. In response to massive flight cancellations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent issues with reimbursements, the CPC authorities had launched a coordinated action requesting airlines to provide clear information regarding the travel vouchers and to reimburse passengers timely. As a result, 16 major airlines cooperated and committed to respect passenger rights and improve their communication.

The Programme has provided funding to the **European Consumer Centres Network (ECC Net)** which helps consumers with cross-border purchases; educate them about their rights when shopping internationally and helping them seek redress against a trader in another EU country, Iceland or Norway. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the ECC-Net was on the forefront helping consumers confronted with cancellations of flights and package travel. From March 2020 to March 2021, the network received 170 000 requests for information, an increase of 44 % compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase was mainly caused by the travel-related issues, which represented 90% of requests. Over this period, ECCs helped consumers recover EUR 4 million. They have also contributed significantly to the dissemination of useful information for cross-border travel.

In 2021, the ECCs applied for 2-year grants amounting to EUR 14 million in total to respond to the increased needs related to some aspects of the COVID-19 crisis (e.g. problems related to online shopping and the increase of scams) and consumer education; e.g. on the risks associated to online games for children and air passenger rights. In 2021, the Network carried out a study on the best practices in cross-border out-of-court dispute resolution. The data shared by the ECC-Net is vital for the CPC enforcement actions and for policy-making.

The **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)** platform allows to consumers who shop online know better their rights, are able to formulate complaints clearly and seek the best redress solution for their case. In 2021, the number of cases dealt with by a Union-wide online dispute resolution system surpassed 160 000. On the basis of the available data, it is estimated that about 40% complaints are resolved bilaterally between the consumer and the trader following the contact from the ODR platform. This system

is multilingual, offers free translation and registers of more than 420 qualified Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) bodies that offer to consumers faster and less expensive way in solving disputes with traders without going to courts.

In 2021, the Commission allocated EUR 1 million in grant support for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) entities. Supported activities include awareness-raising, trainings for ADR practitioners, customised support for vulnerable consumers, creation of online tools to speed up case-handling, exchange of best practices among ADR entities, with the purpose to increase the uptake, efficiency and quality of consumer redress. In September 2021, a two-day virtual ADR assembly was organised for all ADR practitioners to reflect on the challenges, notably related to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the shift towards digitalisation, to share views on how to boost the effectiveness and efficiency of the ADR/ODR.

Information, awareness raising and education

Informed consumers, aware of their rights, are at the centre of EU consumer policy: the programme pursues this objective through targeted information and communication campaigns. As an example, in 2021 it supported, the production and promotion of four educational videos on the following topics: financial literacy, data protection, sustainability, internet safety. The objective of the project was to raise awareness of specific consumer rights among both young consumers and general public and empower them to become more informed buyers. The videos are available in all EU languages, dissemination lasted one week and generated over 1 200 000 views.

Thanks to an annual operating grant of EUR 2 million, awarded in 2021 in the framework of the Framework Partnership Agreement 20018-2021, the **European Consumer Organisation BEUC** (Bureau européen des unions de consommateurs) could carry out various activities in favour of defending the interests of European consumers. Furthermore, EUR 5 million are dedicated to **Consumer PRO**, a service contract signed with BEUC (running for four years) for the organisation and implementation of training and other capacity building activities in the EU, Iceland and Norway for the consumer organisations and other actors in the consumer policy. Main outputs: 30 national training sessions on the topics: consumer law, digital rights and data protection, finance, food, housing, mobility, product sustainability and enforcement; six European Workshops on: strategic planning, consumer advice, fundraising, grant management and consumer education; one online best practice seminar.

In 2020, BEUC included in its work programme support to consumers in the Covid-19 pandemic. They analysed the consequences of the pandemic in the EU such as increase of unfair commercial practices, especially artificially high prices for high-demand essential products and aggressive selling, misleading information and unsubstantiated claims regarding the medicinal or healing properties of certain products, problems with travel cancellations and tourism services, difficulties linked to the economic situation of households.

The Programme funded also several actions on debt advice to help over indebted consumers to remedy their economic wealth and to repay their outstanding debts, while maintaining a decent level of life. In this regard, a project formed of three tasks was finalised in 2021: a study on the funding of **debt-advice**; the organisation of events for the exchanges of best practices and events of capacity building for potential future debt-advisors coming from 13 countries where debt-advice is still inadequate. In the course of 2021, the call for tenders for action grants (total budget of EUR 1 200 000) has been launched aimed at putting in place actions (creation of networks of experts, info-chains for the systematic exchange of information in these matters, physical structures for the provision of debt-advice services, establishment of technical networks, etc.) which will facilitate the provision of debt-advice services in a stable base. 28 offers submitted are currently under evaluation.

The Consumer Programme contributes also to raise awareness of EU consumer law, including by SMEs through a dedicated training project **Consumer Law Ready**. The developed courses (including on-line), have been carefully tailored to national consumer legislation and made available in all the national languages. In light of the difficulties to hold classroom trainings, online activities in the project were reinforced. The project counted around 1200 participating SMEs and local trainers in 2021, and 51 trainings by lead trainers of each country.]

The Programme makes compliance easier and enhances enforcement by financing the content update of the Consumer Law database (part of the e-Justice Portal). The tool helps lawyers, judges, as well as businesses and consumers, to quickly check rights and obligations arising from consumer law, including past legal rulings from Member States and from the European Court of Justice, alongside and relevant national administrative practice. The Consumer Law database regroups 9 key EU directives in the field of consumer law and provides information on enforcement systems for each of these Directives. In 2020 and 2021, besides adding more than 700 new items to the database, the existing content of the database was checked for errors and duplication and an online conference for consumer law experts held on current developments.

Food and Feed

The Food and Feed programme focuses on national programmes for the eradication, control, and surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses; national survey programmes and eradication for pests; training in the field of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant health; IT tools in the field of food safety, animal health, animal welfare, and plant health; the European Union Reference Laboratories. The Food and Feed programme co-funded emergency measures to fight animal disease and plant pest outbreaks.

The performance indicators linked to the programme's specific objectives are relevant, measurable and realistic. Since 20 March 2019 the entire Union is declared free of swine vesicular disease, therefore the corresponding indicator is not relevant anymore because the disease has been eradicated.

In the period 2014-2020, the Court of Auditors published several reports assessing the implementation of the Food and Feed Programme. In the SR 2019/02 of the Court of Auditors on Food Safety, it is emphasised that the EU's food safety model in respect of chemicals is considered a point of reference and it is soundly based and respected. On 26 April 2016, the Court published its Special Report (SR 28/2016) on a performance audit on animal disease eradication programmes and drew positive conclusions on DG SANTE's management of the programmes. All recommendations of the Court referred to actions that were already ongoing and all of them have been already finalised.

In 2021, the Court of Auditors carried out a follow-up review of the Court's Special Report on "Animal welfare in the EU" (SR 31/2018). Based on the preliminary findings presented in the Clearing Letter (CL-13193) received on 12 January 2022, three recommendations were timely implemented by DG SANTE and two recommendations face a delay in implementation, due to the decision to launch a Fitness Check in 2020, relevant for the revision of the EU animal welfare legislation ([https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files_en?file=2020-05/aw_fitness-check_roadmap.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/food/system/files/en?file=2020-05/aw_fitness-check_roadmap.pdf)). The non-compliances in animal welfare on farm that Member States have provided would require additional efforts to identify common baselines and targets.

The Food and Feed programme has contributed to the improvement of animal welfare through the financial support for BTSF trainings in this area in several countries. This has led to improvements in this sector as stated by ECA that emphasized in its report SR 2018/31 that the EU actions on animal welfare have improved compliance with the EU requirements and supported higher standards with a clear positive impact on animal welfare. DG SANTE proposes to launch an external study to prepare the evaluation of the 2012-2015 animal welfare strategy and based on the results of the study will elaborate the evaluation on the strategy through a Commission staff working document. A contract for the one-year study was signed on 10 October 2019.

In 2019, the Internal Audit Service has requested DG SANTE to further improve and simplify the financial management of the veterinary and phytosanitary programmes. In the light of this process DG SANTE signed an Administrative Arrangement with the Joint Research Centre of the Commission to develop new methodologies for the calculation of unit costs in both areas. In line with the IAS recommendations this exercise is conducted in collaboration with DG BUDG and the Legal Service in view of the formal decision by the Authorising Officer by sub delegation authorising the use of such unit costs or even lump sums on the basis of these unit costs. The work has suffered slight delays because of the COVID-19 situation but the final report for the review of the methodology for unit costs in the veterinary area was submitted by JRC to SANTE in March 2021. At the same time the report for phase 1 concerning a new methodology for the calculation of unit costs for sampling activities in the phytosanitary area (where no such approach existed) was also submitted by the JRC. DG SANTE intends to apply both methodologies in the near future.

The challenges of the programme:

- The Commission agrees on the existence of backlogs especially in the area of regulated food ingredients and is working to enhance its procedures for the monitoring and enforcement of all food and health legislation which will cover the follow up to recommendations arising from Commission audits.
- See mid-term evaluation report ⁽¹¹⁾.

Following the mid-term evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 (Common Financial Framework - CFF) and in order to follow up on a Court's recommendation, the JRC was asked to carry out a study to establish the cost-effectiveness methodology in the food chain area. The report published in 2018 provides a methodological guidance on cost-effectiveness analysis in the view of future evaluations of the EU interventions currently funded under the CFF of the food chain area. In addition, a methodology was proposed to develop a set of indicators in order to evaluate the different levels of intervention in the spending areas covered by the CFF. As a follow up, a set of indicators for monitoring and evaluation purposes are under identification in the framework of the Single Market Programme, food strand part, covering the financial period 2021-2027 (MFF).

Currently, the final ex-post evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 is ongoing following the legal obligation under the EU financial rules (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046) on performing retrospective evaluations of programmes and activities which entail significant spending in order to assess the performance of the programme or activity.

⁽¹¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/cff_food-chain_mid-term-eval_reg-2014-652.pdf

European Statistical Programme

The implementation of the European statistical programme progresses well, producing significant results under the programme's different objectives.

The general objective of the programme was for the European Statistical System to be the leading provider of high-quality statistics on Europe. Its performance indicator, measuring the Eurostat impact on the Internet, shows the general good performance of the programme. The number of times that Eurostat is mentioned on the Internet is on target. The percentage of negative opinions is extremely low, showing trust in and satisfaction with the data produced.

The second performance indicator, 'Statistical coverage', measures the relevance of the statistics published by Eurostat. It shows how the quantity and variety of data published by Eurostat evolves and is measured as the number of different statistics published

on the Eurostat website. The statistical coverage shows an increase of 39 million (9%) compared to last year. This demonstrates that Eurostat has enlarged its offer of statistics to meet new user needs and that demands for new statistics are being satisfied, thanks also to improvements in the production processes, as the available resources are not increasing.

The final evaluation of the European statistical programme confirmed the overall good performance of the programme (see section 3.3).

3.2. Key achievements

99%	166	53	Over 2 000 notifications	0	790 000	
of the IFRS standards endorsed in the EU in 2021	countries using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in 2021	Total number of position papers and responses to public consultations in the field of financial services in 2021	are received every year through Safety Gate - the rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products	Cases of swine vesicular disease since 20 March 2019. The entire Union is declared free of swine disease, therefore the disease has been eradicated.	SMEs in 35 countries have received financing from the Loan Guarantee Facility in the 2014-2021 period	Regular publication of the statistical information tool the European Statistical Recovery Dashboard (monthly)

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME)

The [Interim evaluation of the COSME Programme](#) published in 2019 was presented in the previous Programme Statement.

[An evaluation study of cluster support actions under COSME, Horizon 2020 and FPI](#) was completed in October 2021. COSME support measures for clusters are largely considered as well structured and internally coherent. Targets for direct outputs related to events organised, partnerships initiated, and SMEs funded are widely achieved. The clusters were efficient as facilitators in supporting and disseminating funding to SMEs (cascade funding). The ECCP has been effective in improving the main functions such as partnering, matchmaking, and informing clusters and in providing advisory services towards their members. The ECCP also contributed towards intelligence gathering and information dissemination about the role of cluster organisations, their activities and achievements.

An assessment of the EU Open for Business campaign was finalised in June 2021. It concluded that this campaign successfully informed SMEs in all Member States about EU support tools for access to finance, markets and partners. It also recommends building upon the momentum of this campaign through an overarching multiannual follow up campaign to inform SMEs about a wider range of EU support tools. This will be addressed through an action in 2022 to set up a repository of support tools for SMEs on Your Europe Business, a study to guide outreach to SMEs, and a pilot campaign in 2023 followed by a multiannual campaign. The quality and efficiency of Enterprise Europe Network services was confirmed by the analysis of monitoring and reporting data received by the Executive Agency from EEN’s SME clients concerning the expected outcomes of EEN services; 92% of the SMEs surveyed expect their market situation to improve thanks to Network support and 95 % would recommend its services to others. Earlier findings from the Final [Evaluation of the impact of the Enterprise Europe Network \(2008-2014\)](#) concluded that “for both employment and turnover, EENs’ client SMEs presented annual growth rates that were 3.1 percentage points superior to the control group” that did not receive EEN services.

A European Court of Auditors Special Report on SME Internationalization Instruments is in the process of being finalised. One of the recommendations concerns the Enterprise Europe Network. The Court recommends in particular to strengthen the Network’s visibility, extend the outreach of training on access to finance and free trade agreements, develop cooperation arrangements with other programmes supporting SME growth within the Single Market where useful, and extend the geographical coverage of the third country component of the Network.

In December 2021 the European Court of Auditors presented a special report on the Commission’s support for the EU’s Tourism industry from 2014-2020. Overall it rated the Commission’s actions as partially effective, and recommended putting in place a new strategy focused on supporting investments that contribute to more sustainable tourism. In line with the Commission’s work with the stakeholders on the co-creation and co-implementation of the Transition Pathway for EU tourism, the tourism actions in SMP-SME Work programme 2022, and those under consideration for 2023 have a strong focus on boosting the sustainability of this sector

Specific Activities in the Field of Financial, Non-Financial Reporting and Auditing

The key findings of the European Commission report on the Evaluation^[1] of the IAS Regulation N°1606/2002 of 18 June 2015 and on the assessment of the achievement of the Programme in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 258/2014 in October 2019^[2] were presented in the Programme Statement for these activities included in Working Document No.1 for the draft 2021 Union budget.

The European Commission reports to the European Parliament and the Council of 23 November 2017, 19 October 2018, 29 October 2019,¹⁴ December 2020^[3] and 15 March 2022⁽⁴⁾ on the activities of the IFRS Foundation, EFRAG and PIOB in respectively 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.. The reports confirmed: 1) the overall pertinence and coherence of the predecessor Programme supporting specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing⁽⁵⁾, 2) the effectiveness of its execution, and 3) the overall and individual effectiveness of the beneficiaries' work programmes. All reports concluded the Union funding programme remains fully justified in the context of the EU's efforts to establish a Capital Markets Union and to safeguard financial stability.

^[1] COM (2015) 301 final ^[2] COM/2019/549 final ^[3] COM(2020) 807 final ⁽⁴⁾ COM(2022)104 final

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 258/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing

Enhancing consumers involvement in the EU policy making in the field of financial services

The key findings of the [evaluation](#) of the predecessor programme supporting specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020⁽¹⁾ were presented in the Programme Statements 2022.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2017/826 of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020

Consumer programme

The key findings of the latest evaluation of the Consumer programme were presented in the Programme Statements 2020.

Food and Feed

On 26 April 2016, the European Court of Auditors published its Special Report on a performance audit on animal disease eradication programmes. Overall, the Court concluded that the audited animal disease programmes adequately contained animal diseases.

Four recommendations issued by the Court are taken forward by the Commission:

- facilitate the exchange of epidemiological information between Member States;
- examine whether the existing set of indicators should be updated to provide better information on veterinary control activities and the cost-effectiveness of programmes;
- systematically include, when relevant, the wildlife aspect in the veterinary programmes;
- support the availability of vaccines for use by the Member States when epidemically justified.

In its follow-up audit in 2019, the Court concluded that DG SANTE had implemented three of the four recommendations without undue delay. The action to develop a new Animal Disease Information System (ADIS) improving the existing exchange of epidemiological information was implemented in 2021. ADIS was launched on 21 April 2021 in conjunction with the AHL using the new legal basis recently adopted by the Commission (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002). This centered the notification process on priority diseases which went through the risk assessment and categorisation exercise carried in the framework of the AHL (Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council). The work on interoperability with the OIE-WAHIS is occurring (one direction) with ADIS making use of reference tables from OIE-WAHIS. Already 3.412 outbreaks were entered into ADIS by mid-July 2021. ADIS will release the module on Union Reporting (in line with the AHL requirements) in Q2 2022.

A final ex-post evaluation of the implementation of the activities co-funded under Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 is underway since December 2021.

The evaluation focuses on the measures that have received sizeable EU financial support during the implementation period 2014-2020 and cover the following areas:

- Veterinary programmes and emergency measures to fight against animal diseases and zoonosis;
- Surveys programmes and plant health emergency measures to fight against the presence of pests;
- European Union Reference Laboratories (EURLs);
- Training activities in the food chain area (BTSF).

The evaluation applies the criteria of overall effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, added value, and coherence. It will also strive to provide useful feedback for the implementation of the actions in the food chain area, envisaged in the new Single Market

Programme 2021-2027. The evaluation is based on existing information (e.g. programmes’ reports, epidemiological data etc.) as well as feedback of the MS competent authorities (questionnaire to be circulated in the first months of 2022).

European Statistical Programme

In 2021, Eurostat completed the final evaluation of the 2013-2020 European Statistical Programme (ESP). Eurostat charged a contractor with writing an independent evaluation report to support the preparation of its own evaluation. The evaluation covered the whole duration of the programme, with a particular focus on the years 2018-2020, which had not been covered by the [two mid-term evaluations of the programme](#). The results of the evaluation have been published as a [Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the final evaluation of the implementation of the European statistical programme 2013-2020](#), which is supported by a [staff working document](#) containing the detailed evaluation findings and conclusions.

The report examines the five standard evaluation criteria (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value) from the Commission better regulation guidelines. It states that the ESP was adequately designed to satisfy the stakeholders’ needs and continued to satisfy such evolving needs and that it was effective in delivering on its objectives. It also shows that the ESP demonstrated efficient use of both financial and human resources and that it was internally and externally coherent while having EU added value. However, some improvements would be needed in terms of timeliness and completeness of the statistics and to satisfy the increasing user demands for new statistics while reducing production costs and administrative burden.

The report addresses also four specific points mentioned in Article 15 of the ESP Regulation. For those, the evaluation found that the actions taken by the European Statistical System (ESS) to reduce the production costs and to limit the overall burden have been effective and that the ESP included activities to develop new statistics and contributed to improving data availability, including on social economy activities and on the Europe 2020 indicators. The evaluation also showed that the ESP contributed to progress on rendering access to official statistics easier and more user-friendly, even if there is scope for further improvement, while prioritisation remained a challenge.

The reports contains three recommendations: 1) focus on innovation, new methods and new data sources; 2) further improve the access to European statistics via Eurostat’s website; 3) implement the new approach to prioritisation. Eurostat will include actions to handle the recommendations in its annual planning of activities, but work has already started. For instance, the ESS innovation agenda based on the multiannual action plan (MAP) 2021-27 will strategically drive innovation within the ESS. In addition, the MAP sets long-term priorities, including reviews of some priority areas like climate change and health. Furthermore, several initiatives to harness the potential of different non-traditional sources for the production of statistics and tackling technical and methodological challenges are being launched. The look and feel as well as navigability of Eurostat’s website will be improved next year.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Making the internal market more effective, facilitating the prevention and removal of obstacles, supporting the development, implementation and enforcement of the Union law

Indicator 1: Number of new complaints in the area of free movement of goods and services, as well as Union legislation on public procurement

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	475									n/a
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Standard indicator
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Data extraction from CHAP database
Link to the objective	Functioning of the internal market: Striving to avoid unfair competition induced by unfair products, prevention and removal of discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles, development, implementation and enforcement Union law in the internal market for goods and services, the principle of mutual recognition
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	Indicator data extracted from the CHAP database. Number of complaints (> CHAP). Complaints

	registered in CHAP can be searched by: - Status: open cases AND/OR closed cases - Origin: DG/Directorate/unit - Time: cases registered as from a specific date or within specific dates
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Services Trade Restrictiveness Index.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0.194									1
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Composite indicator: indice with value from 0 to 1. Complete openness to trade and investment = zero, completely closed to foreign services providers = one.
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	OECD National legislation from public websites
Link to the objective	Free movement of services
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	The OECD STRI is a unique, evidence-based tool that collects information on services trade restrictions across 19 major services sectors. The project has two distinct but complementary instruments: a services trade regulatory database and a services trade restrictiveness index. These instruments provide a rich source of information for trade policy makers, trade negotiators and researchers, and an instrument for impact assessment of trade liberalisation. The STRI further allows individual countries to benchmark their services market regulations against the global best practice, identify outlier restrictions and current bottlenecks. The COM calculates a simple average of OECD STRI All sector average index for the 22 EU MS covered.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Target perceived: a decrease. First assessment to be done 2022

Indicator 3: Number of visits to the Your Europe portal and to the national pages included in Your Europe; user satisfaction

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0	35									38,4
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	No. of visits to the Your Europe Portal
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Single digital gateway data repository / Matomo (Your Europe Portal)
Link to the objective	improving competitiveness of business and promote interests of citizens by making aware of rights and obligations within the single market
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	Increase in the number of visits is clearly an indicator of success; however, it is very difficult to pin down growth to any specific reason, or to assess how different factors contribute to growth. A decrease in visits is not necessarily a mark of decrease quality (the coronavirus crisis meant a big drop in the number of visits to the portal with unchanged content / quality)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The extremely high number of visits in 2021 was due to an extraordinary, one-time circumstance: the loosening of Covid-related travel restrictions and high interest in related information. Such numbers will not be reached in 2022. Not least because technical issues beyond our control are preventing us from calculating certain types of visits (to Accelerated Mobile Pages).

Specific Objective 2: Market Surveillance

Indicator 1: Number of cases of non-compliance in the area of goods, including online sales

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
9 606	10 234									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Unit of measurement Number of products
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS), which is a database accessible to all MSAs of the Member States. The system is hosted and maintained by the Commission.
Link to the objective	The activities reflected by this indicator contribute to the following Programme-specific objectives: • improving the competitiveness of businesses, especially SMEs, by striving to avoid unfair competition induced by non-compliant products available on the Single Market • promoting the interests of consumers, by controlling that the products available on Single Market are compliant with EU legislation • contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants throughout the food chain, by controlling that the products available on the Single Market are safe
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of Joint market surveillance campaigns.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
10	Actual Progress									Final
	12									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of campaigns
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	DG GROW
Link to the objective	"The activities reflected by this indicator contribute to the following Programme-specific objectives: • improving the competitiveness of businesses, especially SMEs, by striving to avoid unfair competition induced by non-compliant products available on the Single Market • promoting the interests of consumers, by controlling that the products available on Single Market are compliant with EU legislation • contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants throughout the food chain, by controlling that the products available on the Single Market are safe "
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Improving the competitiveness of enterprises with special emphasis on SMEs

Indicator 1: Number of SMEs, clusters and business network organisations, and business support organisations receiving support from the programme, in particular for internationalisation, digitalisation and sustainability.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0					320000					320,000 at mid-term
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Gross numbers: an SME that benefitted from concrete support from a COSME funded action.
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EISMEA partnership agreement database
Link to the objective	Increasing SME competitiveness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation of COSME indicator. see previous programme indicator
Other methodological comments	The definition of the support received by SMEs can be wide. Some intermediaries have the potential to reach a great number of SMEs. The indicator should measure concrete direct support and should not measure the potential number. Data for 2021 is provided in the table for the previous programme indicator.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of companies supported having concluded business partnerships.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
				2700						18,500
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	an SME that signed a partnership agreement thanks to the EEN partnership services
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EISMEA
Link to the objective	stimulate and provide support to SMEs to increase their competitiveness in the Single Market and beyond, , supporting them in addressing global and societal challenges and business internationalisation, and strengthening Union industrial leadership in global value chains
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation of COSME programme indicator
Other methodological comments	EISMEA provides clear guidelines on partnership agreements, in addition, they are verified and validated by EISMEA as part of the monitoring and evaluation process. The Enterprise Europe Network’s operations in 2021 were co-funded by the COSME programme. The target figure and performance data related to EEN partnership services in 2021 are therefore included in the tables for the 2014-2021 financial period below (COSME).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of entrepreneurs benefitting from mentoring and mobility schemes, including young, new and female entrepreneurs, as well as other specific target groups.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
		3000								22,000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Participating entrepreneur (new and host) engaged in a business exchange
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EYE IT tool, Executive Agency
Link to the objective	Competitiveness of SMEs
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	previous programming period runs into 2021. The new call takes place in 2022 with data available as from 2023. Figures from 2020 -2021 are impacted by Covid-19.
Other methodological comments	assumption 3.000 entrepreneurs matched per year. Most recent reliable figures date from 2019 before Covid-19 restrictions.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through standardisation processes

Indicator 1: Share of implementation of European standards as national standards by Member States in total amount of active European standards.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									
	90%									95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Measure how many of the European standards are available in all Member States. Percentage of numbers of standards
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European standardisation organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI)
Link to the objective	European standards should be transposed without delay at national level to allow for the smooth and harmonised functioning of the Single market
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	After the adoption of a EU standard, the members of CEN and CENELEC are invited to fill in electronically in the common IT system a Form declaring the date that the standard has been transposed at national level (implementation). CEN and CENELEC actively monitor the number of transposed standards compared to the catalogue of active standards and report the ratio in percentage per national member to the Commission. ETSI has a very limited number of European standards -its core business is technical IT specifications. Therefore ETSI has a limited number of cases to report e.g. radio equipment directive 2014/53/EU , which can be handled manually and reported to the Commission. All other ETSI publications do not need for trasposition at national level.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Percentage of international financial reporting and auditing standards endorsed by the Union.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
98%	98%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	100%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage indicating share of standards endorsed in the EU compared to the number of standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The percentage is calculated by the Commission services. The number of IFRS standards issued by the IASB is provided by the grant beneficiary.
Link to the objective	The Programme aims to support the development of high-quality international standards that underpin the implementation of Union legislation. This includes standard setting in the field of financial, non-financial reporting and auditing, thereby contributing to the transparency and well-functioning of the Union’s capital markets and to enhancing investor protection. The indicator is relevant to the policy objectives as it provides a snapshot of the endorsement level of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) by the EU.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator has been monitored since 2014 and continues to be monitored over the 2021-2027 programming period. The same methodology has been followed
Other methodological comments	The number of standards endorsed by the EU is compared against the absolute number of standards issued by the IASB. The indicator allows comparison with its baseline value, ensures continuous monitoring of its trend and helps assessing the progress towards a single set of high quality global accounting standards.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The percentage of standards endorsed in the EU could not reach 100% of the standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) because of the constant updates and developments of the standards and the time necessary for their endorsement by the EU. (The endorsement process

	takes approximately 6 months for simple (narrow scope) amendments and longer for major standards.) This explains the current difference of less than one percentage point between the 2021 value of the indicator (i.e. 99%) and its target (i.e. 100%). One major standard (IFRS 17 Insurance contracts) was endorsed by the Commission in 2021 which resulted in the indicator's value increase in comparison with 2020.
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Specific Objective 5: Promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety

Indicator 1: Consumer condition index.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	Actual Progress									Increase
	74.3									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	The Consumer Condition Index (CCI) is measured every two years at absolute value.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Consumer and retailer surveys for the Consumer Conditions Scoreboard https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/consumers/consumer-protection-policy/key-consumer-data_en#key-data-the-new-online-consumer-scoreboard
Link to the objective	Promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Consumer Conditions Scoreboard has been monitored every 2 years since 2013 (annually in 2011 and 2012) and offers a comparison with the state of play in the previous programming periods. It continues to be monitored over the 2021-2027 however the methodology has been modified.
Other methodological comments	The CCI monitors the quality of the consumer environment at EU and national level. The 17 CCI indicators are broken down into 3 pillars; each having an equal weight (33.3): Pillar I - Knowledge and Trust, measuring the consumers and retailers knowledge of consumer rights and trust in organisations (including public authorities) and in redress mechanisms; Pillar II - Compliance and Enforcement, measuring retailers' compliance (through the reported incidence of specific unfair commercial practices) and the effectiveness of public enforcement of consumer and product safety legislation; and Pillar III - Complaints and Dispute Resolution measuring problems faced by consumers, their complaints and satisfaction with complaint handling, as well as the participation of the retailers in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The methodology has been slightly revised as of 2020 in order to be in line with policy priorities and with the latest market and regulatory developments.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 2021 Consumer Condition Index confirms the stable results achieved over the previous programming period.

Indicator 2: Number of position papers and responses to public consultations in the field of financial services from beneficiaries.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
53	53	53								53
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	The indicator is measured annually at absolute value. This allows comparison with its baseline value and enables monitoring trends.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data provided by grant beneficiaries
Link to the objective	The SMP should support the creation of the right conditions to empower all participants in the internal market: businesses, citizens including consumers, civil society and public authorities. To that end, the Programme should aim to ensure the competitiveness of businesses, notably SMEs, but also support

	the enforcement of consumer protection and safety rules and raise the awareness of businesses and individuals by providing them with the right tools, knowledge and competence to make informed decisions and strengthen their participation in Union’s policy-making.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator has been monitored since 2014 and continues to be monitored over the 2021-2027 programming period. The same methodology has been followed.
Other methodological comments	The data mainly draws from the activity reports provided by the beneficiaries of the Programme - organisations active in the field of strengthening the position of consumers and end-users of financial services and defending their interests in the financial sector; and advocating for an open, transparent and efficient financing of the real economy, in the interest of investors, shareholders and financial services users who are independent from the financial industry.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 2021 output confirms the stable results achieved over the previous programming period. It is to be noted that while the beneficiaries may issue position papers on their own initiative, the number of responses they provide in a given year depends on the number of public consultations that the European Commission launched in that year.

Specific Objective 6: Contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas

Indicator 1: Number of successfully implemented national veterinary programmes.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
90% (186/205 vet programmes successfully implemented)	Milestones									>90%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of national programmes successfully implemented (%) = Number of national programmes successfully implemented / Total number of programmes approved
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Information provided by the MSs through the online IT Tools used for data collection (MSs co-financing applications, intermediate and final reports).
Link to the objective	A high level of health and welfare for humans, animals and plants along the food chain will ensure a high level of protection for consumers, enhance the competitiveness of the EU food and feed industry and favour the creation of jobs, improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls related activities along the food supply chain, carried out with a view to implement and enforce EU rules in this area and the free movement of goods
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The indicator measures the success of the activities carried out in different policy areas (e.g. prevention, detection, eradication and containment). The results confirm the presence/status of diseases in the Union territory. For veterinary programmes, MS present one programme per disease.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of successfully implemented national phytosanitary programmes.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of national programmes successfully implemented (%) = Number of national programmes

	successfully implemented / Total number of programmes approved
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Information provided by the MSs through the online IT Tools used for data collection (MSs co-financing applications, intermediate and final reports).
Link to the objective	A high level of health and welfare for humans, animals and plants along the food chain will ensure a high level of protection for consumers, enhance the competitiveness of the EU food and feed industry and favour the creation of jobs, improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls related activities along the food supply chain, carried out with a view to implement and enforce EU rules in this area and the free movement of goods.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The indicator measures the success of the activities carried out in different policy areas (e.g. plant health: prevention, detection, eradication and containment). The results confirm the presence/status of those pests and diseases in the Union territory, allowing to take quick actions in the interest of the EU agriculture and forestry. The number of pests and priorities for co-funding are adapted on bi-annual basis. However, the co-funding of full programmes is limited by the budget allocated for this activity. For plant health, each MS presents one consolidated programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 7: Producing and communicating high quality statistics on Europe

Indicator 1: Number of web mentions and positive/negative opinions.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Number of web mentions										
	Milestones									2028
480000	482 400	484 812	487 236	489 672	492 120	494 581	497 054	499539	502 037	499539
	Actual Progress									Final
	486 000									
Are we on track :	On track									
Share of negative opinions										
	Milestones									2028
<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%	<2%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0,01%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number (of mentions) and percentage (of negative mentions)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2029
Data source	Eurostat Digital Dissemination Unit
Link to the objective	The message given by the indicator is how much the statistics published by Eurostat are relevant for the users and used, expressed by the number of mentions, and how satisfied the users are with the quality of the statistics, which is inversely proportional to the share of negative comments.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It is linked to the indicator 'Eurostat impact on Internet' of the previous European statistical programme in the MFF 2014-2020. The tool used to calculate it has changed. 'Brandwatch' was used until 2020 and a new one, called 'Talkwalker' and a standard tool in the Commission, is used since 2021.
Other methodological comments	A 'mention' is an online text referring to Eurostat. It may be an article written by a journalist of the Financial Times, a post by a blogger, or a tweet by a news agency. An online tool, called Talkwalker, analyses mentions in seven languages (English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Swedish).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Positive trend as expected.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)

General Objective 1: to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the Union's enterprises, particularly SMEs

Indicator 2: Changes in unnecessary administrative and regulatory burdens on both new and existing SMEs

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
days										
2012	Milestones									2020
5.4	4			4						
	Actual Progress									Final
	15.63	14.05	12.93	12.43	12.07	12.96	11.9			
Are we on track :	On track									
EUR										
2012	Milestones									2020
372	313			300						
	Actual Progress									Final
	4.84%	4.43%	4.1%	4.05%	3.55%	3.42%	3.09%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Days and EUR respectively (baseline). This has now been revised. As from 2019 data is calculated using World Bank Doing Business- the data for cost to set up a new SME is expressed in % of income per capita.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	World Bank Doing Business
Narrative	
Methodology	New methodology from 2019 (looks not only at the legal “perfect” case but talks to experts about how long it takes in practice). Absolute numbers are therefore larger and cannot be directly compared to the previous figures given.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In some countries there is a possibility to have a simplified or on-line registration to set up an SME under certain conditions. Taking electronic/simplified registration into account, the results are 2.7 days, EUR 271. Original baseline of 5.4 days had reduced to 3.1 in 2017. Original baseline of EUR 372 for cost had reduced to EUR 300 in 2018. However, as from 2019, data comes from “World Bank Doing Business” with a different methodology. Data for Cost to set up a new SME is expressed in % of income per capita. Up to 2018 only the EU-28 value is available. Table shows EU-28 figures. For 2019 and 2020, data for EU-27 days are 13.28 and 12.17 respectively. For cost EU-27 is 3.54% for 2019 and 3.20% for 2020.
Full metadata available at this address	https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/doingbusiness
Justification of the trend	See methodological comments

General Objective 2: to encourage entrepreneurial culture and to promote the creation and growth of SMEs

Indicator 1: Changes in SME growth: Total EU turnover (Gross Value Added)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010	Milestones									2020
5,8%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%				
	Actual Progress									Final
	4%	5%	2%	4%	4%	3,84% ^b (updated)	-7,6%	5,8%		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	percentage of value added
Cut-Off Date	31/07/2021
Data source	Up to 2018, these are Eurostat figures. For 2019 and 2020, these are estimates from the SME Performance Review produced by DIW Econ, based on 2008-2018 figures from the Eurostat Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2019-2020 from the National Accounts database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database (EUROSTAT).

Narrative	
Methodology	Data is based on forecasts, figures updated according to current data.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data up to 2018/2019 concerns EU-28, data for 2020 (and updated figure for 2019) concerns EU-27. In 2018, there was a break in methodology for Eurostat on the number of SMEs (switch from legal unit to statistical unit) so the timeline is not directly comparable on absolute numbers.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Many industries, especially in the SME-intensive services sector, experienced large declines in sales as result of the various lockdowns linked to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Indicator 2: Changes in SME growth: Employees

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total number of employees in SMEs										
2010	Milestones									2020
87.5										96
	Actual Progress									Final
	90	91	94	96	98	99	83.4	83,8%		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
The annual growth of employees in SMEs										
2010	Milestones									2020
-0.40%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%			
	Actual Progress									Final
	2,10%	0,54%	2,30%	1,97%	1,50%	1,39%	-1,7%	0,6%		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	see other methodological comments.
Cut-Off Date	31/08/2021
Data source	Figures from the SME performance review http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/performance-review/index_en.htm
Narrative	The annual growth of employees in SMEs: 2011: 0.2%
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data from the SME Performance Review 2021 based on figures for up to 2018. Data up to 2018/2019 concerns EU-28, data for 2020 concerns EU-27. NB: data has been revised back in time by Eurostat, and in 2018 Eurostat introduced a methodological break to collect enterprises as statistical units instead of legal units; this has revised the numbers of SMEs downwards.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Downward trend in line with the difficulties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specific Objective 1: to improve framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, particularly SMEs, including in the tourism sector

Indicator 6: Tourism - Participation in transnational cooperation projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Projects awarded										
2011	Milestones									2020
										Increase
	Actual Progress									Final
				6	7	6		10		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Countries covered per project and number of projects.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EISMEA
Narrative	Target: Increase in the number of Member States participating in transnational cooperation projects and in the number of the transnational projects funded by the programme

Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Complementary information for the above indicator: Baseline target in 2013 of 33 projects support under calls for proposals for transnational partnerships. In 2014, 42 transnational cooperation projects supported involving SMEs, 52 in 2015, 58 in 2017 and 65 in 2018. The call in 2019 will support 425 SMEs in 25 countries. The 2020 call on digitalisation is expected to reach 60 SMEs per project with an estimated 8-10 projects to be awarded. The call of 2021 should reach minimum 80 SMEs per project with estimated 10-13 projects to be awarded. T
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: New Business Concepts - Number of new products/services in the market

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
				5	15					
	Actual Progress									Final
		10	150	40			200		60-70	
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EISMEA
Narrative	
Methodology	Cumulative number of new products/services (initial measurement)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Worth Partnership Project is an acceleration programme which provide mentoring, coaching and visibility to business partnerships between designers, manufacturers/craftsmen and tech providers to develop new, innovative business ideas. First edition of the WORTH Partnership Project (2017-2021) supported in total 152 transnational partnerships. The second edition - Worth Partnership Project II (2021-2025) financed under 2020 COSME work programme has ambition to support at least 200 new partnerships. Currently the first call for proposals is open and it will support tentatively around 60-70 partnerships. project call is currently under evaluation.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: to improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt

Indicator 1: Number of firms benefiting from debt financing

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Expressed in volume: Loan Guarantee Facility										
2013	Milestones									2020
							14,3-21,5			14,3-21,5
16,1	Actual Progress									Final
		1	6	13	23	32	41	49asofSeptember2021		
Are we on track :	On track									
Expressed in numbers: Loan Guarantee Facility										
2013	Milestones									2020
							220000-330000			220000to330000
312000	Actual Progress									Final
		53433	143344	274964	414739	553925	679 351	793504asofSeptember2021		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR billion / number of SMEs

Cut-Off Date	30/09/2021
Data source	The European Investment Fund
Narrative	The Loan Guarantee Facility – as supported by the European Fund for Strategic Investments – continues its high performance for the benefit of SMEs in need of finance.
Methodology	The European Investment Fund collects the data from the financial intermediaries and transmits it in aggregated format to the Commission.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Invest EU
Other methodological comments	The data for the baseline is based on the latest EIF quarterly report as of 31 December 2013 for the High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF) under the 2007-2013 Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). No results were available for 2014 because the COSME Delegation Agreement was signed on 22/07/2014, the call for expression of interest was published on 04/08/2014. The result data for 2015-2019 is based on the latest European Investment Fund (EIF) quarterly operational report for the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility of 31 December of the respective reporting year, whereas the data for 2021 have a cut-off date of September 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	n/a
Justification of the trend	Thanks to the reinforcement of the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility resources from the SME window of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (doubling the available resources), it was possible to achieve the targets set for the overall programming period (2014-2020) already in the course of 2018. All details are available in the Working Document Part X dedicated on the financial instruments.

Indicator 2: Number of venture capital investments from the COSME programme and overall volume invested

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target	
COSME Equity Facility for Growth											
2013	Milestones									2020	
2,80							2,60 to 3,90			2,60 to 3,90	
	Actual Progress										Final
BnEUR investments in SMEs			0,06	0,20	0,30	0,40	0,47	1,96 as of September 2021			
Are we on track :	On track										
SMEs financed COSME Equity Facility for Growth											
2013	Milestones									2020	
334	nr of SMEs that received financial support							360 to 540			360 to 540
	Actual Progress										Final
			12	28	38	51	59	247 as of September 2021			
Are we on track :	On track										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR Billion/number of SMEs finance
Cut-Off Date	30/09/2021
Data source	The European Investment Fund
Narrative	The Equity Facility for Growth continues its performance continued for the benefit of SMEs in need of alternative finance despite all factors challenging its implementation.
Methodology	The European Investment Fund collects the data from the financial intermediaries and transmits it in aggregated format to the Commission.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	InvestEU
Other methodological comments	The data for the baseline is based on the latest EIF quarterly report as of 31 December 2013 for the High Growth and Innovative SME Facility (GIF) under the 2007-2013 Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). No results were available for 2014 and 2015, because the COSME Delegation Agreement was signed on 22/07/2014, the call for expression of interest was published on 04/08/2014 and the first fund agreements were signed end of 2015. The result data for 2016-2020 is based on the latest European Investment Fund (EIF) quarterly operational report for the Equity Facility for Growth of 31 December of the respective reporting year, whereas the data for 2021 are with cut-off date September 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	N/A
Justification of the trend	Complex due diligence and fund-raising processes, accompanied by prioritisation in jurisdictions with limited demand and confirms the initial trend for this indicator of the Equity Facility for Growth. All details are available in Working Document Part X dedicated to the financial instruments.

Specific Objective 4: To improve access to markets, particularly inside the Union but also at global level

Indicator 2: Enterprise Europe Network - Number of partnership agreements signed

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
2 295	Actual Progress									Final
		2 924	2 924	2 397	2 611	3 279	2 679	2 701		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of SMEs per year
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EEN final reports submitted by the 92 consortia that have signed a framework partnership agreement
Narrative	2012: 2 475 Target: 2 500 per year
Methodology	Encoding partnership agreements in EASME database
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Final performance figures for 2021 not yet available. They are usually available by the end of February when EISMEA finalizes the EEN Annual Activity Report, with the final statistical compilations from the EEN platform. Includes BCC countries (the international partners of the network)
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Results beyond target even with negative impact of COVID in 2020

Previous Program 2: European statistical programme (ESP)

General Objective 1: The European Statistical System to be the leading provider of high-quality statistics on Europe.

Indicator 1: Eurostat impact on Internet

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of mentions										
2017	Milestones									2020
264 932	Actual Progress									Final
				264 932	390 207	388 662	365 340	482400		482400
Are we on track :	On track									
Percentage of negative opinions										
2017	Milestones									2020
0%	Actual Progress									Final
				0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of mentions and percentage of negative opinions
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Monthly report on Eurostat's impact on the web.
Narrative	The indicator measures the impact on the internet of the statistics published by Eurostat, as the number of mentions and the percentage of those mentions which are negative. An increase shows that there is growing interest in the statistics published by Eurostat. A very low share of negative opinion shows that the statistics are appreciated by the users.
Methodology	A 'mention' is an online text referring to Eurostat. It may be an article written by a journalist of the Financial Times, a post by a blogger, or a tweet by a news agency. An online tool analyses mentions in seven languages (English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Swedish). Number of mentions and share of negative ones are calculated each month. The indicator uses the total over the year. Until 2020, a tool called 'Brandwatch' was used for this indicator. In 2021, it was replaced by the

	standard tool in the Commission, 'Talkwalker', allowing Eurostat to continue monitoring the indicator.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes, it is defined as a core performance indicator for the MFF 21/27.
Other methodological comments	New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020.
Full metadata available at this address	They are available in the section on the new MFF.
Justification of the trend	An increased number of web sites are blocking the access to paid content by automated tools, which causes a decrease in the measured total number of mentions. The system used may be changed in future because of the evolution of technology during the life cycle of the new programme and for possible privacy concerns. For those reasons, Eurostat is assessing if alternative tools available at Commission level give useful alternative results.update: With the use of the new standard tool of the Commission, 'Talkwalker', the technical difficulties have been resolved and Eurostat continues to monitor this indicator.

Specific Objective 1: To provide statistical information, in a timely manner, to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policies of the Union properly reflecting priorities, while keeping a balance between economic, social and environmental fields and serving the needs of the wide range of users of European statistics, including other decision-makers, researchers, businesses and European citizens in general, in a cost-effective manner without unnecessary duplication of effort.

Indicator 1: Statistical coverage (measured as number of indicators, sub-indicators and all their breakdowns)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2017	Milestones									2020
328489272										increase
	Actual Progress									Final
				328489272	366260359	423110043	446063473	485 883 216		446063473
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of statistical indicators
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Report on the content of Eurostat's public databases.
Narrative	It measures the number of indicators, sub-indicators and all their breakdowns included in Eurostat's reference database (Eurobase). Indicators differing only by the time dimension are not counted. An increase shows that Eurostat is enlarging its offer by producing more statistics to meet increasing users' demands.
Methodology	A programme goes through the entire database and counts the number of different statistical indicators.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No.
Other methodological comments	New indicator as identified in ESTAT's Strategic Plan 2018-2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Positive trend, on track.

Previous Program 3: Specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing

Specific Objective 1: To improve the conditions for the efficient functioning of the internal market by supporting the transparent and independent development of international financial reporting and auditing standards

Indicator 1: Number of countries using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
128	130	130	130	140	150	155	159	166	167	166
	Actual Progress									Final
	130	130	133	140	159	159	166	166		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of countries using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data provided by the grant beneficiary
Narrative	The indicator is relevant to the policy objectives as it provides a snapshot of the number of countries in the world applying the IFRS. It allows comparison with its baseline value, ensures continuous monitoring of its trend and helps assessing the progress towards the application of a single set of high quality global accounting standards.
Methodology	To assess the progress towards the global adoption of IFRS standards the beneficiary monitors the application of the IFRS standards in each jurisdiction. The absolute number of countries using International Financial and Reporting Standards is updated on ongoing bases.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator has been monitored since 2014 and we continue monitoring it over the 2021-2027 programming period
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Positive trend. Around 85% of the countries in the world already apply the IFRS standards

Indicator 2: Percentage of standards endorsed in the EU compared to the number of standards issued by the IASB

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
0.89	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.99	0.99	1
	Actual Progress									Final
0.96	0.95	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.98	0.99			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Ratio between the standards endorsed in the EU and the total number of standards issued by the IASB
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data provided by grant beneficiaries
Narrative	The indicator is relevant to the policy objectives as it provides a snapshot of the endorsement level of the IFRS by the EU per year, allows comparison with its baseline value, ensures continuous monitoring of its trend and helps assessing the progress towards a single set of high quality global accounting standards.
Methodology	The absolute number of standards issued by the IASB is compared against the number of standards endorsed by the EU. The difference is less than 1 percent. This is due to the time lag between issuance of an IFRS by the IASB and its adoption by the Commission. (The endorsement process can be launched once the IASB has issued the standard. Endorsement takes approximately 6 months for simple (narrow scope) amendments and longer for major standards.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator has been monitored since 2014 and continues to be monitored over the 2021-2027 programming period. No change of methodology in comparison with the previous programming period 2014-2020.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The percentage of standards endorsed in the EU compared to the number of standards issued by the IASB could not reach 100% target because of the constant updates and developments of the standards and the time necessary for their endorsement by the EU. One major standard (IFRS 17 Insurance contracts) was endorsed by the Commission in 2021 which resulted in the indicators value increase in comparison with 2020.

Previous Program 4: Food and Feed

General Objective 1: Contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, by preventing and eradicating diseases and pests and by ensuring a high level of protection for consumers and the environment, while enhancing the competitiveness of the Union food and feed industry and favouring the creation of jobs

Indicator 1: Incidence of main food-borne disease in the EU (BSE and Salmonella)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Classical BSE cases										
2012	Milestones									2020
11										0
	Actual Progress									Final

	3	2	1	0	1	0	0			
Are we on track :	On track									
Salmonella										
2012	Milestones									2020
90 000	67 000									60 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	92 012	94 477	94 425	91 590	91 857	87 923	52 702			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Confirmed cases of BSE and Salmonella
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EFSA-ECDC report for zoonoses: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6971
Narrative	Total BSE Cases (classical and atypical): 2015: 3, 2016: 5, 2017: 6, 2018: 4, 2019: 7; 2020:4
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EFSA final report for BSE for 2021 is not yet available. See Specific Objective 1 – Indicator 1 for explanation on the trend. 2021 EFSA-ECDC report for zoonoses is not yet available (the latest available report is the 2020 one, published on 13 December 2021: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6971)
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	We are on track for BSE and for Salmonella.

Specific Objective 1: to contribute to a high level of safety of food and food production systems and of other products which may affect the safety of food, while improving the sustainability of food production

Indicator 1: Reduction in the number of cases of diseases in humans in the Union which are linked to food safety or zoonoses

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
90 883	67 000									60 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	92 012	94 477	94 425	91 590	91 857	87 923	52 702			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Confirmed cases of human salmonellosis
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	2021 EFSA-ECDC report for zoonoses is not yet available (the latest available report is the 2020 one, published on 13 December 2021: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/6971)
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The baseline is data from the year 2012, source 2013 report. The reduction of the number of human cases is not as good as expected mainly because of the multi country outbreak caused by Polish eggs. In order to improve the current set of legal measures related to Salmonella in certain poultry populations, the Commission also requested EFSA to provide a scientific opinion on Salmonella control in poultry flocks and its public health impact. The outcome of this EFSA work is currently considered by the relevant Commission services
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	For Salmonella, improvements were stagnating from 2010 to 2019. It should be noted that the reduction of salmonellosis case in human is not only linked to satisfactory implementation of control programmes in poultry but other sources of infection should be taken into account (e.g. production chain of poultry not covered by the programme, pork, cattle, ...). A substantial drop in reported human cases was observed in 2020, which was influenced by the Covid-19 epidemic and the fact that United Kingdom is no longer reporting.

Specific Objective 2: To contribute to achieving a higher animal health status for the Union and to support the improvement of the welfare of animals

Indicator 2: Overall reduction of disease parameters such as incidence, prevalence and number of outbreaks

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
African swine fever: outbreaks in domestic pigs										
2013	Milestones									2020
109		10			0		0			0
	Actual Progress									Final
	80	58	71	141	1 360	1 852	1 206	1 826		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Rabies outbreaks in wild animals										
2013	Milestones									2020
679		80			0					0
	Actual Progress									Final
	298	129	31	6	8	5	12	116		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Avian influenza outbreak in poultry (domestic animals) of HPAI										
2013	Milestones									2020
		0			0					0
	Actual Progress									Final
	10	70	391	820	34	8	437	1 719		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Numbers of outbreaks / MS affected
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	ADNS reports – MS reports
Narrative	Rabies is close to eradication at EU level (only 2 EU MS affected in 2021), however risk remains due to neighbouring third countries as shown by recurrence in Poland in 2021. CSF is practically eradicated in the EU. Surveillance needs to remain in place due to the risk posed by neighbouring 3rd countries. Official freedom status pending for a few MS. Target for ASF is to reduce outbreaks in domestic pigs and prevent spread to non- affected MS (no specific target can be set at this stage for wild boar). Similarly, a target for HPAI in wildlife cannot be set.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Given the positive results in 2014 and 2015, the milestone for 2016 has been reduced from 200 to 80 outbreaks, and the target for 2020 from 100 to 0 outbreaks.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Even if MS implement the programmes effectively it is not always possible to control/eradicate animal diseases when these involve wildlife (ASF, HPAI, Rabies) or insect vectors (BT). In the case of ASF in particular, the absence of an effective vaccine, combined with wild boar involvement and possible human induced spread, makes disease control in wildlife even more challenging. Similar challenges are present for ASF control in domestic pigs, in countries with large numbers of backyard pigs (e.g. RO). Nevertheless, there are already 2 MS that have managed to eradicate the disease from wild boar population (CZ, BE) and without the programmes implemented the impact of the disease would be even more dramatic, even if this not reflected in the numbers of outbreaks reported.

Specific Objective 3: To contribute to the timely detection of pests and their eradication where those pests have entered the Union

Indicator 1: Coverage of the Union territory by surveys for pests, in particular for pests not known to occur in the Union territory and pests considered to be most dangerous for the Union territory

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of EU territory covered by surveys for pests, in particular known to occur in the Union territory										
2012	Milestones									2020
0.05	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1	0.9	1			1
	Actual Progress									Final

	0.785	0.857	0.857	0.857	0.857	0.857	0.9			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	30/04/2020
Data source	For all the data above, source of information is the annual report submitted by MS to Commission/ADNS notification DG SANTE by 30 April of each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	The number of Member States submitting survey programmes for co-funding has increased through the years. However, not all Member States submit applications.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Co-funding of survey programmes combined with eradication/containment measures for pests continue through phytosanitary programmes under the new MFF.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Time and success rate for the eradication of those pests

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Time to eradicate pests not know to occur in the Union, number of days between finding and notification: days										
2015	Milestones									2020
42		20	20	20	20		8			8
	Actual Progress									Final
		22	14	22	14	13	18	12		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of days between finding and notification
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual report submitted by MS to Commission
Narrative	The quick official confirmation and notification of the findings facilitates the undertaking of swift eradication measures.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Deadlines for official notification have been integrated in the EU legislation.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	58.72							58.72	1%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The SME pillar includes a number of actions with broader SME competitiveness goals, that also include some support services/measures for climate (for example, Enterprise Europe Network, and measures for tourism and Social Economy). In particular, the Enterprise Europe Network will provide Sustainability Advisor services and other partnership and advisory services to support SMEs for enhancing their climate-related performance. As there is not a distinct budget for these services it is not possible to provide precise budgetary figures.

6.1.3. Key achievements

COSME

The COSME programme contributed around EUR 130 million to climate mainstreaming during the period 2014-20.

Of this, EUR 25,7 million was via the Equity Facility for Growth. In addition, climate related activities have contributed up to EUR 15 million annually principally via the Enterprise Europe Network, but also through some smaller sector specific actions such as those linked to sustainable construction. The COSME Equity Facility for Growth has invested EUR 6.7 million as of 30 September 2021 in a [Venture Capital fund focusing its activities on clean technologies](#). Details are available in the COSME Equity Facility for Growth update of 30 September 2021.

Overall, the COSME Equity Facility for Growth has facilitated EUR 31 million of investments in SMEs operating in the ‘Energy and Environment’ sector. Details available at

Other examples that demonstrate how COSME financial instruments contribute to green activities are:

- SCALE-UP OF INTELLIGENT ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES SEE [“How EFSI benefits SMEs in Europe - Swedbank case study: Enerqus \(Lithuania\)”](#)
- ENERGY-EFFICIENCY: SEE [“HOW EFSI BENEFITS SMEs IN EUROPE - RAIFFEISEN CASE STUDY: BUL-GREECE \(BULGARIA\), WHOLESALE”](#)
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUSTAINABILITY: SEE [“SONNEN: TAKING ENERGY INTO YOUR OWN HANDS”](#)

The EEN advisory and partnership services also help businesses to reduce emissions and meet other climate goals. There are several EEN sector groups active in this field, supporting SMEs with partnership and advisory services, including the Renewable Energy Sector Group and the Sustainability Thematic Group.

In the area of tourism, specific calls for proposals supported tourism SMEs’ capacities to improve their environmental and climate performance. The European Capitals of Smart Tourism and European Destination of Excellence initiatives promote best practices in sustainable management of touristic destinations and create opportunities for tourism SMEs in the awarded destinations.

The social economy has been delivering innovative green solutions for decades. Social economy entities are present in the circular economy, for example through providing re-use and up- and recycling services and generating new products and services. Regarding decarbonisation, 1.900 energy cooperatives in the EU generate renewable energy at local level, further enabled by the EU regulatory framework (e.g. clean energy package) recognising the rights of citizens and communities to engage directly in the energy sector (renewable energy, electricity market). Social economy actors are offering clean and shared mobility services, sustainable housing solutions and low carbon industrial applications.

A COSME Action focused on exchange of best practices between regions for sustainable growth and the involvement of social economy actors. One strand of the call tackled climate change (Social Economy missions - 2020). A new “Social Economy mission” scheme under the SMP is currently being evaluated and consortia will begin the implementation early in 2023.

The high level Conference on Social Economy that took place in Mannheim in May 2021 also highlighted the role of social economy actors in tackling climate change. More than 3000 persons gathered on line and a Stakeholder Declaration was released that was key for preparing the European Social Economy Action Plan.

The Intelligent Cities Challenge initiative ([ICC](#)) guides cities to:

- a) Decarbonise buildings and mobility, support local renewable energy systems, a circular economy, sustainable waste management and the greening of industry and SMEs.
- b) Prepare Pilot Local Green Deals (LGDs) and implement local actions to support environmental and social sustainability, create new jobs and accelerate a new, green and fairer recovery. ICC developed together with pioneering cities a “Blueprint for Local Green Deals” based on inspiring examples. Over 30 ICC Mayors and city leaders showed their political support and made concrete commitments for Local Green Deals during the ICC Mayors summit on June 2021.
- c) The Single Market programme is also further promoting Local Green Deals supporting SMEs and social economy, through a targeted call for proposals (10 partnerships - 2m Euros) that is currently under evaluation.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %					0.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates			2022-2027 programming				Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0*: 582.5

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender equality is not explicitly laid down in the legal basis of the programme, or directly envisaged in specific pillar objectives and their respective budget lines. However, given potential future impact on gender equality for some of the activities, yet unknown at this stage, certain parts of the programme inherently will already pay particular attention to this cross-cutting priority, as described below.

The SME pillar will support the needs of new entrepreneurs, in particular female entrepreneurs. While no specific objective/target is available in the COSME legal basis, COSME actions take the gender dimension into account. For example, this dimension was tracked for the last time in 2020. It demonstrates that as of 2019 (i) almost every 4 out of 10 SMEs – that have received a debt financial support thanks to the COSME Loan Guarantee Facility – have either female Chief Executive Officer, General Manager or Company Director and (ii) almost 1 out of 10 SMEs – that received an equity investment thanks to the COSME Equity Facility for Growth – has at least one female in an executive position.

Concerning Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, the programme is open equally to men and women. The statistic for applicants shows that since the beginning of the programme:

–New entrepreneurs – 51,37% of applied NEs are women (48,63 % men)

–Host Entrepreneurs – 28,33% of applied HEs are women (71,67 % men).

Out of 175 active Intermediary organisations (IO), 4 IOs have specific focus on support of women Entrepreneurs.

COSME also supports women entrepreneurs with specific entrepreneurship activities, for example via the WeGate project:- the platform WEgate creates a network where women entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs can do business together and also benefit from services that can help their businesses grow, such as access to finance, mentoring and coaching, including on financial literacy. At the moment, WEgate has approximately than 3 000 members. COSME has also facilitated peer-to-peer learning with several workshops on entrepreneurship education and women entrepreneurship. These workshops have connected around 300 public and private stakeholders that have actively exchanged experiences and produced policy recommendations on entrepreneurship education and women entrepreneurship.

Eurostat is giving special attention to the gender perspective in its programme by systematic collection, provision and dissemination of gender and discrimination statistics as well as analysis of gender related aspects. Gender and discrimination statistics do not necessarily entail the collection of additional statistics from existing surveys but rather make full use of existing data to illustrate possible gaps e.g. between men and women. The main purpose of the activity is to extend the visibility of equality statistics available in the European Statistical System. In 2021, Eurostat disseminated gender pay gap data for 2019 and many detailed gender disaggregations and discrimination statistics.

All the consumer evidence collected through consumer condition surveys, retailer surveys, consumer market and behavioural studies is gender disaggregated for any significant gender-based differences on a regular basis. Therefore, all the results of these studies take into consideration the gender distribution and all the data is analysed from the gender perspective.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Under the **Food** objective, the proposed activities related to Food Contact Materials will contribute to a higher level of safety, especially regarding the recycled materials used in their production. They will also help to a better enforcement of the applicable safety rules.

The proposed activities related to sustainable consumption and production (including food waste prevention) will contribute to improved resource efficiency, thereby helping to close the gap between supply and growing demand for food. In particular, the recovery and redistribution of surplus food from the supply chain to help feed those in need contributes to addressing hunger in our communities.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Under the **Food** objective, the proposed activities related to sustainable consumption also aim to facilitate the shift of dietary patterns towards healthy diets, thereby helping to reduce the negative impact of low quality diets on obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The **Consumer** objective contributed via its dedicated energy efficiency awareness raising actions.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Under the **COSME** objective, the programme is continuing to work to encourage entrepreneurship, provide mentoring and best practice review, offering support to the Single Market Strategy and the Single Digital Gateway, and through social economy projects work to strengthen the links between traditional and social economy enterprises.

Specifically, social economy plays a crucial role in the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs by promoting inclusive and sustainable development through concrete social, institutional and technological innovations and practices. Being locally rooted and tapping into informal and formal networks, the social economy contributes to the effectiveness of regional and local development in different ways. The programme's Social Economy Missions schemes will increase the scale and scope of regional efforts to boost the social economy, thereby reinforcing development dynamics as well. It will also boost knowledge sharing between European regions to create cross border partnerships to promote inclusive economic growth. Such partnerships will help regional policy makers to develop local social economy action Plans contributing to enhance territorial attractiveness and resilience while supporting people's well-being, work opportunities and mobility.

Furthermore, the Intelligent Cities Challenge prepares the local workforces for the green and digital transitions and the jobs of the future through a dedicated thematic priority on [reskilling and upskilling](#). Based on innovative and effective examples of pioneering cities, the [cities guide for reskilling](#) provides a strategic and pro-active approach to manage reskilling of the local workforce towards the skills needed for the green and digital transformation.

Furthermore, the programme contributes to improving the conditions for the efficient functioning of the Single Market by supporting the transparent and independent development of international financial reporting (including in relation to the interaction between and interdependencies of financial reporting and broader corporate reporting requirements) and auditing standards. This in turn facilitates the optimal allocation of funds by investors and the reduction of the cost of capital for EU companies. EFRAG endorsement advice supports the Commission assessment of whether IFRSs are conducive of the European public good. EFRAG's work programme has also been increasingly shaped by the Commission's Action Plan on *Financing Sustainable Growth* (2018). Recognising the importance of ensuring that accounting standards do not discourage sustainable and long-term investments, the Commission requested, as part of the 2018 Action Plan, that EFRAG explored potential alternative accounting treatments to fair value measurement for long-term investment portfolios of equity and equity-type instruments. On 30 January 2020 EFRAG issued its advice to the Commission. EFRAG recommended the Commission to follow-up with the IASB to consider the re-introduction of re-cycling through the Profit or loss statement of profits or losses realised upon the disposal of equity instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) ⁽¹⁵⁾. On 13 March 2020, EVP Dombrovkis requested the IASB to consider the issue ⁽¹⁶⁾. This is an example that the funding programme is in line with SDG 8, as it directly helps to promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Similarly, in April 2021 the IAASB published [guidance](#) aimed at helping auditors and other assurance professionals apply [International Standard on Assurance Engagements \(ISAE\) 3000 \(Revised\)](#) to sustainability and other non-financial (or extended external reporting) assurance engagements. In 2022, the IAASB will continue to develop this area further, which corresponds to the need of the Commission to adopt assurance standards for corporate sustainability reporting under the proposed CSRD.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Examples of projects under the **COSME** objective include those improving digital skills, facilitating public procurement of innovation and the co-financing by innovation consortia. The main impacts of the WORTH Partnership Project on SMEs are business development, fostering innovation, and increased competitiveness and growth. Under the first edition of the WORTH Partnership Project (2017-2021), 152 transnational partnerships, involving 349 partners from 34 EU-COSME associated states were selected and supported with an incubation programme. The incubation support consisted of over 2.300 hours of tailored mentoring and advisory service as well as over 40 hours of training consisting of 35 online modules/seminars and 8 on-site workshops. Through this the partners (designers/creators, SMEs/manufacturers and tech providers) acquired or further developed business, technical and communication skills and venture-building capacities.

The supported projects contributed with key design solutions to global challenges, accelerating the green and digital twin transitions and associated transformation of the European economy, industry, and society such as a) circular economy and resources efficiency; b) rethinking social innovation and social inclusion; c) the reinvention of craftsmanship and European heritage preservation; d) advanced digitised manufacturing, value chains and business models; e) smart and high-performance materials; f) high-value added solutions for attractive growth markets. The partnerships achieved significant progress towards market uptake, where 44% of them achieved a prototype, 34% developed a minimum viable product while 23% developed a final product. A total of 424 prototypes, minimum viable products, final products and limited series were developed. According to 67% of selected partners, the development of a prototype or final product remained as the most relevant benefit leveraged within WORTH.

Moreover, 47% of selected partners confirmed that the project developed within WORTH led to an increase in turnover or sales or was likely to do so in the near future.

In the area of tourism, calls for proposals supported capacity building of tourism SMEs and in particular their ability to take up innovation and more sustainable business models.

Social Economy: A key aspect for the green transition is tackling energy poverty and helping greening social infrastructure. Our new initiative under the SMP, also presented in the Renovation Wave, is the Affordable Housing Initiative. It seeks to pilot 100 lighthouse renovation districts by 2030 and support investments in sustainable affordable and social housing by Member States, regions and cities.

The Affordable Housing Initiative will also contribute to the New European Bauhaus, as it seeks to fulfil community needs and participatory models for renovation, social innovation and regeneration projects in line with the European Green Deal objectives. Projects will be implemented through European partnerships supporting local partnerships between different actors (public, industry, social economy, civil society). The initiative wants to promote social innovation as a tool for inclusive project design and engage SMEs in various sectors to co-invest in the newest sustainable and inclusive technologies addressing needs in social housing districts and neighbourhoods.

The Intelligent Cities Challenge has a strong impact on building resilience and fostering innovation for local economic activity. This challenge helps cities coordinate actions, for delivering comprehensive business models, governance structures and networks. It builds strong partnerships with local businesses, SMEs and organisations, demonstrating that city-stakeholder collaboration adds significant value to a transition to a circular and sustainable economy. Cities are progressing with their planned activities as part of the ICC trajectory currently developing 241 solutions/applications involving local economic actors and public administrations.

Past achievements - Period 2014-2020

The Digital Cities Challenge (June 2017 to June 2019 with EUR 2 800 000 supported by COSME budget) offered strategic advice and coaching to 41 participating EU cities (of small and medium size), to develop innovative ecosystems for smart growth and industrial modernisation using advanced technologies. Cities represented by their administration, industry and academia, participated to create a vibrant innovative ecosystem and release their potential for growth.

The programme also continues to provide financing specifically adapted to the needs of SMEs, and to support Cluster partnerships.

The Enterprise Europe Network advisors have long and rich history in helping SMEs increase their competitiveness and create growth and jobs in a wide range of sectors of activities. As an example, the EEN runs 15 sector groups that organize business matchmaking and R&I partnering events. This is the case in particular for the sector group on renewable energy. EEN advisors provide innovation management capacity assessments and guidance for about 4 000 SMEs per year. In addition, EEN helps SMEs obtain financing and bring them in contact with potential investors. In 2021, pursuant to the SME Strategy, the EEN continued the capacity building and training for Sustainability Advisors to be put in place in all regions of the EU in the new EEN Network from 1st January 2022. EEN also continued its cooperation with the European Digital Innovation Hubs and Clusters to help SMEs with their digital transformation and adaptation to more resilient business processes. As announced in the 2021 Industrial Strategy Update, the EEN and ECCP are working together to increase the resilience of SMEs. A dedicated Resilience Expert Group is being set up in the EEN.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Food strand:

The proposed activities related to Food Contact Materials will contribute to their more sustainable production and use, ensuring in particular a better recyclability of these materials, and the use of more natural and sustainable materials.

This proposed activities related to pesticides and biocides will ensure the timely removal of unsafe products and that all products on the market are safe, and that consumers are fully protected from residues in food.

As part of the European Green Deal, the 'Farm to Fork' strategy will design a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system. This includes the fight against animal diseases and pests in order to prevent, contain and eradicate animal diseases (especially zoonosis such salmonellosis) and pests in EU to provide safer foods for more people. These activities will support the scaling up of food waste prevention efforts by Member States and stakeholders in order to accelerate the EU's progress towards Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3 calling for halving food waste by 2030 and reducing food losses along the production and supply chain.

Consumer:

Promotion of sustainable consumption is in line with priorities for the green transition in the New Consumer Agenda adopted in 2020. The European Consumer Summit 2021 conclusions called to promote consumer education initiatives on sustainable consumption, through targeted actions addressing specific segments of consumers, such as young and elderly consumers.

In this context, the Consumer policy supports initiatives that empower and assist consumers to make sustainable and informed choices, in particular by raising consumer's awareness of the environmental performance of products, such as their durability and

eco-design features, as well as fostering the application of consumer rights and redress possibilities in relation to misleading practices

The Consumer Programme financed a supporting study in the context of the legal initiative in preparation on empowering consumers for the green transition. The initiative is planned to be adopted on 30 March 2022 together with several other initiatives in preparation in the context of the Green Deal. The ambition of this initiative is to improve the information at the point of sale about products' environmental characteristics, such as lifespan and reparability. It also aims to protect consumers better from unfair practices, such as greenwashing and early product obsolescence.

The Programme contributed also via awareness raising actions targeting consumers and promoting green transitions and circular economy. For instance, the Green Consumption Pledge which calls upon businesses in various sectors of the economy to undertake concrete, public and verifiable commitments to reduce their overall carbon footprint, to produce and market more sustainable products and to redouble their efforts towards raising the awareness of consumers about the impact of their consumption choices. In June 2021 the event was organised to announce pledging companies and to reflect on the future of the Green Consumption Pledge. This event was followed online by more than 600 viewers, and generated a good deal of interest in future possibilities to apply to join the Pledge.

Consumer conditions Survey outlined that consumers' environmental awareness is on the increase. 56% of consumers considered at least once the environmental impact of their purchase and 23% of consumers considered the environmental impact of most or all of their purchases (up from 18% in 2014).

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

Under the European statistics objective, Eurostat is called to regularly monitor progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an EU context. For this purpose, it coordinated the development of the EU SDG indicator set, which consists of around 100 indicators. The indicator set is reviewed every year to ensure the highest quality and that the most policy relevant indicators are included. About two thirds of these indicators are produced by the European Statistical System (ESS). Based on the EU SDG indicator set, Eurostat produces an annual monitoring report (<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sdi>) assessing the progress of the EU towards the UN SDGs. The report is complemented by various communication products (website, data tables, interactive visualisation tools, country profiles, brochure) to target different user groups. Interlinkages between SDGs and spillover effects on countries outside the EU are analysed as well. The 2021 edition included a special chapter on the impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development.

Furthermore, the SDG indicators are getting integrated in the European Semester. The 2022 edition of the Eurostat monitoring report will become part of the European Semester Spring package and the country reports will include a specific SDG annex presenting status and progress of the Member States towards the SDGs.

Eurostat also provides training to the National Statistical Institutes to produce harmonised and comparable social statistics, environmental statistics, national accounts, etc. Moreover, it offers courses to explain indicator frameworks and the monitoring of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable development

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**EU Anti-Fraud Programme****Lead DG: OLAF**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The Union's financial interests are being impacted by both fraudulent activities and financial irregularities, both on the side of EU revenues and EU expenditure. Every year, the Commission's annual report on the protection of the EU's financial interests demonstrates that the level of such irregularities and fraudulent behaviour requires continuous and enhanced action on the part of

the Union. The aim of the programme is therefore to provide the necessary coordination of antifraud activities and financial, technical and information support to Member States in their efforts and actions to protect the Union's financial interests. This coordination and support role is particularly obvious when the fraud or the irregularity has a cross border dimension or is seen to be impacting several Member States.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides for a shared obligation of the Member States and the Union to protect the Union's financial interests. Irregularities and fraud are by definition a Union-wide phenomenon, which is not limited to an individual Member State. The intervention at Union level on the protection of the Union financial interests is justified in terms of subsidiarity where it facilitates cooperation between the Union and the Member States or between Member States, without impinging on Member States' responsibilities. The Union Anti-Fraud Programme (UAFP) is designed to support and complement Member States in preventing and fighting fraud affecting the financial interests of the EU, and supporting mutual assistance in customs and agricultural matters. With the adoption of the Regulation (EU) 2021/785, establishing the Programme, the latter now merges three different existing instruments, which were implemented separately from each other before:

- the "Hercule" operational programme, providing financial support to Member States in their fight against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interest of the Union;
- the Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS) supporting Member States in mutual assistance in customs and agricultural matters; and,
- the Irregularity Management System (IMS) put at the disposal of Member States and candidate countries by the Commission for the reporting of irregularities, including fraud, in cases related to the shared management and pre-accession assistance funds.

The above three strands will contribute together to the achievement of the political objective to support Member States in countering fraud and other illegal activities, ensuring that no European taxpayer's money is being diverted from its intended goal.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme has three specific objectives, one for each strand:

- a) Preventing and combating fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interest of the Union;
- b) Supporting the reporting of irregularities, including fraud, with regard to the shared management and pre-accession funds of the Union Budget; and,
- c) Providing tools for information exchange and support for operational activities in the field of mutual administrative assistance in customs and agricultural matters.

1.4. Public intervention context

Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides for a shared obligation of the Member States and the European Union to protect the Union's financial interests. Article 33 TFEU provides for strengthening of customs cooperation between Member States and between the latter and the Commission. The implementation of the Union multi-annual budgets has been accompanied by a set of measures to support the Member States and the Union as a whole in preventing and fighting fraud affecting the Union's financial interests, and supporting mutual administrative assistance and cooperation in customs and agriculture matters.

These obligations are actively being addressed and streamlined by the Programme's strands. Activities with the aim of providing better technical and scientific assistance, specialised training and dissemination of knowledge, including comparative law studies, help significantly to protect the financial interests of the Union and at the same time to attain an equivalent level of protection across the Union.

The UAFP aims to act in synergy with other EU instruments providing technical support in the area of the fight against fraud and corruption, such as the Customs Control Equipment Instrument and the Technical Support Instrument.

1.5. Actions

The first component of the programme provides the Member States with targeted assistance in achieving their obligations to protect the Union's financial interests. This will be carried out by means of support for the purchase of specialised antifraud equipment and tools, specific trainings as well as targeted conferences and studies. The Commission will implement this component by: (i) awarding grants following calls for proposals; (ii) concluding public procurement contracts following calls for tender; (iii) entering into administrative arrangements with the Joint Research Centre (JRC); (iv) reimbursing costs incurred by representatives from eligible countries who participate in training and operational activities, and (v) offering targeted support to relevant international organisations actively helping to protect the Union's financial interests.

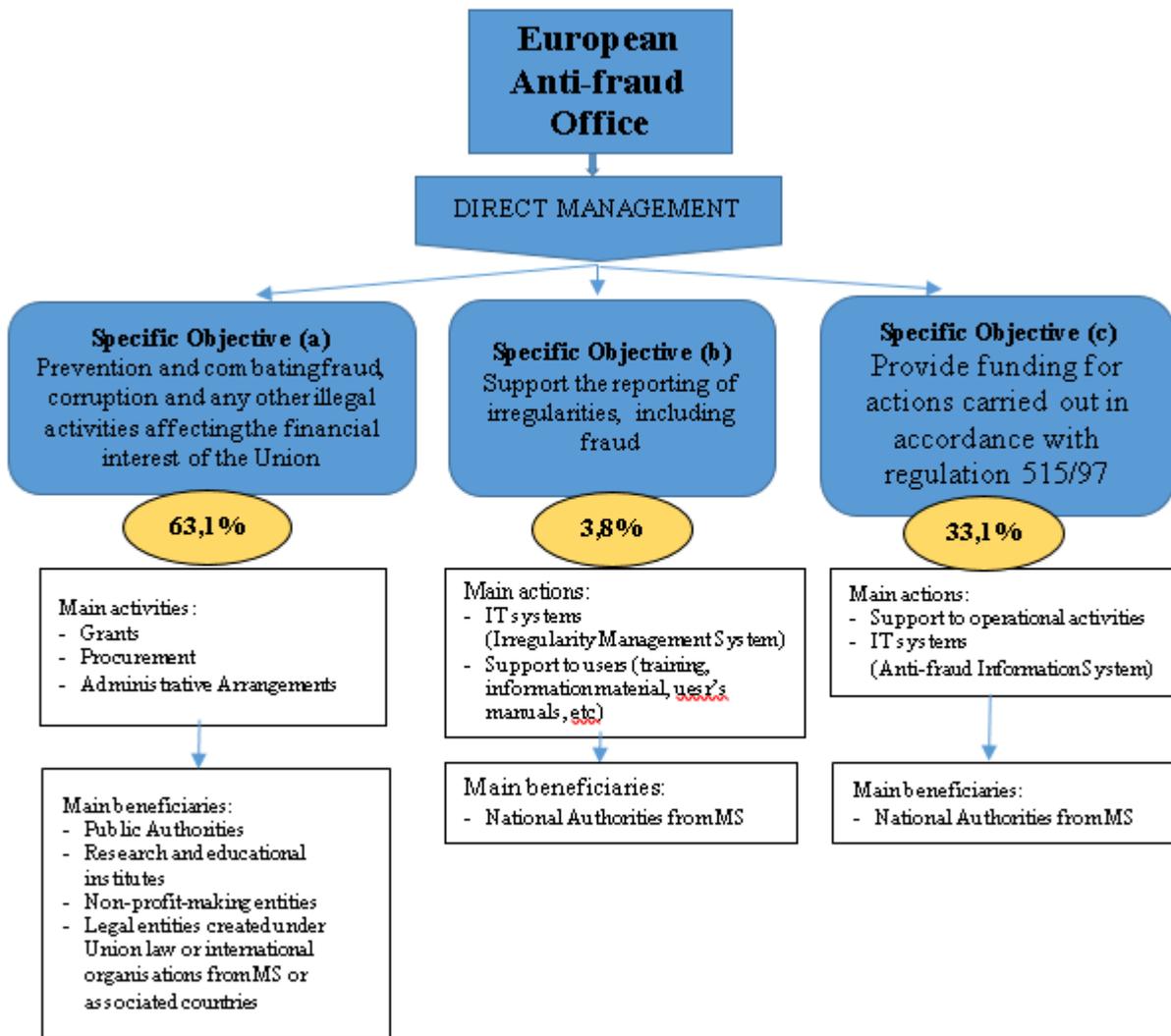
Concerning the second component, the Commission puts at disposal and maintains the Irregularity Management System (IMS) to facilitate the compliance of Member States with the obligation (laid down in various sectorial pieces of legislation) to report detected irregularities.

The activities of the third component will consist, on the one hand of the operation and maintenance of the AFIS platform for the exchange of Mutual Assistance Information, and on the other hand of supported activities, such as Joint Customs Operations, training courses, preparatory or evaluation meetings for operational actions.

1.6. Delivery mode

The programme is implemented through direct management. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) is the lead service for the programme implementation.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 250/2014 (OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 110).	2021 - 2027	181.21

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

In the context of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, the European Parliament and the Council adopted on 29 April 2021 a Regulation establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme, which entered into force in May 2021 but retroactively applicable as of 1 January 2021.

The Programme shall ensure the continuity of EU support for activities carried out by the Member States and the Commission in the defence of the Union's financial interests and in support of mutual administrative assistance between Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission in customs and agricultural matters. A dedicated strand (IMS) will continue supporting the reporting of irregularities by the Member States, including fraud.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	24.1	24.4	24.9	25.5	26.4	27.4	28.7	181.2
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Union Anti-Fraud Programme is, as mentioned before, a threefold programme: it is, on the one hand, the successor of the now closed Hercule III operational programme, supporting activities preventing and combatting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the Union. The Programme also includes the financing basis for the IMS (Irregularity Management System) and for AFIS (Anti-Fraud Information System), which are operational activities performed by the Commission (OLAF). AFIS is a set of customs IT applications operated under a common information system managed by the Commission, set up to perform the tasks entrusted to the Commission by Regulation 515/97 on mutual administrative assistance in customs and agriculture matters. IMS is a secure electronic communications tool which facilitates the Member States' obligation to report detected irregularities, including fraud, and which supports their management and analysis.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	24.0	181.2	13%
Payments	2.5		1%

The programme is being implemented through annual work programmes, through Calls for proposals, public procurement and administrative arrangements.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	153.3	154.4	99%
Payments	126.0		82%

The Hercule III commitment appropriations were implemented with high rate of 99%. The available appropriations were closely monitored and the unused amounts under any specific sub-category of activities were shifted towards the other ones.

For the payment appropriations, the rate of implementation of almost 90% is explained by:

- The majority of grant contracts awarded between 2018 and 2020 were extended at the request of the beneficiaries. The exceptional pandemic situation led to important delays in the implementation of projects (not only in relation to the training and conferences activities planned for 2020, but also in the equipment procurement activities); therefore, for several grant files the final reports, and the final payments, are still pending;
- The lower actual costs declared by grant beneficiaries in the submitted final reports, compared to the foreseen costs at the moment of the application submission; this is mainly related to the training and conferences grants, where the beneficiaries encounter some cost savings (such as participant travel and subsistence costs); in technical assistance grants, there were instances where the beneficiary managed to obtain a better price for the specific equipment, following the public tendering, compared to the initial budgeted amounts.

The AFIS programme had consistently over the last years a very high usage of available commitments, and the cumulative implementation rate is well above 99%. For payment appropriations, the cumulative implementation rate is 99%.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The Programme had a delayed start in 2021, as its legal basis (Regulation (EU) 785/2021) was adopted on 29 April 2021. As soon as the first financing decision was adopted through a Commission Implementing Decision of 23 July 2021, OLAF has launched all the necessary activities and financial interventions in order to fulfil the programme's specific objectives.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Concerning the programme's first strand, two Calls for Proposals were published in July 2021, on the Commission's "Funding and Tenders" portal. The granting cycle was delayed in 2021 (compared to previous years) due to the late adoption of the programme's first Financing Decision (FD) and Annual Work Programme (AWP), caused by a high workload on both the Commission's policy side and on the Commission's translation services). The deadline for the submission of applications was 5 October 2021.

The two Calls covered the following topics: (i) "Technical assistance" with an indicative budget of EUR 9.3 million, and (ii) "Training, Conferences, Staff Exchanges and Studies" with an indicative budget of EUR 1.6 million.

Overall, the two Calls registered 55 applications coming from 14 Member States. The evaluation process has been finalised and the applicants will be notified on the outcome of the evaluation exercise (March 2022).

The "Technical Assistance" Call received 45 applications from 13 Member States. The total requested was EUR 20.3 million, more than double the available budget. 2021 witnessed high quality applications receiving very high scores, several applications being retained on a reserve list. This component thus remains relevant to national authorities. After the expert evaluation, 24 applications are retained on the award and reserve list.

The "Training, Conferences, Staff Exchanges and Studies" Call registered 10 applications from 8 Member States. The total requested was EUR 1.4 million (it is obvious that the pandemic circumstances were not at all favourable to the planning of this type of events). Six applications are selected for an award under this Call.

The successful applicants will receive a co-financing rate of maximum 80% of the eligible costs. The Commission will only grant funding in excess of this ceiling in exceptional and duly justified cases, as provided for in the 2021 AWP. However, in no case can such funding exceed 90% of the eligible costs.

Concerning the programme's second strand (the Irregularity Management System), maintenance costs absorbed EUR 483 thousand. Two updating releases allowed fixing some issues previously encountered.

In November 2021, OLAF procured a study on the “Future of IMS”, with a cost of about EUR 233 thousand, to explore the potential of the system, taking into account the needs and wishes of its users and main stakeholders, as well as the ongoing reflections on the digitalisation of the fight against fraud and on the interoperability of relevant IT tools at EU and Member State level. The study is due by the second quarter 2022.

With regard to the programme’s third strand, the Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS), 8 platform releases (i.e. bund of application releases), consisting of more than 50 application releases in total, and 25 additional application releases and fixes were developed in 2022. Among these, there were several major releases, such as:

- the Mutual Assistance System (MAS), an entirely new application that automates the manual collection and processing of data and gathers all mutual assistance related files in one central place;
- two major upgrades of the Container Status Message directory (CSM): the first enables the determination of a complete trip of a container from the reported physical movements, by using a machine-learning algorithm. The second allows visualising the flow of containers that have been transported between two ports;
- a new module for the Customs Information System (CIS+) to support the new Cash Control Regulation (Regulation EU 2018/1672).

The new CIS+ module went live on 1 June 2021, on time for the application of the new Cash Control Regulation. It ensures the timely and efficient exchange of cash declaration data and related infractions between Member States’ Customs services, national Financial Intelligence Units (FIU) and the competent EU bodies. In December 2021, six months after going live, the new CIS module had more than 2 200 users and contained the data of 31 500 cash declarations and 1 800 infractions of the Regulation.

This new CIS+ module is not only very important from an operational point of view, but also for AFIS key monitoring indicator - the number of mutual assistance information made available. In the previous programme, the indicator was stagnating for the last two years, which led to AFIS missing the 2019 milestone and the target for 2020. However, thanks to the infractions of the new Cash Control Regulation that are now shared via the new CIS+ module, AFIS is now back on track to meet its target for this indicator in the new programme.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Provide funding for actions carried out in accordance with regulation 515/97

The programme has achieved all but one of the targets of its indicators.

The specific objective ‘to support Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters through the provision of secure information exchange tools for Joint Operations and specific Customs anti-fraud information exchange modules and databases such as the Customs Information System’ has three indicators:

1. The number of active customs fraud cases for which information is available in the Mutual Assistance databases,
2. The number of Joint Customs Operations (JCOs) (including EU wide and regional operations) supported/year, and
3. The coverage of the Anti-Fraud Transit Information System (A-TIS).

The first indicator has not met its 2020 target of 24 000 cases. At the end of 2020, the Mutual Assistance databases contained 19 125 active customs fraud cases.

The target was based on the main assumption that relevant IPR infringements, which are reported via DG TAXUD’s anti-counterfeit and piracy system (COPIS), would significantly contribute to the number of cases. However, at the end of 2020 only 971 cases (5%) were IPR infringements reported via COPIS. This had two reasons:

- The main reason is that the Member States’ customs services are not publishing the majority of these draft cases of IPR infringements available to them in the Customs Information System (CIS+), one of AFIS’ main Mutual Assistance databases.
- The interface with DG TAXUD’s COPIS only went live in 2019, with five years of delay. The start of the development of this interface, which was originally foreseen for 2014, was delayed to 2017, due to the late go-live of COPIS itself and the need for a following stabilisation phase for this system. Due to this delay, relevant IPR infringements, which are reported in COPIS, are only available since 2019 as draft fraud cases in CIS+ for completion and publication by Member States’ customs services.

2. However, thanks to the efforts made by the Commission services, such as the on-going development of additional web services for CIS+ allowing the connection of national customs systems, it is envisaged that the 2020 target will be achieved in 2024.

The evaluation reports of the participants to these JCOs show that this physical structure and AFIS application strongly facilitate the coordination tasks associated to JCOs with a large number of participants. The use of these facilities is frequently recommended during the evaluation of these operations by the participants. The fact that these facilities are also frequently used for operational activities in the area of law enforcement cooperation (free of charge for the participants), even though other institutions and organisations, like Europol or the World Customs Organisation, offer alternative solutions, is an additional proof of Member States’ appreciation.

Following Member States’ recommendations in previous years, OLAF has strengthened in the reporting period the involvement of Member States during all stages of development of new or updated AFIS applications, aiming at improving their usage and user

satisfaction. Special workshops were organised for the new versions of AFIS Mail, CIS+ and IMS, which involved a large number of participants from the Member States. As a result, Member States acceptance and usage of the mentioned applications has significantly improved, along with the enlargement of their user base, as usage statistics and satisfaction reports demonstrate.

The last satisfaction survey from 2019 demonstrates that the majority of the users is satisfied with the AFIS applications. 84 % of the respondents agreed or slightly agreed that the AFIS applications they use most frequently, respond to their professional needs. Only less than 5 % of the respondents disagree to a certain extent (disagree: 1.5 % and slightly disagree: 3.3 %). 10 % of the users remain neutral.

Preventing and combatting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU

The fulfilment of its specific objective to “prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the Union's financial interest” is measured through two performance indicators:

1. The added value and effective use of co-financed technical equipment, expressed by the direct users of the equipment in their final technical reports submitted – for the final reports received in 2021 (for grants awarded under Hercule III), the beneficiaries assessed that the use of Hercule funded equipment added a high value to their activities, expressing an overall satisfaction rate of 97%. The rate is significantly higher than the 75% target set.

2. The number and type of trainings activities funded under the programme, including the amount of specialised training, and the satisfaction rate as expressed by the participants. In 2020, the programme awarded 24 grants for training-related activities. Due to the global sanitary situation, most of the trainings and conferences initially planned for 2020 (both grant and procurement contracts) were postponed to 2021. 15 trainings and conferences were organised, mostly in a virtual or hybrid mode. Two of them took place with a physical presence.

Regarding the training grant contracts finalised during 2021, the participants and trainees considered the events financed by the Programme very well suited to their needs— around 300 participants that replied to the surveys expressed a satisfaction rate of more than 90%.

Each of the programme’s five operational objectives have been addressed through specific forms of funding (grants, procurement and administrative agreements) and relevant co-financed activities.

The exceptional pandemic circumstances of 2020-2021 had an important impact on the general implementation of the Programme especially in terms of training and conferences activities. The beneficiaries of grants were, in most cases, not able to continue with the implementation of their projects as foreseen (both the purchase of technical equipment and the training, conferences and staff exchanges were in many cases delayed). OLAF offered its support in postponing the project’s implementation and amending the contracts.

Most of the training activities (funded via both grants and procurement instruments) foreseen for taking place in 2020 were either postponed to 2021, or delivered virtually, where feasible. Following a successful publication and evaluation of the 2020 Calls for proposals, unused amounts earmarked for procured activities in the 2020 budget were transferred grants (EUR 2 million were transferred from procured activities to grants, representing approximately 12% of the total budget for the year), ensuring an efficient implementation of available operational funds and allowing a grant award to the best-ranked applications across the three Calls.

The access to commercial databases and analytical IT tools continued to be provided to the Member States authorities, by signing specific contracts under the existing framework contracts with suppliers.

3.2. Key achievements

10 500	1 550	47	285	8
Participants attended specialised training and conference activities co-financed by the Hercule III Programme between 2014 and 2020, via grants	Law enforcement officials from all Member States participated in the specialised digital forensic and analyst training, procured by OLAF (2014-2020)	High-level events focused on the protection of the Union’s financial interests were organised by OLAF during the duration of the Hercule III Programme	Grants were awarded, mainly to competent authorities in the Member States, strengthening their operational and technical capacity to carry out investigations into activities detrimental to the Union’s financial interests	Commercial databases and specific IT tools were made available each year to Member States authorities, enabling substantial economies of scale

Provide funding for actions carried out in accordance with regulation 515/97

254 731	31 500	16	11	1
Tablets of counterfeit medicine intercepted in one single operation ¹	Cash declarations transferred via the new CIS+ module in the first six months	Million Euro worth of dangerous toys seized in one single operation ²	Joint Customs Operations (JCO) were supported	New Application went live (the Mutual Assistance System)

The Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS) and its related services were always operational and accessible. This allowed the AFIS strand of the EU Anti-Fraud Programme to support in 2021, despite the continued COVID-19 pandemic, 11 Joint Customs Operations and several other actions that were performed by Member States and OLAF. These included not only operations and actions protecting the financial interests of EU, but also other policies, such as counterfeit medicines, illegal pesticides³, waste⁴ and wildlife trafficking⁵.

Preventing and combatting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU

Several key achievements of the Programme can be highlighted:

1. Improved operational efficiency and effectiveness reported by the beneficiaries of technical assistance grants:

Technical Assistance beneficiaries are requested to submit a final implementation report one year after the closing date of the grant contract. This report contains information on the results achieved following the usage of the equipment as well as the organisation’s assessment of the contributions made towards the achievement of the Programme’s objectives. The results reported illustrate how the purchased technical equipment, such as detection tools, enabled the grant beneficiaries to seize substantial amounts of smuggled cigarettes, counterfeit goods and tobacco products. In addition, the national authorities reported that investigation support equipment, such as communication equipment, cameras, IT-tools and forensic soft- and hardware, facilitated the lawful gathering of evidence during operations in support of investigations aimed at protecting the Union’s revenues, expenditures and assets. Examples of results reported during 2021:

- Grant awarded to the Department of Customs and Excise of Spain and was used for the acquisition of two observation vehicles equipped with elements for communications system surveillance and data storage. The recordings obtained were used as evidence for criminal prosecution. The beneficiary reported that numerous products and machinery destined for illicit tobacco-related activities were identified and retained during the searches: crushing machines, mixers, packaging machines, etc. Among others, the following items were confiscated: 257 800 cigarette packs, 525 000 unpackaged cigarettes, 178 boxes with pipe tobacco and EUR 35 000 in cash.
- The police of Lublin in Poland has purchased a multifunction mobile unit for automated number plate recognitions system, surveillance technology, recording and covert monitoring. The equipment purchase aimed mainly to strengthen the operational and investigative capacity of operational police officers. The equipment is specifically designed for difficult terrain conditions such as forests and muddy areas. The beneficiary reported seizures of 3.6 million pieces of cigarettes, from January 2019 to February 2020. The beneficiary also reported that, following the undertaken operational activities, 64 people were investigated.
- The Hellenic Police of Athens received a grant for modernisation of technical equipment for detection and investigative operations. This equipment spans a variety of items including laptops, cameras, antennas, video recorders, pinhole cameras, thermal monoculars and radios. This equipment contributed to faster and effective inspections especially to detect contraband cigarette and tobacco products and to tackle financial crime and criminal organisations. The beneficiary reported that the project contributes to operational efficiencies of the Security Directorate to facilitate the daily activities in preventing and combatting the smuggling of counterfeit goods in the black market. The operations conducted during 2018-2019 led to seizures of almost 129 tonnes of tobacco, 41 handguns, 120 vehicles, thousands of kilos of drugs and narcotics and more than EUR 2 million in cash. The estimated value from Non-Payment VAT exceeds 5.5 million euros for the tobacco-related operations. For the rest of the criminal activities detected, the estimated value of the quantities that have been seized is estimated to be more than EUR 120 000 000.
- Guardia Civil (Spain) obtained technical support to strengthen the fight against fraud and counterfeiting (especially tobacco smuggling) throughout the Spanish border with the Mediterranean Sea. This Spanish border links ports and roads from Algeciras (near the North of Africa) up to the French border. The equipment provided Guardia Civil with enhanced ability to carry out spot-checks aiming to reinforce legal access to intelligence in the framework of criminal investigations carried out against fraud and corruption activities nationwide. These capabilities should assist joint international operations carried out in the EU territory and beyond. The beneficiary reported seizures of round 5 000 cases of cigarettes, 98 000 kg

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/olaf-operation-against-counterfeit-medicines-2021-12-14_en
² https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/not-play-over-eu16-million-worth-dangerous-toys-seized-operation-supported-olaf-2021-03-08_en
³ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/olaf-teams-europol-against-illegal-pesticides-2021-06-17_en
⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/olaf-play-even-bigger-role-stopping-waste-trafficking-and-fighting-climate-change-2021-11-17_en
⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/important-role-olaf-annual-operation-protecting-european-eels-2021-06-04_en

ground tobacco, 62 drawers of rolled cigarettes and cash for around EUR 7.9 million. The total seized value is an estimated EUR 24 million, involving the arrest of 100 people.

2. Increased cross-border cooperation and exchange of information:

The beneficiaries reported that the Programme enabled long-lasting cooperation across borders. The training activities and staff exchanges contributed to the creation of networks and exchange of best practices:

- The General Prosecutor's Office of the Italian Court of Auditors, organised, together with the national Anti-fraud Coordination Service, two training sessions based on cooperation agreements and experience exchanges between five Member States. The events created a valuable framework enabling the exchange of experiences between the accounting prosecutors of the Courts of Auditors of Spain, France, Greece, Portugal and Italy, the relevant national and European Anti-Fraud services, as well as judges in the criminal field of the various Member States involved. During the four days of workshops was announced the protocol of operational collaboration between the General Prosecutor office of the Italian Court of Auditors and the newly established European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). This protocol was signed in September 2021 and constitutes the first cooperation agreement between the Office and an accounting judiciary of an EU State.
- The Academy of European Law (ERA) in Germany organised the conference entitled 'Transposition of the PIF Directive into national legislation' that took place online due to the sanitary circumstances in February 2021. This conference took stock of the transposition status of the Directive (EU) 2017/1371 (so called "PIF Directive"). This Directive seeks to harmonise the definitions, sanctions and prescription periods of the offences affecting the Union's financial interests. The conference presented the initiatives recently put forward by the European Commission to revamp EU's policies on fraud in an integrated manner, an approach made possible by the adoption in 2017 of the PIF Directive. The conference debated ideas on how to improve the EU's fight against fraud by enhancing transnational and multi-disciplinary cooperation. This conference encompassed 65 legal practitioners, discussing cooperation between investigators and prosecutors in Member States in cross-border fraud and corruption cases.

3. Enhanced multi-disciplinary cooperation between anti-fraud practitioners and academics on protecting the EU financial interests and raised awareness of the judiciary and other legal professionals of this matter:

- The Programme continued funding the publication of eucrim (the European Criminal Law Associations' forum) by the Max Planck Institute for Study of Crime, Security and Law in Germany during 2020 and 2021. The journal strives to support the European Criminal Law Associations and to foster their network. It raises awareness of legal practitioners and other stakeholders throughout Europe with regard to relevant legal provisions and policies in the area of the protection of the EU's financial interests and European criminal law. The periodical promotes a deeper understanding of long-term developments in this field by means of its news and articles sections. Each issue focused on a specific topic related to the protection of the EU's financial interests. The eucrim journal is primarily published electronically (<https://eucrim.eu/>) in four issues per year and can be downloaded free of charge. The journal has gathered valuable contributions from academics, practitioners, and several other branches of the legal profession, leading to the exchange of information and knowledge.
- The University of Burgos in Spain implemented the project 'Toolkit for the Prevention of frauds in European Funds with special attention to European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Funds (CF). The project consisted in a comparative research on the analysis of cases in different European countries on the obtaining, management and use of EU funds, in particular the ERDF and CF. A toolkit was produced, with a developed model and map to predict corruption risk, as well as guidelines (freely downloadable by target users in the field of antifraud and criminal law, at national and EU level). An international network of researchers at regional and local level of researchers from different areas and EU universities has been established. The online workshops, training and final conference were attended by 190 participants from eight countries. The main results of the project were, on the one hand, to develop an in-depth knowledge of the diversion mechanisms of the ERDF and CF, as well as their interconnections; on the other hand, and consequently, to enable an increase in the capacity of the relevant European institutions for the early detection of the misuse of EU funds.

4. Efficient use of resources generating cost savings and economies of scale:

The programme provides funds for the procurement of subscriptions to commercial databases, on behalf of law enforcement authorities in Member States, to support operations and investigations, in particular in the area of protection of the financial interests of the EU. The Commission manages this access, enabling substantial economies of scale and common data framework. Training is also ensured for an optimal usage by the relevant staff. During 2017-2021, the Programme has ensured Member States with access to commercial databases, such as worldwide trade statistics, detailed company information and global vessel movements. The databases were highly used by customs and other law enforcement authorities in supporting both investigations and risk analysis activities, identifying potentially suspicious trade, etc.

- The trade statistics database made available through the Programme is being used to assist identification of traffic diversions or transshipment of goods, which are being moved via an intermediate third country to disguise the real origin of goods imported into the EU, usually to avoid anti-dumping duty or to evade a prohibition/restriction. In addition, it

provides the basis to cross-check information on exports from third countries with information on imports into a Member State from other sources.

- The database with information on companies is being used in investigations led by Member States' customs authorities related to fraud and irregularities affecting the Union's financial interests and/or safety and security of its' citizens.

- Specific IT and operational tools have been developed in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), widely used by the Member States' authorities. The laboratory for analysis of tobacco samples (TOBLAB) processed in the 2020/2021 reporting period, 144 requests from the Member States for analysis of seized cigarettes and raw/fine cut tobacco samples.

- The data and risk analysis project facilitating efficient EU-wide cooperation and use of customs data, including sharing of best practices and strengthening analytical capacities to better target customs anti-fraud controls and perform investigations (CAFET project) was also put in place via the JRC. Under CAFET umbrella, in 2021, the number of users of the Automated Monitoring Tool (AMT), which generates signals on anomalies in international trade, increased to almost 3300, with 1900 of them regularly retrieving information on long-term trends and further analysis of potential undervaluation. "Container Movement analytics and analysis of potential origin fraud" project (ConTraffic) was being further consolidated and developed. In the first 9 months of 2021, ConTraffic averaged 115 user logins (covering 45 distinct users). Checks on potential origin detected that about 2% of the analysed goods-items had a mismatching origin. Based on these mismatches, OLAF identified and communicated 332 possible signals of anomalies to MS Customs.

5. High level of participants' and beneficiaries' satisfaction related to the projects co-financed by the Programme:

The mandatory surveys filled in by the participants to conferences, trainings or seminars in order to assess the relevance of the project and to measure their satisfaction levels reveal that a very large majority of users (more than 90 %) express a satisfactory or very satisfactory opinion on the event. The results of the surveys are included by the beneficiary in the project's final report and show that the networking opportunities and the sharing of skills and best practices are particularly highly valued by the trainees and participants.

The beneficiaries of technical assistance grants must indicate, as part of their final reporting, their assessment of the added-value of the purchased equipment/tools and related training. The feedback received for implemented projects is very positive – for example, the beneficiaries of grants finalised during 2021 evaluated that the equipment responds to the organisation's operational and professional needs with a rate of 4.8 on 5 (around 97% satisfaction rate).

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Provide funding for actions carried out in accordance with regulation 515/97

The underlying legal base for AFIS, Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97 of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters (), as lastly amended by Regulation (EU) No 2015/1525 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 () has been evaluated in 2020 and the results will be available in the second quarter of 2022.

Preventing and combatting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the EU

The European Commission, (OLAF) undertook, between October 2020 and December 2021, with the support of an external contractor, the final evaluation of the Hercule III programme (2014-2020). The analysis was structured around five main evaluation criteria of effectiveness (including sustainability), efficiency, relevance, coherence (internal and external) and EU added value. Based on the collected feedback from the stakeholders, the evaluation came to the following conclusions and recommendations:

The programme has been considered as:

- **highly relevant**, and must be continually adjusted to new developments in the fraud landscape, in anti-fraud tools and in the regulatory framework;
- showing a **very high effectiveness**, both in terms of technical assistance and training, though actual effectiveness has proved difficult to assess. The evaluation also identified that the programme produced several **positive external side effects**;
- generating both **direct and indirect benefits**. Direct benefits included the possibility to acquire technical assistance equipment where Member States do not have available funding to invest in technologically advanced and expensive equipment. It therefore acts as an enabler for Member State authorities;
- being **coherent, both internally and externally**;
- presenting **strong short to medium-term effects; evidence of long-term impacts was less tangible**. It has been recommended that, for technical assistance, the programme could include specific costs under future calls for proposals for technical upgrades or software updates to secure the long-term impact of the investment (durability);
- **providing EU added value**. It does so by acting as an enabler and a driver for Member States to use a higher standard of equipment to detect and reduce the risk of fraud. It also acts as a facilitator for EU-level cooperation between Member States, specifically by funding training, conferences, databases and tools.

It was challenging to fully assess the true impact of the programme under the current monitoring and evaluation framework applicable to Hercule III. Therefore, the (new) programme should try to improve the current monitoring and evaluation framework by developing more specific indicators, set at the level of eligible actions.

Finally, creating a centralised database of projects implemented under the programme would provide a readily accessible evidence base for future evaluations. Hence, OLAF should seek to centralise data collection and storage on implemented projects in a single database to facilitate access to project documents and overviews of results.

Link to the Report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, with its accompanying **staff working document**: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/policy/hercule-reports_en

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Preventing and combatting fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the European Union

Indicator 1: Satisfaction rate of activities organised and (co-) financed through the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
90%	90%	92%	92%	94%	94%	95%	95%			95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Final reports submitted by the beneficiaries of the Programme.
Link to the objective	Measuring the added value of the financed actions in relation to the Programme’s specific objective, as expressed by beneficiaries (users of the funded equipment) and participants in the co-financed events.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No change in methodology compared to the previous period.
Other methodological comments	no comment.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The latest known result of 2020 (source: Annual Activity Report OLAF) was 93.3% for the now closed Hercule III programme. As we are now in a new Programme with a slightly modified call for expression of interest to submit applications for funding, the satisfaction rate may be slightly lower than for previous years. One also should consider the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on organising and holding training seminars and/or conferences, even see certain technical assistance projects delayed because of delivery issues. All of those considerations request a careful approach in judging the potential trend in the years 2020-2021 between the two programmes.

Indicator 2: Percentage of Member States receiving support each year of the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
81%	81%	82%	83%	84%	85%	86%	87%			87%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Desk analysis on the number of MS receiving support via the various activities financed by the Programme (procured trainings and conferences, granted training and staff exchanges, technical assistance grants, Databases and IT-Tolls, etc.).
Link to the objective	Enabling and supporting the prevention and fight against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the financial interests of the European Union in as many MS as possible.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No change in methodology.

Other methodological comments	All the Member States received support via the programme through the procured access to commercial databases and IT analytical tools made available to them. We cannot report yet on the exact number of Member States receiving grants in 2021 as the evaluation process of the Calls for Proposals is still ongoing (organisations from about 13-14 Member States are most probably receiving a grant under the 2021 operational budget).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	In 2021, all Member States (100%) received, through the UAFP, one or another form of financial or other (technical) support.

Specific Objective 2: Supporting the reporting of irregularities, including fraud, with regard to the shared management and pre-accession assistance funds of the Union budget.

Indicator 1: User satisfaction rate for the use of Irregularities Management System.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2019	Milestones									2024
72%	72%	72%	72%	72%						72%
	Actual Progress									Final
	84%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EU survey 2019
Link to the objective	In order to measure the satisfaction of IMS users, a survey will be launched yearly via the EU survey platform, addressed to all UMS users.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No change of methodology. Last survey was taken in 2019. No survey in 2020 or 2021 due to human resources limitation.
Other methodological comments	Baseline: outcome EU Survey 2019. Milestones selected upon the 2019 survey. No survey has been held since, hence the same milestones are maintained in keeping with the OLAF Strategic Plan 2020-2024. The satisfied users will be counted as percentage of respondents (valid responses) having provided an appreciation of the system of at least 6 on a scale of 10.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The user satisfaction has met the milestone in 2021.

Specific Objective 3: Providing tools for information exchange and support for operational activities in the field of mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.

Indicator 1: Number of mutual assistance information made available and number of supported mutual assistance-related activities.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2019	Milestones									2027
18 639		22 000		24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000			24 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	19 919									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of entries with information for mutual assistance.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	AFIS and supported mutual assistance-related activities.
Link to the objective	Supporting the information exchange and operational activities in the field of mutual administrative assistance in customs matters by providing related information and supporting related activities. Successor of the AFIS programme in MFF 2021-2027
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Successor of the AFIS programme in MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	No change of methodology.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Based on the experience of the previous programming period and the usual increase of numbers of information items made available, the trend compared to the baseline is an increase as well for 2021. The milestone for 2022 of 22 000 corresponds with the figure that has been communicated in the

	OLAF Annual Activity Report 2020, page 11, with the following disclaimer in 2020: The proposed Result Indicator 4.4 can only be met if the Anti-Fraud Programme is adopted as proposed (i.e. no significant cuts of the proposed budget).
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5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Programme to promote activities in the field of the protection of the financial interests of the European Union (Hercule III)

Specific Objective 1: To prevent and combat fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities affecting the Union's financial interest

Indicator 1: The added value and effective use of co-financed technical equipment, expressed by the users of the equipment in their final technical report and final implementation report of the action (percentage of users that considered the use of Hercule funded equipment added value to their activities)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
				0.7	0.75	0.75	0.75			0.75
	Actual Progress									Final
						0.96	0.93	0.97		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	The information for this indicator is submitted by the beneficiaries in their final technical report as well as in the implementation report (one year after the closing date of the action for which the grant was awarded, where the added-value is detailed with concrete examples).
Narrative	N.A.
Methodology	Percentage of users that considered that the use of Hercule funded equipment has brought an added value to the beneficiary's activities in the field.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N.A.
Other methodological comments	N.A.
Full metadata available at this address	N.A.
Justification of the trend	The beneficiaries of Hercule co-financed equipment and tools continued to be highly satisfied with the added-value of the purchased technology in relation to their activities.

Indicator 2: The number and type of trainings activities funded under the Hercule III programme, including the amount of specialised training, and the satisfaction rate as expressed by the participants

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Training activities (with specialised trainings)										
	Milestones									2020
25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25			25
	Actual Progress									Final
	29	30	22	30	24	33	15			
Are we on track :	On track									
Satisfaction rate										
	Milestones									2020
0.6	0.65	0.67	0.69	0.7	0.72	0.74	0.75			0.75
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.94			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Numerical and satisfaction rate % (percentage, based on a score given between 1 - 5 by the respondents)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Hercule III programme files and stats.
Narrative	See title of specific indicator 2.

Methodology	Values in Baseline, Target in Milestones include 2 specialised trainings (except in 2014: only 1 specialised training)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N.A.
Other methodological comments	This indicator has been elaborated for OLAF's Annual Management Plan 2014 in the light of the operational objectives in the Hercule III Regulation.
Full metadata available at this address	N.A.
Justification of the trend	Most of the trainings and conferences planned financed under the 2020 budget were postponed, due to the sanitary circumstances. Some of them (organised by grant beneficiaries) took place in a virtual or hybrid mode. Two training events were organised with physical presence. The nature of the targeted participants (mainly law enforcement officials), together with the sensitivity of the topics to be discussed and the hope that the sanitary situation would improve, made the virtual option not fully pursued by the event organisers.

Previous Program 2: Anti-Fraud Information System (AFIS)

Specific Objective 1: To support Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters through the provision of secure information exchange tools for Joint Operations and specific Customs anti-fraud information exchange modules and databases such as the Customs Information System

Indicator 1: Number of active customs fraud cases for which information is available in the Mutual Assistance databases

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
8 000		12 000		17 000		21 500	24 000			24 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	10 000	12 000	13 800	16 324	18 340	18 639	19 125			
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Cases
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	AFIS Mutual Assistance database
Narrative	Milestone for 2017 reduced from 20 000 to 17 000 in 2016. New Milestone for 2019 added in 2016. Target reduced to 24 000 in 2016 (cfr. the programme performance update section).
Methodology	The application keeps a record of all the incoming and outgoing exchanges of information.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The AFIS platform is continued in 2021-2027 as part now of the UAFProgramme. The same method of recording items of information remains. The milestones are in line with what was decided in the previous programme.
Other methodological comments	Milestone for 2017 reduced from 20 000 to 17 000 in 2016. New Milestone for 2019 added in 2016. Target reduced to 24 000 in 2016 (cfr. the programme performance update section).
Full metadata available at this address	N.A.
Justification of the trend	The indicator has not fully achieved its target, as Member States' customs services publish only a small percentage of IPR infringements. However a moderate positive evolution is expected for the coming years.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in accordance with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the UAFP aims at contributing to mainstreaming climate actions and achieving an overall target of 30 % of Union budget supporting climate objectives.

To this end, the UAFP may for example better equip Member States to prevent the importation of certain illicit, climate-unfriendly products, thereby not only preventing infringements of the EU customs legislation, but also protecting the environment.

The UAFP can also provide support for the cooperation between customs and other competent authorities to fight certain fraudulent activities to the detriment of the environment, such as those related to waste shipments or illicit trade of endangered species.

The Commission (OLAF) invites the applicants (future beneficiaries of grants) for financial support through the annual work programme and the Calls to explore certain indicative priority areas, including, for example:

- the fight against fraud in EU funds in the areas of **environment, climate and food security** ('Green Deal' related actions)

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates		2022-2027 programming					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0: 24

(*)

Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (totals per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories:

score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**

score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**

score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**

score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**

The Union anti-fraud programme has no significant impact on gender equality.

More than 70% of the programme's annual budget is targeting projects financing the acquisition of technical equipment and tools for national law enforcement agencies. As a result, the bulk of activities financed under the UAFP does not target nor has significant bearing on the promotion of gender equality.

As for the training and conferences part of the programme, it should be noted that the staff participating on behalf of their Member States' authorities, has been recruited and selected by those authorities. Thus, the Commission/OLAF cannot ensure that gender equality is being implemented in the choice of delegates made by the authorities. The contribution of these events to promoting gender equality can therefore not be expressed in tangible terms.

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**Cooperation in the field of taxation (FISCALIS)****Lead DG:TAXUD**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The Union and the national tax authorities still suffer from insufficient capacity and insufficient cooperation – both within the EU and with third countries – to carry out effectively and efficiently their missions. They need to provide quick and joint responses to emerging problems such as tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance, digitalisation and new business models, while at the same time preventing unnecessary administrative burden for citizens and businesses in cross-border transactions. These trends raise continuously new challenges for the functioning and performance of national tax authorities. They call for better and innovative ways to carry out their core task i.e. collecting taxes that directly feed the national and indirectly the Union budget.

In the coming years, emphasis will continue to be put on further improving the administrative capacity of Member States, be it through IT capacity building, traditional and innovative forms of cooperation or human competency building initiatives. The

capacity of tax administrations is indeed instrumental to ensure they run efficiently their tax systems within the internal market and to address cross-border tax fraud and evasion.

Different forms of IT collaboration, such as expert teams or project groups in the area of IT systems, will increase the number of shared IT activities and reusable components among Member States. This approach should reduce the costs for deploying EU wide tax IT systems, both at EU and national level while responding in a more agile way to EU tax policy needs. Strengthening operational cooperation through the use of expert teams further allows for pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains, mainly for the European electronic systems.

The majority of the programme's budget will focus on the development and operation of the European electronic systems, which are instrumental to interconnect tax authorities and allow information to be exchanged rapidly. IT systems play a central role in supporting tax authorities in fighting against tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance, by enabling a secure exchange of information between Member State tax administrations, enhancing administrative cooperation between them and improving their administrative capacity. IT systems are also instrumental in facilitating the digitalisation of public administration and tax collection.

In the field of Indirect Taxation, activities will continue the implementation of the **VAT e-Commerce package**, which was launched on 1 July 2021. The challenges will consist of updating the EU VAT rules as well as addressing real time reporting, e-invoicing, extension of the one-stop shop, establishing a single EU VAT registration system and VAT rules for platforms, with a view to reducing the VAT Gap.

Moreover, administrative cooperation will require further support in order to improve the fight against tax fraud and evasion by exploring cooperation between administrations and anti-fraud officials - including interaction between the EU's anti-VAT fraud network (Eurofisc) and OLAF, and Europol.

Additionally, in the area of VAT, major updates will be foreseen for the Transaction Network Analysis tool (TNA) that provides Member States tax administrations with a platform enabling them to develop and run algorithms to detect VAT carousel fraud networks.

With regard to the transmission and exchange payment data, the Central Electronic System of Payment information CESOP, from 2024, will keep record of cross-border payment information within the EU, as well as payments to third countries or territories, for a period of five years. This will reinforce the capacity of Member States to fight against e-commerce VAT fraud, by allowing them to properly control the correct fulfilment of VAT obligations on cross-border Business to Consumer supplies of goods and services.

In the field of direct taxation, to address the emergence of alternative means of payment and investment such as crypto-assets and e-money, further revision of the Directive on Administrative Cooperation will be proposed (DAC 8). Tax transparency is fundamental to preventing and detecting tax abuse. A new transparency and information exchange measures for crypto-assets and e-currencies will ensure that they can be effectively regulated and taxed. The DAC 8 initiative will also look at further strengthening administrative cooperation between tax authorities, including by reviewing compliance procedures, the rules for e-money and the rules for cross-border tax rulings.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Fiscalis programme has the general objective of supporting tax authorities and taxation to enhance the functioning of the internal market, of fostering Union competitiveness and fair competition in the Union, of protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, including protecting those interests from tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance, and of improving tax collection.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme has the specific objectives to support tax policy and the implementation of Union law relating to the field of taxation; to foster tax cooperation, including exchange of tax information; and to support administrative capacity building, including human competency and the development and operation of the European electronic systems.

1.4. Public intervention context

The legal base of the Fiscalis Programme is defined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular its rules on the approximation of laws (Articles 114) and administrative cooperation (Article 197). Both collecting taxes and combating tax fraud and evasion are competences of EU Member States. However, in an increasingly globalised world, the EU provides a framework and offers instruments to effectively handle cross-border tax issues. Through IT and other means, the EU allows for co-operation and exchange of information among its Member States on all sorts of taxes. EU legislation enables collaboration between national tax authorities in various ways.

The Fiscalis Programme supports European electronic systems and related applications in operation for taxation. These systems allow information to be exchanged rapidly and in a common format that can be recognized by all Member States. The Fiscalis Programme also funds activities to support the automatic exchanges of information. Furthermore, the Fiscalis Programme supports collaborative actions such as meetings, workshop as well as other events and capacity building actions for tax officials to strengthen their capacity of tackling tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning.

1.5. Actions

According to Art. 7 of the Regulation 847/2021, the programme supports actions such as meetings and similar ad hoc events; project-based structured collaboration; IT capacity-building actions, in particular the development and operation of European electronic systems; human competency-building and other capacity-building actions, studies, innovation activities and communication activities.

The Fiscalis programme offers Member States a Union framework to develop activities through IT cooperation and capacity building, on the one hand, and cooperation amongst national taxation officials, on the other hand. In this regard, it provides financial sustainability of the interoperable and interconnected European electronic systems, which allow the electronic exchange of tax-related information between Member States. Additionally, the collaborative actions give the administrations unequalled opportunities for cooperation, communication and networking, ultimately building trust and leading to greater convergence of approaches and practices. The Fiscalis programme also funds human competency and capacity building actions, including training and exchange of best practices.

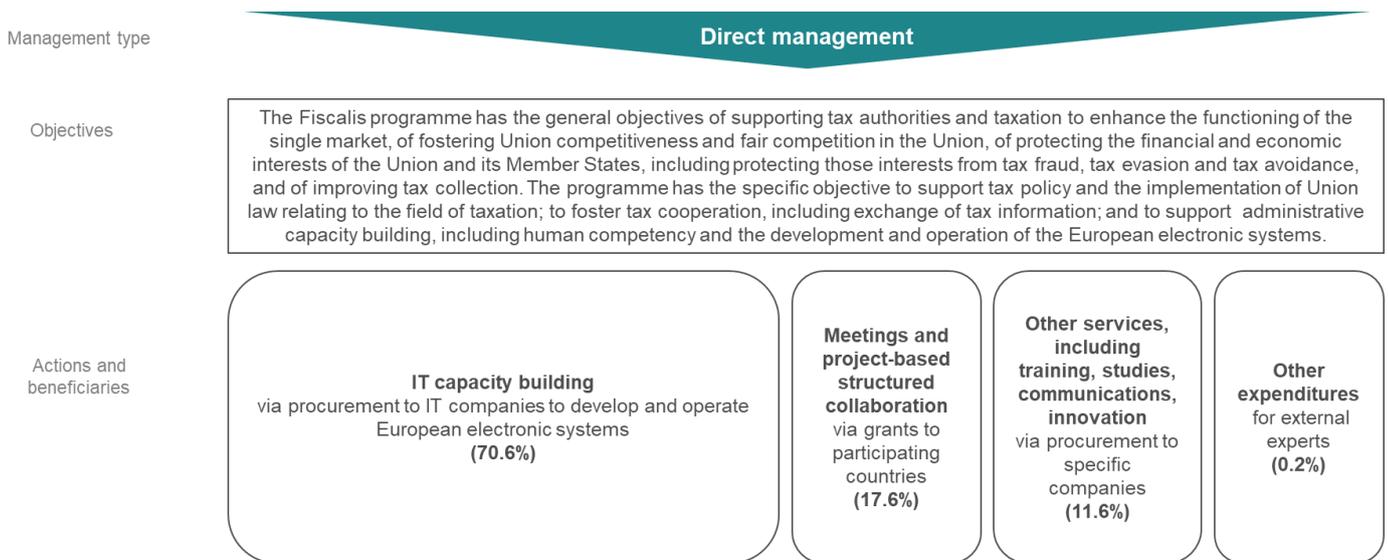
1.6. Delivery mode

The Fiscalis programme will be implemented in direct management by DG TAXUD through:

- Procurement contracts: for the European Information Systems expenditure, training activities and studies.
- Grant agreements with the participating countries: for collaborative actions and expert teams.

Work programmes will be established – together with the stakeholders – stipulating the priorities for a specific period.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



*Percentages presented in the graph are based on the estimative budget distribution for the period 2021-2027.

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the 'Fiscalis' programme for cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1286/2013 (OJ L 188, 28.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	269.24

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

As it is foreseen in Articles 114, on the approximation of laws and Article 197 on administrative cooperation Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the legal base of the Fiscalis programme is the Regulation (EU) 2021/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 'Fiscalis' programme for cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1286/2013. Furthermore, the Multiannual Work Programme constitutes the framework for the implementation of the programme.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	34.8	36.9	37.7	38.4	39.2	40.0	40.8	267.8
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Fiscalis Programme is a continuation of the previous programme Fiscalis 2020, and there are no significant changes regarding the general and specific objectives as well as the actions. The overall budget amounts to 269 million, which entails an increase of 20% in the budget allocation compared to the previous programme.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/fiscalis-2021-2027_en

2. Where are we in the implementation ?**2.1. Programme 2021-2027**

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021:

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	34.8	267.8	13%
Payments	10.1		4%

Despite the late adoption of the new 2021-2027 Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the new Fiscalis Regulation (20 May 2021) and the 2021-2023 Financing Decision (2 July 2021), EUR 34 789 052.41 was committed and EUR 10 136 776,37 was paid.

The largest expenditure (64%) relates to the European Electronic Systems. 28% was committed for collaboration activities (including expert teams) and 8% was committed on other actions such as communication, studies and consultations.

4% of the committed budget was paid in 2021; the remainder will be paid in the 2022-2025 period.

For 2022, it is planned to commit EUR 36 639 861 and to pay EUR 27 387 974. European Electronic Systems represents 87% of the expenditure, collaboration activities 5% and other actions 8%.

The 2023 payment appropriations request (EUR 34 380 000) is based on past implementation rates (31% is paid in year 1, 44% in year 2, 14% in year 3, 2% in year 4 and the remainder in year 5)

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic is yet to be determined for the new programme due to the late adoption of the regulation and financing decision. For procurement, largely related to the maintenance and development of the IT systems, the impact is very limited. However for grants on collaborative actions, there might be an impact due to the ongoing absence of travels and therefore of costs related to f2f meetings. The impact on previous programme was notable (see section 2.2.) resulting in under consumption of budget allocation, which resulted in an extension of the 2020 grants until November 2021. For these reasons the grants under the new programme only started in December 2021 and the impact of COVID is still to be established.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	223.7	223.7	100%
Payments	209.4		94%

As can be seen from the above financial performance table, 100% of the programme's total commitment appropriations (EUR 223 680 580) have been consumed. To date, 94% has been paid. The remaining payments will be finalised in the 2022-2024 period.

2014-2020 programme	2020	2021	2022
Commitment appropriations	32 993 000	1 453 580*	NA
Payment appropriations	30 843 095	24 000 000	8 200 530

*For European Electronic Systems and other service contracts (studies): 2020 budget was committed in 2021 via a global commitment done at the end of 2020 to be able to bridge the gap between the end of the former programmes and the adoption of the new MFF and related Financing Decision. For collaboration activities (including expert teams), external experts and the remaining service contracts: there were no new commitments done during 2021 related to the budget of the Fiscalis 2020 programme. All activities continued in 2021 based on commitments done in 2020.

For 2022, it is planned to pay EUR 8 200 530, to honour payments under contracts and grant agreements made on the former programme.

The 2023 payment appropriations request (EUR 1 490 000) is based on past implementation rates. The last payment under the former programme is scheduled to take place in 2024).

COVID-19 pandemic has affected programme grant activities and the related costs. Due to the restrictions to travels and physical meetings, collaborative activities mainly took place in an online format with no or rather limited financial costs. This allowed employing the 2020 programme unused budget to cover the maintenance of the existing IT systems in the absence of the funds under the new Fiscalis Regulation (which became available only in July). Due to the delays related to the difficulties faced by some Member States in adapting to the new working methodologies, the grants of 2 expert teams (CESOP and Mantic IV) were extended to 2021 given the impossibility of concluding their remit by the due date.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

2021 was the first year of implementation of the new programme Fiscalis and it is also a year of transition from the previous Fiscalis 2020 programme. The delays in the negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, which were concluded in December 2020, along with the subsequent time needed for the co-legislators to finalise negotiations on the outstanding provisions in the Fiscalis programme Regulation, resulted into its adoption only during the course of 2021. More precisely, the Regulation 2021/847 entered into force on 28 May, while the adoption of the Financing Decision and the first Work Programme, which, as a novelty from the previous programme, is now multi-annual (2021-2023), was possible only in July 2021.

Due to the fact that 2021 was a transitional year and given the nature of the rolling activities under the previous programme, the performance of the previous and active programme is intertwined, irrespective of the financing source (Fiscalis 2020 vs. Fiscalis Programme 2021-2027). Therefore, for reporting purposes, the performance outlined below focuses on the previous programme. Information on the active programme is therefore limited to financial outputs (grants launched/signed, procurement processes closed).

The 2020 Fiscalis programme budget funds continued to be used for both, **IT projects** and **general collaborative actions**, until **July and November, respectively**.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In 2021 expenses were split between the Fiscalis 2020 and the Fiscalis programme's budgets. Joint actions other than expert teams under the Fiscalis 2020 finished on 30 November 2021 while the Collaborative Actions under the new Fiscalis programme were carried out during the course of December 2021.

During Q4 2021, two grants agreements were signed in the field of general collaboration activities and Expert Teams¹:

- General Collaboration Activities in the field of Fiscalis: sets the overall framework for project-based structures collaboration and meetings (signed December-2021; implementation until end of 2023).
- MANITC 5 Expert Team: provides financial support to tax authorities of participating countries in implementing enhanced operational cooperation in the area of IT collaboration (signed December 2021, implementation until November 2023).

Due to the delayed launch of the programme, the signature of the new grant agreements and the implementation of collaboration activities and expert team grants for the Fiscalis programme could only start in December 2021. This explains the absence of major achievements or outputs attained during this period regarding the collaborative activities. However, the following results can be highlighted for the first month of implementation of the programme that was also a month of the Christmas holidays:

Within the General Collaboration Activities in the field of taxation, **seven** activities were launched, including three project groups and one capacity building activity initiated by the Commission.

Also in Q4 2021 an invitation to submit a proposal was sent for the DATANA Expert Team (data analysis and enhanced use of data with data analytics approach). The evaluation of the proposals was finalised in December 2021 and the grant agreement is expected to be signed in Q1 2022. In addition, 93 specific contracts were signed under multi-annual framework contracts.(IT, studies, communication and other service contracts).

The implementation of the collaborative activities under the current programme (during the period of December 2021) were still impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions. In particular, the pandemic continue to affect the collaborative actions and events due to the absence of travels and physical meetings. On-line meetings replaced almost all face-to-face meetings. The COVID-19 crisis affected the number of multilateral controls and of the presences in the administrative offices and participation in administrative enquiries (PAOEs). Some expert teams had to reschedule their activities and adapt to new working methodologies. The new programme covered the funding of the IT systems for the period July-December 2021. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Information Systems operated regularly and business continuity was guaranteed.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The Fiscalis 2020 programme pursued the specific objectives of **supporting the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning and the implementation of Union law in the field of taxation by ensuring exchange of information, by supporting administrative cooperation and, where necessary and appropriate, by enhancing the administrative capacity of participating countries with a view to assisting in reducing the administrative burden on tax authorities and the compliance costs for taxpayers.**

The Fiscalis 2020 programme provided financial support to a range of actions aimed at achieving the general and specific objectives. Article 7 of the regulation (EU) 2013/1286 defined the eligible actions, which can be divided into three main categories:

European Information Systems building, Joint actions (JA)², Human Capacity Building.

General Performance of the programme:

The Covid-19 pandemic related restrictions continued to affect the programme activities. In particular, the pandemic affected the collaborative actions and events due to the absence of travels and physical meetings, resulting in a substantial under-consumption

¹ Art. 9(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/847 establishing the Fiscalis programme: in accordance with point (f) of the first paragraph of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall be awarded without a call for proposals where the eligible entities are customs authorities of participating countries, provided that the conditions set out in Article 5 of this Regulation are met.

² According to article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2013/1286, the types of joint actions are:

(i) seminars and workshops;
(ii) project groups, generally composed of a limited number of countries, operational during a limited period of time to pursue a predefined objective with a precisely described outcome;
(iii) bilateral or multilateral controls and other activities provided for in Union law on administrative cooperation, organised by two or more participating countries, which include at least two Member States;
(iv) working visits organised by the participating countries or another country to enable officials to acquire or increase their expertise or knowledge in tax matters;
(v) expert teams, namely structured forms of cooperation, with a non-permanent character, pooling expertise to perform tasks in specific domains, in particular in the European Information Systems, possibly with the support of online collaboration services, administrative assistance and infrastructure and equipment facilities;
(vi) public administration capacity-building and supporting actions;
(vii) studies;
(viii) communication projects;
(ix) any other activity in support of the overall, specific and operational objectives and priorities set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the Fiscalis 2020 regulation, provided that the necessity for such other activity is duly justified.

of the programme's budget. Almost all face-to-face meetings were cancelled and many of them were replaced by on-line meetings. The COVID-19 crisis led to a considerable decrease of the number of multilateral controls and of the presences in the administrative offices and participation in administrative enquiries (PAOEs). Some expert teams had to reschedule their activities and adapt to new working methodologies.

Nevertheless, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the delayed adoption of the Programme Regulation, in 2021 the collaboration generated by the programme remained strong. The majority of the collaboration action managers and the participants adapted to the new working modalities (online collaboration/online meetings). Business continuity in the IT domain was ensured as proven by the stable availability of IT systems.

The **general collaborative actions** under the Fiscalis 2020 programme continued until the end of November based on the extension of their grant agreement until 30 November 2021, while the grant agreement for the general collaborative actions under the new Fiscalis programme was signed on 2nd December allowing the commencement of the activities on 1st December.

With regard to the fulfilment of the specific objectives, the programme performed as follows:

Supporting administrative tax cooperation:

This objective was pursued by the most significant part of collaborative actions. Overall, there were in total **66** collaborative actions organised under this objective. Under this objective, the **TADEUS Network** of the Heads of Tax Administration Summit continued to support driven projects on a new governance structure and strategy for Eurofisc and developing a Human Resources Management (HRM) maturity model.

Implementation of Union law relating to taxation:

30 actions addressed this objective, by securing exchange of information; enhancing the administrative capacity of participating countries, reducing tax authorities' administrative burden and taxpayers compliance costs.

Among the main achievements gained in 2021, within this objective, the Fiscalis programme provided a substantial contribution to the **EU Cooperative compliance programme**, which produced, by means of a dedicated project group, two specific guidelines, namely, the **Guidelines for Cooperative Compliance for Medium and Small Enterprises** (CC MAS Framework) and the **Guidelines European Trust and Cooperation Approach** (ETACA).

Another important result concerns the establishment of the **EU AIAC Community**, which encompasses the advanced international administrative cooperation instruments (AIAC) including controls and administrative enquiries with a cross-border dimension

Fighting tax fraud, tax evasions and aggressive tax planning:

62 actions, consisting of a variety of action types addressed this objective. In this regard, worth of notice is the **Eurofisc network**, which was supported by the programme by means of 6 project groups. The network facilitates rapid exchange of targeted information to fight against cross-border VAT fraud, coordinates information exchanges and follow-up actions, processes and analyses of data. Eurofisc network uses the electronic system, the Transaction Network Analysis Search (TNA) tool.

Support IT capacity building:

In addition to the general collaborative actions, in 2021 **seven Expert Teams** operated, five of which were established under the Fiscalis 2020 programme. Expert Teams contributed to the objective of **fighting against tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance**, and to **improve tax collection**, by supporting the development and implementation of the IT tools. In this regard, they proved to be instrumental in securing exchange of information, supporting administrative cooperation and enhancing administrative capacity.

Due to the Covid-19 related restrictions, 4 expert teams saw their initial timeline rescheduled and one recorded a change in the composition of the consortium.

The **Managed IT Collaboration expert team (MANITC IV)** continued to promote, support and coordinate Member States' collaborative initiatives in IT area. The expert team grant agreement was extended at the beginning of 2021 for additional 11 months in order to complete the tasks that could not be completed during 2020.

The **Expert team for Excise Duty Calculator (EDC ET)** released an **Excise Duty Calculator** developed by four Member States. The IT tool can be used by the Member States or private individuals to calculate the amount of excise duties involved. The **Expert team of Mobile Application for EMCS controls (Excise Control and Movement System) m-EMCS** delivered the **mobile application for EMCS controls**, which provides mobile access to e-AD data from national EMCS ensuring fast access to trustful EMCS information for control purposes to officers during road controls or at the premises of economic operators.

On the other side, the experience of these expert teams has shown that Member States should ensure a steady commitment throughout the whole duration of the project in order to avoid disruption in the activities and impacting other participants to the project. To avoid wasting programme's budget, time and resources of the involved participating countries, Member States should ensure an efficient uptake and deployment of the products once they are delivered and to guarantee that the products are properly used, while ensuring a timely maintenance and update. The expert team for Excise Duty Calculator and m-EMCS, highlighted the need to carefully take in to consideration sustainability and continuity in the medium and longer term of the results obtained, once

the financial support of the programme is no longer available. Subsequent activities can entail running and maintenance costs, dissemination of the results among all eligible actors, adequate and update training, these all requiring further heed and commitment.

Development and operation of European Electronic Systems for taxation (EES):

In 2021, the programme continued to fund an important portfolio of **European Information Systems (EIS)** (under the new Fiscalis programme they are identified as **European Electronic Systems (EES)**) aimed at supporting tax authorities in fighting against tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance. These systems enabled a secure exchange of information between Member State tax administrations, enhancing administrative cooperation between them and improving their administrative capacity.

IT systems played a central role in facilitating the digitalisation of public administration and tax collection.

In 2021, the particular circumstances related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the delay in the entry into force of the new Fiscalis programme Regulation, **led to a conservative approach in the implementation of the IT activities**, focusing mainly on the maintenance of the IT systems rather than on the development of new **functions in order to ensure business continuity**. As a result, the Commission continued to provide these services respecting the agreed service levels, guaranteeing business continuity.

The **Common Communications Network/Common Systems Interface CCN/CSI**, the IT underlying infrastructure, developed, managed and maintained by the Commission was available during 2021 more than 99 % of the time during working hours. In particular, the availability of this platform was 99.98 %. All the main centralised IT tax systems– developed, managed and maintained by the Commission – were available in 2021, with more than 99 % of the time meeting the expected targets.

In 2021, **27** systems and related applications were in operation. The majority continued or developed the activities initiated in the previous year. In particular, the DAC 6, CESOP and TNA had several releases.

Among the key achievements obtained in 2021 in terms of IT systems' deployment and development and related IT joint actions, the entry into force on 1 July 2021 of the **VAT e-commerce package** represents the most important one. The VAT e-commerce package introduced a number of changes to the Value-Added Tax (VAT) rules governing the taxation of cross-border business-to-consumer e-commerce activity in Europe. In this regard, the Fiscalis programme provided extensive support by means of several activities.

In particular, the programme supported the finalisation of the IT implementation of this package by funding the extension of the **VAT Mini One Stop Shop (MOSS)** to a **One Stop Shop (OSS)** and the introduction of two new simplification measures, namely, the Import One Stop Shop (IOSS) and the Special Arrangements. Moreover, the programme funded dedicated projects groups aimed at implementing and testing in each Member State the initiative, a communication campaign and e-learning activities aimed at providing information on the functioning of the One Stop Shop to businesses as well as to officials in the Member States.

Worthy of mention are also the results achieved with the **Transaction Network Analysis (TNA)** system, funded by the programme, where it was possible to collect for the first time data from VIES on the Web. **TNA** has provided valuable support in the detection of suspicious cases of VAT fraud. The system has been continuously improving and it has lowered the administrative burden on the side of the Member States while delivering good results in swift exchange of targeted information.

Moreover, in 2021, TNA enabled Eurofisc to generate for the first time detailed statistics on cross-border VAT fraud, including monetary values - statistics parts of which were also made public by the Commission.

Supporting administrative capacity building including human competency and training:

Under this objective, the feedback from participants in **joint actions** collected under the Performance Measurement Framework showed that the programme is progressing above the baseline and towards the target. 81.2% of the responding participants declared that the programme provided them with a good opportunity to expand their network besides the limitations imposed by the Covid pandemic. Additionally, in the same period, the number of respondents who declared that they have been in contact for work purposes with the officials they met during programme activities (long-lasting networking) averaged at around 57.7 % , recording a slight increase from the value of 56.8% of 2020. (collaboration robustness between programme stakeholders)

In this regard, the low level of long-lasting networking achieved in 2021 is due to the on-line events replacing physical meetings, which provided participants with limited networking opportunities. Additionally, the level of long-lasting networking may be result of an unclear understanding of the different possibilities to “be in contact”, which more often includes collaborative tools beyond the traditional contacts

The number of **ongoing on-line collaboration groups on the Programme Information and Collaboration Space (PICS)** increased to 413, while the **number of face to face meeting was 41**. The COVID-19 pandemic largely affected the numbers of collaborative actions resulting in the majority of the face-to-face meetings been replaced by online meetings. When condition allowed some Multilateral Controls, MLC, and Presences in administrative offices, PAOEs took place in person.

In addition to the EIS/EES and the general collaborative actions, the programme funded **capacity building activities**, including human competency enhancement. The programme covered the development cost of the common training materials, including electronic training modules.

In 2021, the majority of the activities were held online due to the restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. Among the initiatives organised under the programme, there were:

- eLearning courses on eFCA for direct taxation, EMCS, OSS/IOSS Basic module, IOSS advanced module for the indirect taxation;
- NanoLearnings (small learning courses of not more than 5 minutes) covering subjects such as VAT Transactions, OSS principles and procedures, Customs Territory vs VAT Territory;
- Train the Trainers (ToT) on “interactive online eLearning methods and tools”: an online course organised within the CLEP project on the initiative of some Member States to respond to the need to adapt to new working methodologies caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Within the competency framework for taxation (TaxCompEU), in 2021 a Reference Training programme was delivered with the required support to Member States for its implementation by means of specific tools (such as workshops, country interviews, strategic partnership agreements and high-level implementation plan, webinars, etc.). In 2021, the Commission procured 52 new eLearning modules and there were 8762³ downloads.

In 2021, the Fiscalis programme also continued supporting the implementation of the **General Data Protection Regulation**, providing collaborative fora for the Member States to improve the understanding on the data protection principles, rules and requirements in Union IT system.

3.2. Key achievements

1 707 milion	16 313	27	7**	99.99%
number of messages on the key EES* and their components	officials were trained by using EU common training material in 2021	European Electronic Systems	Expert teams in the taxation area were operation at the end of 2021	of the time on average, the Vies-on-the-Web system was available

*Key EES = EMCS messages (including National Movements), VIES, OSS

**5 expert teams were established under the previous Fiscalis programme.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

According to Article 7 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/847, among the actions implemented in order to attain the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3, the programme support actions, such as the preparation of studies and other relevant written material like evaluations and comparative analysis in the tax area by external contractors, covering mainly technical issues. These studies provide a valuable contribution to understanding and increasing awareness on taxation matters.

By means of example, the “**VAT gap in the EU – report 2021**”, the ninth edition of the VAT gap study was published in 2021. The report provides for the period 2015-2019 yearly Value Added Tax (VAT) Gap estimates for the EU-28 due to (1) VAT fraud and VAT evasion, (2) VAT avoidance practices and optimisation, (3) bankruptcies and financial insolvencies, and (4) administrative errors. VAT Gap as the difference between the VAT due and the actual VAT revenues. The report also analyses econometrically the VAT Gap determinants and presents the overall collection efficiency (the “C-efficiency” ratio), updates of the Policy Gap estimates for 2019, and the contributions that reduced rates and exemptions made to the theoretical VAT revenue losses.

The **Performance Measurement Framework (PMF)** study was finalised (in January 2021) by an external contractor for both Customs 2020 and Fiscalis 2020 programmes. The study confirmed the Mid-Term Evaluation conclusions on the current PMF by the criteria of its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and alignment with the Better Regulation Guidelines’ principles. The study team identified the PMF strengths (i.e. elements to retain) and weaknesses (i.e. areas for improvement): in particular, it identified weaknesses with the quality of indicators to meaningfully assess the performance of the programmes across the activities supported, but also its limited utility and visibility among stakeholders. Most importantly, the report presented a proposal for a new PMF and new tools for its implementation. These include updated intervention logics, lists and definitions for proposed indicators, suggested roles and responsibilities for stakeholders within DG TAXUD, data collection tools, and PMF management and reporting

tools. The new framework is partially in place. Its full implementation requires the adoption of a delegated act scheduled for Q2 2022.

The Study on the **final evaluation** of Fiscalis 2020 programme⁴ evaluated the degree to which the programme achieved its objectives, used resources efficiently (including for simplification), as well as its contribution to EU priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, continued relevance of its objectives, and EU level added value. The report built on the mid-term evaluation results and assessed the degree to which its recommendations were implemented or whether they brought about improvements. Emphasis was placed on evaluating the Fiscalis IT systems through five in-depth case studies. Other Fiscalis-funded activities were also evaluated, assessing interlinkages between types of actions to provide a well-rounded picture of programme performance as a whole.

The “**Conclusions and lesson learnt**” section, summarised the results of the analysis carried out along with some related recommendations that are expressed in terms of **lessons learned**, based on the experience acquired, anticipating the approach that will be required for the reporting activity of the Fiscalis programme.

The study on the final evaluation⁵ of the programme concluded, that in terms of efficiency, Fiscalis 2020 investment was significant, with a EUR 223,366,000 budget. The large majority (80 %) was funnelled into IT systems (development, infrastructure, testing, maintenance, operation), followed by joint actions (15 %) and training activities (5 %). Although an assessment of the different IT systems and joint actions cost-effectiveness is challenging due to a lack of cost data, positive achievements (e.g. increased VAT collection, simplification, reduced admin or compliance burdens, improved cooperation, knowledge sharing) by Fiscalis 2020 elements make the investment seem worthwhile. Notably joint actions and training activities, had a relatively small budget but considerable impact, were worthy investments.

Moreover, the programme successfully achieved its objectives and contributed to coherent tax policy and implementing Union law in taxation in the EU through information sharing and knowledge transfer. It was a suitable tool to support the EU’s fight against fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning, though its impact is difficult to measure in quantitative and monetary terms

Some of the **lessons learned** indicated in the report suggested concrete actions aimed at addressing identified shortcomings or at improving effectiveness and efficiency of the programme.

The reports contains explicit reference to the contribution of the different joint actions, IT systems, expert teams and training activities to the achievement of the programmes objectives. By way of example, it is explained how certain IT systems, such as the DACs and the MOSS, were introduced to support the implementation of changes in legislation, thus facilitating communication and administration cooperation between Member States or how some joint actions addressed the correct audience in the attempt of increasing participation.

The studies and evaluations financed under the programme Fiscalis 2020 can be found on the TAXUD EUROPA website: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/calls-tenders-grants-calls-expression-interest_en and on the EU Bookshop on <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/> (author: Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union).

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To support tax policy and the implementation of Union law relating to the field of taxation; to foster tax cooperation, including exchange of tax information; and to support administrative capacity building, including human competency and the development and operation of the European electronic systems.

Indicator 1: Union Law and Policy application and implementation index. - Number of actions under the programme organised in this area

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	7	84	84	84	84	84	84			84
	Actual Progress									Final
	7									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) managed by DG TAXUD

⁴ The outcomes of the study on the final evaluation of the Fiscalis 2020 programme will be published at a later stage when the SWD is ready.

⁵ The outcomes of the study on the final evaluation of the Fiscalis 2020 programme will be published at a later stage, when the SWD is ready.

Link to the objective	Via the collaborative activities the experts share good practices, elaborate on common interpretation. The number of outputs here is defined as the number of individual guidelines, recommendations or best practices/ administrative procedures included in a given document (rather than the number of documents produced in which these outputs could be included).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Target: based on extrapolation of the first month of implementation (December 2021). The number of actions reported is calculated for actions having at least one meeting in the reporting period. However, considering that the number of activities directly links with policy evolution, the target needs to be regularly revised and such revision will be due based on the first 2 years of implementation. Following that, considering the previous programme cycle, the value is expected to be stable or increasing. Stability in the score over time would mean that the number of collaborative actions in place is appropriate to ensuring the programme's contribution to the achievement of the stated objective Milestones: The milestone follows the same method used for setting the target that is based on the extrapolation from first month of implementation of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The value for 2021 equals the milestone as the implementation of the general collaborative actions (other than expert teams) started on 1 December 2021 and the fact in the first month of implementation there was already 7 general collaboration actions launched in the domain of this indicator. As the target is set compared to the first two years of measurement, feedback on the trend is relevant in 2023.

Indicator 2: Union Law and Policy application and implementation index. – Number of recommendations/guidelines issued following those actions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		91	91	91	91	91	91			546
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of recommendations/guidelines
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Surveys
Link to the objective	Via the recommendations and guidelines generated by experts in the collaborative actions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year Data for the current programme for 2021 available only as of the end of Q1/2022 and be reported in the next reporting cycle Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Milestones: The milestone follows the same method used for setting the target that is the based on results achieved in 2020 under the previous programme. Target: based on the results achieved in 2020 under the previous programme and will consequently be revised based on the first two years' of implementation. No relevant data for 2021 was provided. Considering the previous programme cycle, the value is expected to be stable or increasing compared to the first two year of implementation. Stability in the score over time would reflect that the number of recommendations / guidelines being issued / revised is appropriate to ensuring the programme's contribution to the achievement of the stated objective. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available. Data and feedback on the trend will be provided in the programme statement for 2023.

Indicator 3: Learning index - Number of tax officials trained by using common training material

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	0	18 400	18 000	18 000	17 000	16 000	15 000			102 400
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of tax officials trained
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021

Data source	Data provided by national administrations and Activity Reporting Tool (ART) (managed by DG TAXUD)
Link to the objective	Via the common training material the of tax officials trained enhance their administrative capacity building, including their human competency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Specific for 2021: All learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Fiscalis 2020. Therefore, no data is reported under the new Fiscalis Programme. Milestones: are set up based on the known eLearning programme planning taking into account new courses to be launched in that year and the life cycle of the rest of the courses in portfolio. Years were new courses are planned have an increase of 10-15% and others a stable number or decrease. Target: is based on the average of last years' results without considering new courses or new delivery methods since no new major developments of courses are currently planned. Based on the evolution of the activities and training needs, the target will be subject to revision. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	All officials trained in 2021 were under the Fiscalis 2020 programme budget.

Indicator 4: Learning index – Number of times eLearning tax modules were downloaded

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	0	273	276	279	282	285	288			1 683
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of e-learning modules used
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data provided by national administrations
Link to the objective	Via the e-learning modules tax officials improve their knowledge in the field of taxation and further enhance administrative capacity building, including human competency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator not present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Specific for 2021: All learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Fiscalis 2020. Therefore, no data is reported under the new Fiscalis Programme. Milestones: the number of eLearning courses in the portfolio should increase or decrease depending on the life cycle of the courses. In general, the current courses should have a life of 2-3 more years and then they will need to be deleted from portfolio or replaced by new ones in the same topic or different ones. Each year we calculate at least 3 new eLearning courses. Target: based on the average of courses developed under the previous programme taking into account the future lifecycle of the course. The number of eLearning modules should keep stable or increase at least by including new localised versions. Therefore, the target is expected to be stable or increased to the 2014-2020 average. The target is calculated as the sum of milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	All downloads in 2021 were under the Fiscalis 2020 programme budget.

Indicator 5: Learning index – Quality scored by participants in training activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0%	0%	77%	76%	76%	75%	75%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
0%	0%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage %
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	The quality scored by participants in training activities show how training activities were relevant to their work and met their expectations, as well as the content, the methodology followed and the technology employed. It shows to which extend the training activities contributed to the enhancement of the administrative capacity building, including human competency.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator not present in 2014-2020 MFF.

Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Target: 75 % corresponds to a 'very good' score using the applied methodology (Kirk Patrick quality score). The target aims to be at least inside of this level. Milestones: are set up based on the known eLearning programme planning taking into account the life cycle of the courses in portfolio. Specific for 2021: All learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Fiscalis 2020. Therefore, no data is reported for the new Fiscalis Programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	All eLearning activities in 2021 were under the Fiscalis 2020 programme budget.

Indicator 6: Availability of European electronic systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%	99.5%			99.5%
	Actual Progress									Final
	99.64%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage of time
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Ensuring the European Electronic Systems' continuity is a major responsibility under the programmes since disruptions in their operation would affect national authorities, economic operators and citizens across the entire EU and hamper the functioning of the internal market.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator not present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: Based on average of availability levels in the MASP-T for the two systems reported, VIES and EMCS. Target: corresponds to a value close to 100%, taking into account data from previous years. The availability levels stipulated in the MASP-T are: Gold (expected to be available by Q3 2022): 99.8% of the time Silver: 99.6% of the time Bronze: 99.4% of the time Best effort (defined for unclassified applications or information systems - it applies by default in case the previous service levels are not agreed upon for the particular hosted application) Milestones: The milestone follows the same method used for setting the target, that is a value close to 100%, taking into account data from previous years. They aim to reach the target every year The disaggregated data for 2021 progress are: Bronze availability level: VIES - 99.64% Silver availability level: EMCS - 99.64%
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the effective continuity in the EES availability. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 7: Availability of the Common Communication Network

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%			99,8%
	Actual Progress									Final
	99,99%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage of time
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Ensuring the European Electronic Systems' continuity is a major responsibility under the programmes since disruptions in their operation would affect national authorities, economic operators and citizens across the entire EU and hamper the functioning of the internal market.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (indicator 1)
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: same as target. Target: is set to value that provides good services. it corresponds to a value close to 100%, taking into account data from previous years. Target is 99.8%, as per the Technical Annex for FWC TAXUD/2016/CC/137 Milestones: The milestone follows the same method used for setting the target, that is a value corresponding to a value close to 100%, They aim to reach the target every year
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the effective continuity in the CCN availability.

Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 8: IT simplified procedures for the national administrations and economic operators – Number of economic operators registered

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										2027
0	77 800	6 882 000	6 882 000	6 882 571	6 882 000	6 882 000	6 882 000			41 369 800
	Actual Progress									
	77 824									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of economic operators registered
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Several European Electronic Systems are used by economic operators for simplified administrative procedures. This indicator suggests whether these systems are being used, overall simplifying procedures for more economic operators than previously.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Milestones is based on 2020 results, that is: VIES= 6 882 571 (OSS system entered production only in 2021). Milestones are expected to be increased or stable over the period by comparison of 2020 values. Increase compared to the 2020 value, shows that an increasing number of economic operators benefit from simplified e-procedures. Value corresponding to a significant percentage of the baseline. As these indicators are subject to strong fluctuations, the target will correspond to a lower bound under which the variation could be considered abnormal. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones. 2021 results (referring period July-December): VIES available from MSs only in the summer 2022; OSS:77824
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the significance of EES interconnectivity. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 9: IT simplified procedures for the national administrations and economic operators – Number of applications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										2027
0	353 000	877 000	877 000	877 000	877 000	877 000	877 000			5 615 000
	Actual Progress									
	353 254									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of applications
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Several European Electronic Systems are used by economic operators for simplified administrative procedures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts from 0. Milestones: is a value corresponding to an increase versus 2020. Monitoring the increase or decrease Based on the results of year 2020 under the previous programme corresponding to 877.254. Data for 2021 is not representative since it refer to period July - December. As these indicators are subject to strong fluctuations, the milestones will correspond to a lower bound under which the variation could be considered abnormal. An increase or a decrease in the number of applications for VAT refunds for cross-border transactions would simply reflect economic reality. Nonetheless, a big amount of applications may indicate that the Directive is fit for purpose and a reduced number of incidents (OPX) may show that the IT system is not brake for the operators to apply. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones. Result for 2021 refers to the period July-December
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing that the Directive is fit for purpose.

Indicator 10: IT simplified procedures for the national administrations and economic operators – Number of messages exchanged

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	832 000 000	1 440 000 000	1 440 000 000	1 440 000 000	1 440 000 000	1 440 000 000	1 440 000 000			9 472 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	832 000 000									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of system-to-system messages exchanged
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Several European Electronic Systems are used by economic operators for simplified administrative procedures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	DG TAXUD is working on a solid methodology for a new Performance Measurement Framework including a new intervention logic and new indicators. The new PMF will be available in Q2 2021. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0 Milestones: It is expected to remain stable or increase by reference to the previous year. In December, millions of messages were erroneously sent by the MSs so the value should be lower in 2022. Based on the aggregated amount of the 2020 data of the following systems: VIES-1433 million; EMCS 6 615 661. It is expected to remain stable or increase by reference to the previous year. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones Result for 2021 (July - December) resulting from the aggregated amount of the data of the following systems: VIES: 820,6 million; OSS: 7 376 035; EMCS:3 668 081(excluding national movements), EMCS: 3 740 576 (including national movements)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 equals the milestone set, showing the significance of EES interconnectivity.

Indicator 11: IT simplified procedures for the national administrations and economic operators – Number of consultations carried out

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	540 000 000	840 000 000	840 000 000	840 000 000	840 000 000	840 000 000	840 000 000			5 580 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	540 000 000									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of consultations carried out
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Several European Electronic Systems are used by economic operators for simplified administrative procedures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Milestones: They remain stable or increase by reference to the previous year. Based on the aggregated amount of the 2020 data of the following systems VIES-806,8 millions- SEED- 32.606.670 - TEDB-128.217. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones. Result for 2021 (July- December) resulting from the aggregated amount of the data of the following systems: VIES:522millions- SEED:17.665.527- TEDB:57.105
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 equals the milestone set showing the significance of the interconnectivity of the EES.

Indicator 12: Collaboration Robustness index - Number of face-to-face meetings held under the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	10	240	240	240	240	240	240			1 440
	Actual Progress									Final
	10									
Are we on track :	On track									

track :	
Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of meetings under the general collaborative actions excluding expert teams.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) managed by DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Collaborative meetings allow direct contacts between policy experts and thus contribute to strengthening networking and collaboration.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 2)
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year: Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Milestones: Defined based on the results achieved in 2020 under the previous programme since data from 2021 were not representative due to Covid-19 restrictions that limited the number of f2f meetings. Considering the evolution of the activities and their modalities, the milestones need to be regularly revised. Such revision will be due based on the first 2 years of implementation. Following that, the value is expected to be stable or increasing compared to the first two year of implementation. The milestones will be revised in 2024. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones based on the experience of the previous programme statistics. Results in 2021: 2 physical meetings and 8 virtual meetings. A reassessment of the milestones and target is expected in 2022 in order to include expert teams meetings under this indicator
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Considering that the implementation of the collaborative actions started on 1 December 2021 and that in the first month of implementation already 10 events took place (2 physical meetings and 8 virtual), the tendencies are promising. The value for 2021 meets the milestone set.

Indicator 13: Collaboration Robustness index - Number of on-line collaboration groups

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	244	244	244	244	244	244	244			244
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of groups
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Online collaboration platforms
Link to the objective	Each online and their activities allow for online collaborations complementary to and supporting face to face meetings
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Milestones: the milestone follows the same method used for setting the target which is based on the value of the first year of implementation Target: based on the value of the first year of implementation. It is expected to be a stable value or increase compared to the first two years of measurement, The target will be revised based on the first 2 years of implementation. Stability in the number of collaboration groups in online collaboration platforms over time would either mean (1) that the number of groups in place is appropriate or (2) that there is further need for the programme to raise awareness of the existence of the on-line collaboration groups.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 meets the milestone set, and is thus in good track to ensure the stability in online collaboration as a final target. The mid-term tendency will be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 14: Collaboration Robustness index - Degree of networking generated

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
85.2%				85.2%						90%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage

Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Surveys
Link to the objective	Collaborative activities depending on their set up and content contribute to networking in various degrees.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: based on the value of degree of networking generated of 2020, being the last representative year. Target: based on the mid-term and final evaluation findings of the 2020 programme confirming the programme's major contribution to networking. Milestones: is based on the value of 2020 of degree of networking generated. The milestone anticipates the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions because online meetings are often considered as generating a lesser degree of networking. Result for 2021: Data available as of the end of Q1/2022 and be reported in the next reporting circle
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No visible trend since data for 2021 will only be available later in 2022. Trend to be assessed in the next exercise.

Indicator 15: Best Practices and Guideline index – Number of actions under the programme organised in this area

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	1	12	12	12	12	12	12			12
	Actual Progress									Final
	1									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) managed by DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Via the collaborative activities, the experts generate and share best practices and guidelines.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Yearly as from the first year. Baseline: The indicator starts at 0. Milestones: follows the same method used for setting the target. In order to ensure the progress toward the target, an interim milestone has been established at mid-term of the duration of the programme. Milestones will be revised in 2024 on the basis of the values for 2022 and 2023. Target: based on the number of actions recorded for the first month (December) of implementation of the programme (1x12=12). The target and milestones will be revised in 2024 on the basis of the values for 2022 and 2023, considering that the first months of implementation may not be representative. Stability in the number of actions in this area means this number is appropriate to ensuring the programme's contribution to this objective. Hence, the milestones and target are set based on the assumption that a 'stable' amount of actions in this area will be held in the coming years.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No visible trend since data for 2021 will only be available later in 2022. Trend to be assessed in the next exercise.

Indicator 16: Best Practices and Guideline index - Percentage of participants that made use of a working practice / guideline developed with the support of the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
40%				50%						70%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Surveys
Link to the objective	The use by participants of working practices/guidelines reflects the value to support cooperating and human competency and training
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: Every 18 months as from June 2021 Baseline: data from the year 2020 which is the last representative year Milestone: an interim milestone has been established at mid-term of the duration

	of the programme. The milestone follows the same method used for setting the target which is defined taking into consideration the results of the previous programme Target: defined taking into consideration the average results of the previous programme. The target considers whether working practices, guidelines or recommendations are issued and shared. Yet, this depends on the type of actions organised and the type of outputs produced (working practices, guidelines or recommendations). Results for 2021: Data to be reported in the next reporting cycle
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data, trend will be assessed once 2021 values become available in the next programme statement.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Action programme for taxation in the European Union (Fiscalis 2020)

Specific Objective 1 : To support the fight against tax fraud, tax evasion and aggressive tax planning and the implementation of Union law in the field of taxation by ensuring exchange of information, by supporting administrative cooperation and, where necessary and appropriate, by enhancing the administrative capacity of participating countries with a view to assisting in reducing the administrative burden on tax authorities and the compliance costs for taxpayers

Indicator 1: Common Communication Network for the European Information Systems

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2021
0.9994	0.9994	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999		0.999
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.9989	0.9995	0.9998	0.99984	0.99976	0.9947	0.9997	0.999		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage terms of the availability (time) of the Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI)
Cut-Off Date	30/06/2021
Data source	IT statistics produced by TAXUD.
Narrative	The Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI), are indispensable for the running of the taxation related European Information Systems (EIS). The taxation EIS constitute interoperable and cost-effective IT solutions to support tax authorities in implementing EU legislation. The uniform implementation of tax policy is a key element to enhance the functioning of the single market, foster Union competitiveness and protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States. This indicator provides a measurement of the programme's results on the effective operation of the CCN/CSI.
Methodology	Timeliness: for the purpose of monitoring programme's objectives, the frequency is annual. However, availability can be also measured on weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, if needed for specific IT monitoring.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	indicators already present in the MFF 14-20 and no changes in the methodology (n.12, 13 and 14)
Other methodological comments	Due to the complexity and interlinked budgetary contracts supporting the CCN separation of the data for year 2021 is not feasible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/TAXUD/IT/CCN%20CSI/Pages/ccncsi.aspx
Justification of the trend	Overall, annual values are stable. In the same vein, we are on track with regard to milestones and final target expected.

Indicator 2: Feedback from participating countries on the results of actions under the programme (collaboration robustness)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Network opportunity										
2012	Milestones									2021
0.95	0.95	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9		0.9
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.9515	0.9666	0.97	0.97	0.95	0.96	0.85	0.82		
Are we on track :	On track									
Cooperation: Number of face to face meetings										

2012	Milestones									2021
295	295	295	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
	Actual Progress									Final
	247	632	586	563	556	590	73	41		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Number of online groups (taxation and joint groups)										
2012	Milestones									2021
30	100	100	150	150	150	200	200	200	200	200
	Actual Progress									Final
	109	126	174	152	177	227	270	244		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):a) Degree of networking expressed in percentage terms of positive replies.b) Number of face-to-face meetings held under the programme.c) Number of ongoing on-line collaboration groups on the Programme Information and Collaboration Space (PICS).
Cut-Off Date	30/11/2021
Data source	Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):a) Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).b) Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).c) Activity Reporting Tool (ART). ART is an IT tool used to manage activities carried out under the Customs and Fiscalis programmes.d) Programmes Information and Collaboration Space (PICS). PICS is DG TAXUD's online collaboration tool for tax and customs professionals working in administrations across Europe.
Narrative	Covid-19 impact preventing physical meetings:• Reduced perception on collaboration robustness due to physical meetings• Reduced number of meetings, • Increased online collaboration to compensate for the lack of physical meetings
Methodology	Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):a) EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; data collection for year X takes place between March X and March X+1.b) EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; data collection for year X takes place between March X and March X+1.c) Query in ART: total number of meetings, minus virtual meetings. Timeliness: annual query.d) Query in PICS: on-line groups (total); filter results by programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	indicator already present in the MFF 14-20 and no changes in the methodology (n.12, 13 and 14)
Other methodological comments	Data on networking effect can be obtained from the EAF and from the programme's poll. The networking data for 2020 are not available yet, as the collection of data is performed during the month of February 2021. The data will be analysed on the first week of March and available by mid of March. Next year, the collection of data will be anticipated in January, in order to have them available for the programme statements exercise.
Full metadata available at this address	N/A
Justification of the trend	The number of face-to-face meetings in 2020-2021 have been hugely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic due to travel restrictions

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

N/A

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

During 2021, there have not been actions contributing to climate mainstreaming conducted under the auspices of the Fiscalis programme.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0 : 22.2							
Score 0*: 12.6							

(*)**Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)**
The financing is split among four categories: score 2: gender equality is principal objective, **score 1:** gender equality is significant objective, **score 0*:** likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality, **score 0:** no significant impact on gender equality.

Fiscalis programme’s interventions are split in relation to gender equality score as follows:

- Score 0: relates to IT expenditure, in particular on the development and operation of European Electronic Systems, which does not target the promotion of gender equality.
- Score 0*: relates to the remaining types of expenditure, i.e. collaboration activities, trainings, studies and communication, for which a potential to promote gender equality has been identified.

At policy level, the programme’s objective is to support tax cooperation across the EU.

DG TAXUD takes note of the potential relevance of gender equality in the taxation domain in light, inter alia, of taxation’s redistribution and multiplier effects⁶.

DG TAXUD is currently working on its Equality Work Plan. Any contextual analysis it may contain on potential gender-specific inequalities, constraints, needs or opportunities in the policy area the programme contributes to will be analysed to ascertain whether the programme could potentially be relevant to address them.

Considering this context, there have been no programme’s interventions in 2021 regarding gender equality and no interventions have been planned or identified, for the time being, for 2022.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.3.1. Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Commission’s general objective is to ensure that tax policy supports wider EU policy objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU. The Fiscalis programme through its activities contributes to the achievement of the present Sustainable Development Goal promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Overall, considering the objectives of the programmes, all activities contribute to the EU’s priority to support ‘an economy that works for people’ for its whole duration, including both IT capacity building and collaboration activities. As a result, the whole budget of the programme contributes to the attainment of SDG 8.

As a leading example, within the VAT e-commerce package, the OSS, the One Stop Shop (OSS), which is an extension of the ‘Mini One Stop Shop’ (MOSS) to all types of services as well as to distance sales of goods, allows companies that sell goods online to deal with their VAT obligations in the EU through one easy-to-use online portal in their own Member State and their own language. Without the portal, VAT registration would be required in each EU Member State into which they want to sell – a situation cited by companies as one of the biggest barriers for small businesses trading cross-border.

⁶ [Gender equality and taxation in the European Union \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-articles/2019/01/15/Pages/Gender-equality-and-taxation-in-the-European-Union.aspx)

⁶ [Texts adopted - Gender equality and taxation policies in the EU - Tuesday, 15 January 2019 \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-articles/2019/01/15/Pages/Texts-adopted-Gender-equality-and-taxation-policies-in-the-EU.aspx)

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital**Cooperation in the field of customs (CUSTOMS)****Lead DG: TAXUD**

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Previous Program 1 : Action programme for customs in the European Union (Customs 2020).....	266
Specific Objective 1 :to support customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and of the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights, to increase safety and security, to protect citizens and the environment, to improve the administrative capacity of the customs authorities and to strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses	266
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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Customs help safeguarding the financial interests of the Union and of the Member States and, in their role as guardians of the external EU border for goods, also protect the public against terrorist, health, environmental and other threats. Over recent years, the performance of the customs union and customs administrations has been influenced by trends such as globalisation inducing exponentially growing volumes of trade in goods, as well as by ever-increasing security threats and transnational crime. Rapidly changing technologies (digitalisation, connected-ness, Internet of things, blockchain), new business models (e-commerce, supply chain optimisation) and reduced public finances have created new challenges for the customs union. As a response, the modernisation of the customs union through the Union Customs Code was initiated, requiring multiple new European electronic systems.

In addition, in order to address these new developments, it remains essential for customs administrations to reinforce their effectiveness and cooperation to ensure they act as one, notably by fully addressing the following operational challenges:

- Unequal capacity of customs administrations in terms of unequal skills, functioning, IT systems and infrastructure and human resources capacity.
- Uneven interpretation and implementation of the customs union legislation
- Geographical, administrative, legal and strategic obstacles for cooperation between customs administrations and between them and third parties.

Furthermore, for the customs union to be fit for the future, it needs to exploit fully the advantages of digitalisation, data and new technologies. This contributes to faster, better and more streamlined customs controls and procedures within the Union, particularly at the external customs border. Digitalisation enhances the competitiveness of European businesses and reinforces the important equilibrium between customs controls and facilitation of the flow of legitimate goods transiting or moving in and out of the Union. The customs union is focused on developing a digitalised and data-rich EU customs through a series of complementary projects over the coming years.

In this context, the Customs programme supports the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy as well as customs cooperation and administrative capacity building, including human competency and the development and operation of European electronic systems (EES). These, in addition with the support to innovation set as one of the objectives of the Customs programme, should enable the customs union and custom administrations to continue protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, and contributing to security and safety.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

Many of the activities in the customs area are of a cross-border nature, involving and affecting all 27 Member States, and therefore cannot be effectively and efficiently delivered by individual national administrations. The Programme has the general objective to support the customs union and customs authorities working together and acting as one to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, to ensure security and safety within the Union and to protect the Union from unfair and illegal trade, while facilitating legitimate business activity.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme has the specific objective to support: the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy; customs cooperation; administrative and IT capacity building, including human competency and training, as well as the development and operation of European electronic systems; innovation in the area of customs policy.

1.4. Public intervention context

Although the customs union is an area of exclusive competence with a high degree of harmonised EU legislation, the implementation of this legislation remains entirely with the individual Member States. Strong cooperation is essential to reach a deeper operational integration and to enable customs authorities in the different Member States to act as if they were one.

Against this backdrop, the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs has the general objective to support the customs union and customs authorities to work together and act as one to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States. The Programme also aims at supporting the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy as well as customs cooperation and administrative capacity building, including human competency and the development and operation of European electronic systems.

More concretely, when it comes to IT capacity-building actions, the programme aims to contribute to the development and operation of the European electronic systems for customs, including their design, specification, conformance testing, deployment, maintenance, evolution, modernisation, security, quality assurance and quality control. Over 90% of the financial capacity of the Programme is expected to be devoted to these efforts. In addition, the Programme supports the development of deep collaboration among Member States' customs authorities. The Customs programme provides fora for this collaboration, in order to allow authorities to share knowledge, experience, good practices and set guidelines together through programme activities such as task teams, networks, project groups, study visits and other similar set-ups. The Programme also facilitates collaboration with the key trade partners of the Union in the interest of the functioning of the customs union, including close cooperation with enlargement countries.

1.5. Actions

The programme supports actions such as meetings and similar ad hoc events, project-based structured collaboration, IT capacity-building actions, human-competency and other capacity-building actions, such as training and exchange of best practices, and other actions (e.g. studies, innovation activities, communication actions).

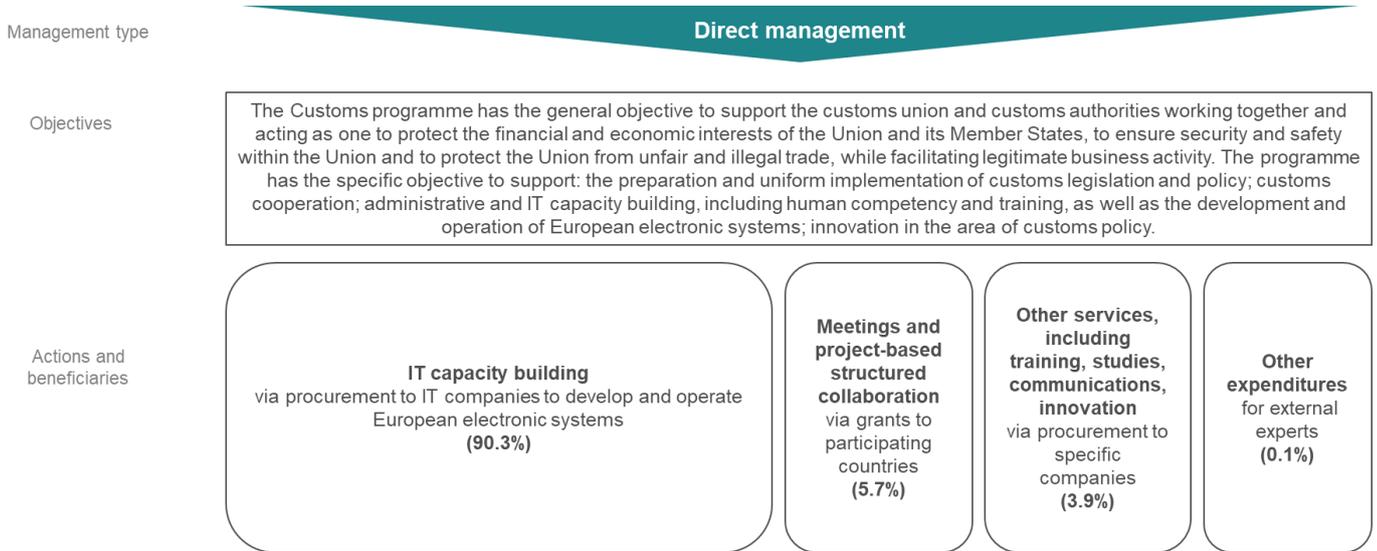
1.6. Delivery mode

The Customs programme is implemented in direct management by the Commission (DG TAXUD) through:

- Procurement contracts: for the European Information Systems expenditure, training activities and studies.
- Grant agreements with the participating countries: for collaborative actions and expert teams.

The work programmes implementing the Customs programme are established via comitology, in consultation with the Customs Programme Committee.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



*Percentages presented in the graph are based on the estimative budget distribution for the period 2021-2027.

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2021 establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 (OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	950.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The legal base of the Customs programme is the Regulation (EU) 2021/444 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 'Customs' programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013. Further, the Multiannual Work Programmes constitute the implementing acts of the programme.

The legal basis of this Regulation therefore covers customs cooperation as provided for in Article 33 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the internal market, as provided for in Article 114 TFEU and the common commercial policy, as provided for in Article 207 TFEU.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	125.5	130.4	133.1	135.7	138.4	141.2	144.3	948.6
NextGenerationEU								

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Customs programme is a continuation of the Customs 2020 programme. However, it introduces innovation as an objective of the programme. The new programme is equipped with a financial envelope of EUR 950 million for the period 2021-2027, which means an increase of 81.6% compared to the previous programming cycle.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs-2021-2027_en

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	125.5	948.6	13%
Payments	21.9		2%

Despite the late adoption of the new 2021-2027 Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the new Customs Regulation (11 March 2021) and the 2021-2022 Financing Decision (29 April 2021), EUR 125 517 137,47 was committed and EUR 21 865 953,30 was paid.

The largest expenditure (93%) relates to the European Electronic Systems. Further 6% was committed for collaboration activities (including expert teams) and 1% was committed on other actions such as communication, studies and consultations.

For 2022, it is planned to commit EUR 130 144 000 and to pay EUR 88 588 568. European Electronic Systems represents 94% of the expenditure, collaboration activities 3% and other actions 3%.

The 2023 payment appropriations request (EUR 88 528 568) is based on past implementation rates (22% is paid in year 1, 45% in year 2, 18% in year 3, 5% in year 4 and the remainder in year 5).

The impact of Covid-19 pandemic is yet to be determined for the new programme due to the late adoption of the Regulation and Financing Decision. For procurement, largely related to the maintenance and development of the customs IT systems, the impact is very limited. However for grants on collaborative actions, there might be an impact due to the ongoing absence of travels and therefore of costs related to physical meetings (organisational and participation costs). The impact on the previous programme was notable (see section 2.2.) resulting in under-consumption of grants' budget allocations, which led to the extensions of the 2020 grants until the end of November 2021. For these reasons, the grants under the new programme only started in December 2021 and the impact of Covid-19 is still to be established primarily depending on the evolution of the pandemic and on the post-Covid-19 reality in terms of physical meetings.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	532.5	532.5	100%

Payments	502.1	94%
-----------------	-------	-----

As can be seen from the above financial performance table, 100% of the programme's total commitment appropriations (EUR 532 490 464) have been consumed. To date, 94% has been paid. The remaining payments will be finalised in the 2022-2023 period.

2014-2020 programme	2020	2021	2022
Commitment appropriations	75 164 000	1 249 467*	NA
Payment appropriations	93 498 094	61 000 000	25 841 760

*For European Electronic Systems and other service contracts (studies): 2020 budget was committed in 2021 via a global commitment done at the end of 2020 to be able to bridge the gap between the end of the former programmes and the adoption of the new MFF and related Financing Decision. For collaboration activities (including expert teams), external experts and the remaining service contracts: there were no new commitments done during 2021 related to the budget of the Customs 2020 programme. All activities continued in 2021 based on commitments done in 2020.

For 2022, it is planned to pay EUR 25 841 760, to honour payments under contracts and grant agreements made on the former programme.

The 2023 payment appropriations request (EUR 4 660 000) is based on past implementation rates. The last payment under the former programme is scheduled to take place in 2024).

The Covid-19 pandemic affects programme grant expenditures due to the limitations on travel and physical meetings and almost complete shift to virtual meeting. Nevertheless, grants only represent approximately 5.7% of the Customs programme's budget, which makes the Covid-19 impact on the expenditure of the programme relatively low.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 resulted in the late adoption and launch of the Customs programme. The Customs programme entered into force on 15 March 2021 with the corresponding late adoption of the Financing Decision / Multi-Annual Work Programme (29 April 2021) and start of activities.

Due to the fact that 2021 was a transitional year and given the rolling nature of the activities under the previous programme, the performance of the previous and active programme is intertwined, irrespective of the financing source (Customs 2020 vs. Customs Programme 2021-2027) and with a substantial spill-over effect from the Customs 2020 programme to the new Customs programme. Therefore, for reporting purposes, the performance outlined below focuses on the previous programme. Information on the active programme is therefore limited to financial outputs (grants launched/signed, procurement processes closed).

3.1.2. Active programme performance

During Q4 2021, three grants agreements were signed in the field of general collaboration activities and expert teams¹:

- General Collaboration Activities Grant in the field of Customs: sets the overall framework for project-based structures collaboration and meetings (signed December 2021; implementation until end of 2022).
- CLET 3 Expert Team: provides financial support to the customs authorities of participating countries in the area of Customs Laboratories (signed December 2021; implementation until November 2024).
- ICS2 SSA Expert Team – Phase 1: provides financial support to the ICS2 system (a new strategic platform for customs risk management), in particular regarding safety and security analytics (signed December 2021; implementation until end of 2022).

Due to the delayed programme launch (see introduction), the signature of the new grant agreements and the implementation of general collaboration activities and expert team grants for the Customs programme could only start in December 2021. This explains the absence of major achievements or outputs attained during this period regarding the collaborative activities. However, the following can be highlighted from this first month of implementation of the programme that was also a month of the Christmas holidays:

¹ Art. 9(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/444 establishing the Customs programme: in accordance with point (f) of the first paragraph of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall be awarded without a call for proposals where the eligible entities are customs authorities of participating countries, provided that the conditions set out in Article 5 of this Regulation are met.

- General Collaboration Activities Grant in the field of Custom: during the month of December 2021, three activities were launched, including two project groups and one capacity building activity initiated by the Commission.
- Expert team for pooling and sharing specific analytical expertise of Customs Laboratories at European Union level – Customs Laboratories Expert Team (CLET 3): the group continued its work to analyse a large number of potentially dangerous substances or of products representing an important loss of revenue for Union and Member State budgets, and sharing of results at Union level through the maintenance of a common database.
- Import Control System 2 Safety and Security Analytics Expert Team (ICS2 SSA): the expert team brings forward a Safety and Security Analytics (SSA) capability to enable the Member States and the Commission to work together with the support of additional tools and working methods, leveraging the common repository and ICS2 business processes.

In addition, 254 specific contracts were signed under multi-annual framework contracts (information technology, studies, communication and other service contracts). In this regard, it is worth noting that the budget for IT in 2021 was split between Customs 2020 (first half of the year) and the new Customs Programme (second half of the year). Therefore, achievements related to IT are also split (see chapter 3.2).

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The Customs 2020 programme's specific objective is to support customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and of the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights, to increase safety and security, to protect citizens and the environment, to improve the administrative capacity of the customs authorities and to strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses.

As concluded in the final evaluation of Customs 2020 prepared by external contractors, the Customs 2020 programme activities are highly complementary, provide tangible outputs by pooling resources and generated considerable benefits. The IT capacity building activities, which represented the biggest share of the programme expenditure (87%), was the area where the programme led to the biggest savings, by creating common components for the European information systems for customs (EIS) thus avoiding multiplication of efforts for Member States and reducing compliance costs and administrative burdens for economic operators. Joint (collaboration) actions (11% of programme's budget) and human competency building activities (2%) also had a high value for money, considering the small proportion of budget expenditure compared to their high reported contribution to the achievement of programme objectives.

The performance under the programme's specific objective is presented along the lines of the Customs programme operational objectives and the specific objectives of the Customs programme (2021-2027):

General Performance:

Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the delayed adoption of the Programme Regulation, in 2021 the collaboration generated by the programme remained strong. The majority of the collaboration action managers and the participants adapted to the new working modalities (online collaboration/online meetings). Business continuity of IT was ensured as proven by the stable availability of IT systems.

On the other hand, whilst 90.7%% of the participants of the Programme's collaboration actions reported that they were passing on the information obtained via programme activities within their administration, the cascade effect seems to be rather limited as the generated knowledge stays mainly with the officials directly involved in programme activities as indicated by the results of polls addressed to customs officials in the EU. In addition, more than 70% of the initiatives under the programme other than bilateral activities are proposed and managed by the Commission. The contacts with the Member States confirmed that this stems from the fact that the willingness in general in the participating countries to initiate and take ownership over specific actions is rather limited, a challenge which is also impacting expert teams (e.g. ICS2 and Expert Team on new approaches to develop and operate Customs IT Systems (ETCIT 3) preparations). As a result, the need to further promote national administrations' involvement and leadership in the implementation of the programme can be highlighted.

Uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy:

In 2021, the Programme supported 33 collaborative actions whose primary objective identified a strong link with the preparation, coherent application and effective implementation of Union law/policy. Among these, the programme group dedicated to the implementation of the business-to-government framework of the Single Window, the project group and High-level Seminar on E-commerce under the Slovenian Presidency (October 2021), and the AEO Network are noteworthy examples.

In addition, it is worth mentioning that the trend for the upcoming Customs programme in this area is promising, since the implementation of the collaborative actions started on 1 December 2021 and this first month there was already one action launched in this domain under the new cycle.

However, the April 2021 Special Report of the European Court of Auditors on customs controls² highlighted that while implementing the new customs financial risk framework was an important step towards uniform application of controls, the framework is not designed well enough to ensure that Member States perform controls in a harmonised way. Moreover, the Member States interpret, and thus implement, the legal acts and the related guidance in different ways. The Court consequently recommended to the Commission to enhance the uniform application of customs controls, and develop and implement a fully-fledged analysis and coordination capacity at EU level. These conclusions call for further investigation into how the Customs programme could be engaged more in overcoming these weaknesses.

Customs cooperation:

The number of meetings organised under the programme has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This prevented the programme from attaining the target to organise 380 meetings per year, whilst the programme was recording figures well on track before 2020. Notably, in 2020, 85 meetings were organised, down from 570 in 2019. Covid-19 also impacted the networking opportunities under the programme, leading to a decrease in the satisfaction rate of participants from levels above the 90% target in previous years (96%) to a rate lower than the target in 2020 (81%). However, in December 2021, the first month of implementation of the new Customs 2021 programme, already 7 events took place, showing a continuing tendency of relying on online meetings in the absence of physical ones.

Online collaboration groups remained active during the pandemic. In 2021, a total of 240 groups were active in on the Programme’s online collaboration platform (PICS). This figure is lower than the peak number of groups reached in 2020 (326). However, the 2021 figure still reflects a dynamic trend for the Programme overall, beyond the target set of ‘stability or increase’. Indeed, the initial number of groups recorded in 2014 when the programme started (117) almost doubled by the end of 2021.

Expert teams also remained active contributors to programme activities in 2021. For instance, the expert team dedicated to the Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border (CELBET) had intensive interactions in 2021. In addition, the expert team on new approaches to develop and operate customs IT systems (ETCIT) contributed to the initial work of the Wise Persons Group³ on the future of customs by sharing its findings on the new approaches to customs IT collaboration. ETCIT also triggered the establishment of a network of Chief Information Officers (CIO network) which will result in improved, more effective and efficient national IT development and operation. The expert teams on Binding Tariff Information (BTI 2) and on customs laboratories (CLET) were also operational in 2021.

Administrative and IT capacity building, including human competency and training, as well as the development and operation of EES:

In order to ensure the uninterrupted and secure functioning of the EES, despite the late entry into force of the Programme, measures had to be engaged to stretch the existing contracts to their ultimate limits. This enabled the network and system availability in 2021, which have to remain close to 100%. The development, maintenance, operation, and quality control of common components of the existing and new EES concerned 51 systems in 2021.

In 2021, the Commission progressed well on the developments of the Union Customs Code (UCC) IT systems under its responsibility and reached approximately 84% of readiness by December 2021 working towards the deadlines set by legal acts. No delays beyond these legal deadlines were identified or materialised.

Regarding human competency and training, the number of officials in the programme beneficiary administrations trained in 2021 increased significantly in the last year given the availability of the new Customs & Tax EU Learning Portal, from 18 109 in 2020 up to 384 696 in 2021. In terms of the number of downloads of the courses, while previously the number was increasing in the last year downloads significantly decreased. The reason is the online availability of the courses in the Learning portal, which has replaced downloading. In that sense, the trend is overall positive, since the number of officers accessing the courses in 2021 was 20 times more than in the previous year.

3.2. Key achievements

2.8 billion	384 696	82%	99.99%
messages were exchanged in 2021 via the key customs EES and their components	officials were trained by using EU common training material in 2021	of the Union Customs Code IT systems’ completion rate was achieved by the end of 2021	of the time in 2021 the Common Communication Network was available for use

² Special Report 04/2021: Customs controls: insufficient harmonisation hampers EU financial interests (<https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/DocItem.aspx?did=58256>)

³ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs-4/wise-persons-group-challenges-facing-customs-union-wpg_en

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The Customs programme finances the procurement of studies, evaluations and comparative analysis in the customs area by external contractors, covering mainly technical issues as the ones mentioned below as examples:

Concerning studies, the study supporting an interim evaluation of the UCC implementation was finalised in December 2021. Its publication is expected by Q2 of 2022. In addition, in early 2021 the Study on the Implementation of the EU Strategy and Action Plan for Customs Risk Management (RIMSCO) was finalised. The Customs Laboratories European Network (CLEN) also finalised two studies in 2021, CLEN2SAND on designer drugs and other illicit products, and the CLEN - Consultation of STN on the web FIZ-CAS, which were concluded in May and September, respectively.

The study on the Customs programme’s Performance Measurement Framework (PMF) s was finalised (in January 2021) by an external contractor for both Customs 2020 and Fiscalis 2020 programmes. The study confirmed the Customs 2020 programmes’ mid-term evaluation conclusions on the current PMF by the criteria of its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and alignment with the Better Regulation Guidelines’ principles. The study team identified the PMF strengths (i.e. elements to retain) and weaknesses (i.e. areas for improvement): in particular, it identified weaknesses with the quality of indicators to meaningfully assess the performance of the programmes across the activities supported, but also its limited utility and visibility among stakeholders. Most importantly, the report presented a proposal for a new PMF and new tools for its implementation. These include updated intervention logics, lists and definitions for proposed indicators, suggested roles and responsibilities for stakeholders within DG TAXUD, data collection tools, and PMF management and reporting tools. The new framework is partially in place. Its full implementation requires the adoption of a delegated act scheduled for Q2 2022.

The final evaluation of the Customs 2020 programme was launched in the second half of 2020, with an evaluation Staff Working Document and a Commission report to be prepared by the end of Q1 2022. The Final Evaluation report prepared by external contractors concluded that the Customs 2020 programme largely contributed to facilitating and enhancing exchange of information and cooperation between customs authorities and their officials within the EU through its three types of activities (IT capacity building activities, joint actions and human competency building). Several joint actions and IT capacity building activities under the programme supported the preparation, effective implementation and coherent application of Union law in the field of customs and related matters, and the human competency building activities supported its coherent application. This cooperation and IT development could have not been achieved by the Member States alone. Furthermore, the evaluation confirmed the capacity of the programme to address a broad range of issues and emerging challenges such as Covid-19 and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, thanks to its general character, as well as its complementarity with broader Union policies, especially in the area of prohibitions and restrictions.

The studies and evaluations financed under the programme Customs 2020 can be found on the TAXUD EUROPA website: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/calls-tenders-grants-calls-expression-interest_en and on the EU Bookshop on <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/> (author: Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union).

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Support the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy as well as customs cooperation and administrative capacity building, including human competency and the development and operation of European electronic systems.

Indicator 1: Union Law and Policy application and implementation index - Number of actions under the programme organised in this area

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	5	60	60	60	60	60	60			60
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) managed by DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	The experts share good practices via the collaborative activities and elaborate on the common interpretation and implementation of the policy and legislation, thus directly contributing to the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator is already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 4).
Other methodological comments	Data collected via ART. For 2021, the reporting period is December (overlap with previous programme funding). Milestones and target are set based on extrapolation of the first month of implementation (Dec-2021). The number of actions reported is calculated for actions having at least

	one meeting with direct link to the related specific objective (preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy). Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. The target will be revisited. The first revision will be due based on the first two years of implementation. Considering previous programme cycles, value is expected to be stable or increasing.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As the target is set compared to the first two years of measurement, feedback on the trend is relevant in 2023. However, as the implementation of the general collaborative actions (other than expert teams) started on 1 December 2021 and the fact in the first month of implementation there was already 1 general collaboration action launched in the domain of this indicator, the tendency is promising.

Indicator 2: Union Law and Policy application and implementation index – Number of recommendations/guidelines issued following those actions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	0	107	107	107	107	107	107			642
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of recommendations/guidelines
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Surveys
Link to the objective	The recommendations/guidelines generated by the experts in the collaborative actions directly contribute to the preparation and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 4).
Other methodological comments	The action leaders report on the number of individual guidelines, recommendations or best practices/administrative procedures included in a given document (rather than the number of documents produced in which these outputs could be included). For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is the month of December 2021. Data for 2021 will be available as of end of Q1 2022, to be reported in next reporting cycle. The milestones and target are set based data on 2020 and will consequently be revised based on the first two years' of implementation. Considering the previous programme cycles, the value is expected to be stable or increasing compared to the first 2 years of implementation average of the programme. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available. Data and feedback on the trend will be provided in the programme statement for 2023.

Indicator 3: Learning index - Number of customs officials trained by using common training material

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	0	28 140	29 500	31 000	31 000	32 500	34 000			186 140
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of customs officials trained with eLearning courses.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data provided by Customs & Tax EU Learning portal (managed by DG TAXUD).
Link to the objective	The training of customs officials contributes to the programme's objective of human competency and training. Human competency building activities also indirectly supports the uniform implementation of customs policy and law.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 7).
Other methodological comments	Specific for 2021: All learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Customs 2020. Therefore, no data is reported for the new Customs Programme so the figure for 2021 is zero. Method to set the baseline: the indicator starts at 0. A better dissemination through the Customs & Tax EU Learning Portal has increased exceptionally the indicator in 2021. Method to set the milestones and the target: expectation of a 5% increase per year of the baseline or stable results depending on the programme planning. However, future milestones will depend on the available courses offered every year. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	All officials trained in 2021 were under the Customs 2020 programme budget.

Indicator 4: Learning index - Number of times eLearning customs modules were downloaded

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	0	445	450	455	460	465	470			2 745
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of e-learning modules in the portfolio used by customs professionals.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data provided by Customs and Tax EU Learning portal.
Link to the objective	The usage of eLearning modules contributes to the programme's objective of human competency and training. Human competency building activities also indirectly supports the uniform implementation of customs policy and law.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 7).
Other methodological comments	Specific for 2021: All learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Customs 2020. Therefore, no data is reported for the new Customs Programme. Method for setting the baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Method for setting the milestones and the target: The number of eLearning courses in the portfolio should increase or decrease depending on the life cycle of the courses in use. In general, the current courses should have 3-4 more years of use and then they will need to be deleted from portfolio or replaced by new ones in the same topic or different ones. Each year we calculate at least 5 new eLearning courses to be produced and in use (taking into account number of new development minus the deletion of outdated ones). The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	All downloads in 2021 were under the Customs 2020 programme budget.

Indicator 5: Learning index - Quality scored by participants in training activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	0%	74%	74,5%	75%	75%	75%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
0										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Kirkpatrick score (average of score in 3 categories: technology, methodology and content) and subcategories.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD satisfaction survey.
Link to the objective	Quality training activities contribute to the specific objective of the programme of reinforcing the skills and competences of customs professionals.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (not included in previous Programme Statements).
Other methodological comments	Specific for 2021: All learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Customs 2020. Therefore, no data is reported for the new Customs Programme. Method for setting the baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Method for setting the milestones and the target: Application of the Kirkpatrick methodology according to which a score equal or above 75% places the learning material on the highest level of quality (very good).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	All eLearning activities in 2021 were under the Customs 2020 programme budget.

Indicator 6: Availability of European electronic systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
99.60%	99.60%	99.60%	99.65%	99.65%	99.65%	99.65%	99.65%			99.65%
	Actual Progress									Final
99.60%	99,88%									
Are we on track :	On track									

track :	
Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage of time.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Ensuring the European Electronic Systems' continuity is a major responsibility under the programmes since disruptions in their operation would affect national authorities, economic operators and citizens across the entire EU and hamper the functioning of the internal market.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 5).
Other methodological comments	Data is collected from the ITSM Operation & TES contractors. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period is Jul-Dec 2021. The data for 2021 is calculated as an average of the availability of the different IT systems: -Gold – 99.8%: CS/RD2-100%; EOS-EORI-99.92%; REX-99.99%; CRS-100%; TARIC transmission-99.8% TARIC3-99.99%; Quota-99.95%; INF-SP-100%; INF-STP-100%; EBTI-100%; UUMDS-99.92%; CERTEX-99.96%. -Silver – 99.6%: NCTS-99.48%;AES/ECS-99.48%; ICS2-99.59%; -Bronze – 99.4% -Best Effort – 98.0% Since the availability of the EES for Customs is crucial for the functioning of the customs union, the target and milestones have been set at close to 100% based on the average target for the individual systems concerned as per standard IT categorisation of “gold/silver/bronze/best effort” and the Multiannual Strategic plan for customs IT systems – MASP-C. Baseline based on silver category of various levels.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the effective continuity in the EES availability. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 7: Availability of the Common Communication Network

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%	99,8%			99,8%
	Actual Progress									Final
	99,99%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage of time.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Reliance on its availability is a precursor for other systems – including contributing to the EU internal market as a whole – to function smoothly. Ensuring the Common Communication Network's continuity is a major responsibility under the programme since this secure dedicated network forms the IT architecture and backbone of cooperation between authorities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 3).
Other methodological comments	The data is collected monthly from the contractor and the reported data is the average of the monthly values. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is July to December 2021. Since the availability of the CCN is crucial for the functioning of the customs union, the target and milestones for this indicator have been set at close to 100% based on the average of standard IT categorisation of “gold/silver/bronze/best effort” (also confirmed in the Multiannual Strategic plan for customs IT systems – MASP-C).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the effective continuity in the CCN availability. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 8: Use of key European electronic systems aimed at increasing interconnectivity and moving to a paper-free Customs Union - Number of messages exchanged on the key EES/system components

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	2 000 000 000	2 800 000 000	2 800 000 000	2 800 000 000	2 800 000 000	2 800 000 000	2 800 000 000			18 800 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	2 019 695 761									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of messages exchanged.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Use of key European electronic systems aimed at increasing interconnectivity and moving to a paper-free Customs Union.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator not present in 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Use of key European electronic systems aimed at increasing interconnectivity and moving to a paper-free Customs Union. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is July to December 2021. The figure in "Actual progress" is the total number of messages exchanged for all IT systems. For 2021, the disaggregated data is as follows: ECS (34 252 419), ICS(48 287 818), NCTS(45 142 604), Surveillance (982.454.038) and ICS2 (909 558 882). Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. The values for milestones and target are calculated based on the full year data from 2021. These will be reviewed in 2024, considering the average values for 2022-2023. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the significance of EES interconnectivity. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 9: Use of key European electronic systems aimed at increasing interconnectivity and moving to a paper-free Customs Union - Number of records consulted in key databases

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	59 000 000	118 000 000	118 000 000	118 000 000	118 000 000	118 000 000	118 000 000			767 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	59 060 808									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of consultations carried out
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	Use of key European Electronic Systems aimed at increasing interconnectivity and exchanging information.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Similar indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF but no equivalence as the reported data is mainly the consultation of all systems of DDS2 which includes some Taxation systems as well
Other methodological comments	The data is extracted from the different administrative systems. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is July to December 2021. The figure in actual progress is the total number of records for all IT systems. For 2021, the disaggregated data is as follows: CDS: 89 271; Customs Offices database: 3 304 915; EBTI: 22 794 573; MRN follow-up: 50 528; QUOTA: 4 123 700; TARIC: 11 909 800; CLASS: 22 344; DDS2-EO: 7 531 882; ECICS2: 9 039 064; SUSP: 52 258; Surveillance: 142 473. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. The values for milestones and target are based on the extrapolated values of 2021 that represent a six-month period. These will be revised in 2024, considering the average values for 2022-2023. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 exceeds the milestone set, showing the significance of EES interconnectivity. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 10: Union Customs Code completion rate

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2025
75%	82%	92%	98%	99%	100%					100%
	Actual Progress									Final
	82%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage %
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG TAXUD
Link to the objective	The UCC completion rate is linked to the objective of the programme to support the preparation and

	uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator not present in 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	The baseline for this indicator is the result achieved by the end of 2020 (ECA report on the UCC IT Systems). The milestones are set assuming a steady progress towards the completion of the UCC IT systems by 2025 which is a legal requirement (UCC and UCC Work Programme).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 meets the milestone and is thus on track with the UCC timeline of implementation.

Indicator 11: Collaboration Robustness index - Number of face-to-face meetings held under the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	7	250	250	250	250	250	250			1 500
	Actual Progress									Final
	7									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of meetings under the general collaborative actions excluding expert teams.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) managed by DG TAXUD.
Link to the objective	Collaborative meetings allow direct contacts between policy experts and thus contribute to strengthening networking and collaboration.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (indicator 1).
Other methodological comments	The data is collected via the Activity Reporting Tool that includes all general collaborative action meetings (both virtual and physical ones). For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is the month of December 2021. In the reporting period only virtual meetings took place. The baselines of this indicator is 0, since the number of meetings recorded under Customs 2020 did not include virtual meetings and is hence not comparable. In addition, the pre-COVID-19 situation makes data from the previous programme non-representative for the current situation. The target is calculated as the sum of the annual milestones. Milestones and target values have been calculated based on the experience from the previous programme statistics. A reassessment of the milestones and target is expected in 2022 in order to include expert team meetings under this indicator.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Considering that the implementation of the collaborative actions started on 1 December 2021 and that in the first month of implementation already 7 events (all 7 being virtual meetings) took place, the tendencies are promising.

Indicator 12: Collaboration Robustness index - Number of on-line collaboration groups

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	240	240	240	240	240	240	240			240
	Actual Progress									Final
	240									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of active groups.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Online collaborative platform(s).
Link to the objective	Each online group and their activities allow for online collaboration complementary to and supporting face-to-face meetings.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 1).
Other methodological comments	The data is collected via the statistical features of online collaborative platform(s). For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is the month of December 2021. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. Stability in the number of collaboration groups throughout the cycle means that this number is appropriate to ensuring the programme's contribution to its objectives. Hence, the milestones and target have been set based on the assumption that a 'stable' amount of groups throughout the cycle will be maintained, based on the values of 2021. This figure will be revised in 2024 on the basis of the experience from the first two years of implementation of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 meets the milestone set, and is thus in good track to ensure the stability in online

	collaboration as a final target. The mid-term tendency will be assessed once next year's values are available.
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Indicator 13: Collaboration Robustness index – Degree of networking generated

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
80%	80%			85%						90%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Surveys
Link to the objective	Collaborative activities depending on their set-up and content contribute to networking in various degrees.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (indicator 1).
Other methodological comments	The data is collected via surveys addressed to the participants in the programme's general collaborative activities. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is the month of December 2021. Data for 2021 to be reported in next reporting cycle. The baseline of the indicator is the data from the last representative year from the previous programme (year 2020). The milestones and target have been calculated on the basis of the mid-term and final evaluation findings of the Customs 2020 programme, which confirm the programme's major contribution to networking, and the assumption that the new programme should maintain a similarly high level of networking. The milestone anticipates the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions because online meetings are often considered as generating a lesser degree of networking. However, in light of the uncertain COVID-19 context, the milestones may be revised in 2024.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No visible trend since data for 2021 will only be available later in 2022. Trend to be assessed in the next exercise.

Indicator 14: Best Practices and Guideline index – Number of actions under the programme organised in this area

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	1	12	12	12	12	12	12			12
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) or its replacement managed by DG TAXUD.
Link to the objective	Via the collaborative activities, the experts generate and share best practices and guidelines.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 6).
Other methodological comments	For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is the month of December 2021. Stability in the number of actions in this area means this number is appropriate to ensuring the programme's contribution to this objective. Hence, the milestones and target are set based on the assumption that a 'stable' amount of actions in this area will be held in the coming years. Baseline: the indicator starts at 0. More concretely, the target set is an extrapolation based on the number of actions recorded for the first month of implementation of the programme (1x12=12). The milestones and target will be revised in 2024 on the basis of the values for 2022 and 2023, considering that the first months of implementation may not be representative.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Value for 2021 meets the milestone set, showing a positive starting trend in the first month of implementation of the programme in terms of actions in this area. Mid-term tendency to be assessed once next year's values are available.

Indicator 15: Best Practices and Guideline index – Percentage of participants that made use of a working practice / guideline developed with the support of the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage %
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Surveys
Link to the objective	The higher the number of respondents that indicate that they made use of the programme outputs such as indicators and guidelines, the higher the programme’s contribution is to the uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy as well as customs cooperation and administrative capacity building.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator already present in 2014-2020 MFF (Indicator 6).
Other methodological comments	The data is collected via surveys annually. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is the month of December 2021. Data for 2021 will be reported in the next programme statement. The baseline is according to the last representative year’s data under the Customs 202 programme (year 2020). The milestones and target have been set on the tendencies monitored under the Customs 2020 programme and the evident stabilisation at around 75%. The milestones and target will be revised in 2024 on the basis of the values for 2022 and 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data; trend will be assessed once 2021 values become available in the next programme statement in 2023.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Action programme for customs in the European Union (Customs 2020)

Specific Objective 1 :to support customs authorities in protecting the financial and economic interests of the Union and of the Member States, including the fight against fraud and the protection of intellectual property rights, to increase safety and security, to protect citizens and the environment, to improve the administrative capacity of the customs authorities and to strengthen the competitiveness of European businesses

Indicator 1: Feedback from participants in actions under the Programme and users of the Programme index (Collaboration robustness)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Network opportunity										
2013	Milestones									2021
	0.96	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9		0.9
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.81	0.811		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Cooperation: Number of face to face meetings										
2013	Milestones									2021
	380	380	380	380	380	380	380	380		380
	Actual Progress									Final
	265	547	552	448	473	570	85	20		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Number of online groups (taxation and joint groups)										
2013	Milestones									2021
	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200		200
	Actual Progress									Final
	117	124	465	147	186	237	326	240		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table): a) Degree of networking expressed in percentage terms of positive replies. b) Number of face-to-face meetings held under the programme. c) Number of ongoing on-line collaboration groups on the Programme Information and Collaboration Space (PICS).
Cut-Off Date	30/11/2021
Data source	Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):a) Relevant question on the Event Assessment Form (EAF) b) Activity Reporting Tool. c) Programmes Information and Collaboration Space (PICS). PICS is DG TAXUD's online collaboration tool for tax and customs professionals working in administrations across Europe.
Narrative	Covid-19 impact preventing physical meetings:• Reduced perception on collaboration robustness due to lack of physical meetings. Online meetings generate less contacts and less networking. • Reduced number of meetings, however the trend is upward following 2020 low point. Online meetings replaced physical meetings where appropriate and relevant. • The number of active collaboration groups is proportionate to the level of networking robustness.
Methodology	Relevant for each sub indicator (top to bottom of the table):a) EAFs are filled in online via EUSurvey by participants to an event. Timeliness: annual frequency; data collection for year X takes place between March X and March X+1. Programme polls are done via EUSurvey every 18 months. b) Number of “operational” events registered for the reporting period in ART (face-to-face physical meetings only); c) Number of active groups registered in PICS. The group’s domain should be identified as “customs”.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicators 11, 12 and 13.
Other methodological comments	Data on networking effect can be obtained from the EAF and from the programme's poll. In order to ensure comparability of results across years and consistency with figures reported in the AAR, the results for 2017 and 2018 have been modified to those obtained from the EAF. The data on networking for 2020 are not available yet, as the collection of data is performed during the month of February 2021. The data will be analysed on the first week of March and available by mid of March. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is January-November 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	N/A
Justification of the trend	The drop on above network indicators and number of face-to-face meetings in 2021 is due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the related travel and meeting restrictions. While the physical meetings have largely been replaced by online meetings and online collaboration, the lack of physical meetings and the lack of direct and personal networking opportunities are reducing the perception on the programme’s contribution to networking. The reduced networking via physical meetings apparently undermines online collaboration willingness as well.

Indicator 2: Number of guidelines and recommendations issued by MS in their national administrations following activities under the Programme relating to modern and harmonised approaches to customs procedures

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2021
0	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		794
	Actual Progress									Final
	108	151	82	186	66	236	107			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Recommendations and guidelines are counted individually, rather than by the number of documents containing them.
Cut-Off Date	30/11/2021
Data source	Relevant questions on the Event Assessment Form (EAF).
Narrative	Measures the number of recommendations / guidelines issued and revised further to a collaborative action (joint action).
Methodology	The questionnaires are presented in EU Survey.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No.
Other methodological comments	The recommendations and guidelines are counted here individually, rather than by the number of documents containing them. Fluctuations in this indicator, however, need to be interpreted carefully, as not every recommendation or guideline is equally important and is dependent on its actual business value. Typically the collection of data is performed during the month of February / March and analysed on the month of March. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is January-November 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	N.A.
Justification of the trend	2021 values exceeded by far the milestone. Final target was also exceeded, showing the relevance of the issuance of guidance and recommendations as a key element of the programme.

Indicator 3: Common Communication Network for the European Information Systems

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2021
	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.9989	0.9995	0.9998	0.9998	0.99976	0.9947	0.9997	0.9999		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage terms of the availability (time) of the Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI).
Cut-Off Date	30/06/2021
Data source	IT statistics produced by TAXUD.
Narrative	The Common Communication Network and Common System Interface (CCN/CSI), are indispensable for the running of the customs related European Information Systems (EIS). In accordance with the Union Customs Code and the e-Customs Decision, the customs EIS lie at the heart of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods. This indicator provides a measurement of the programme's results on the effective operation of the CCN/CSI.
Methodology	Timeliness: for the purpose of monitoring programme's objectives, the frequency is annual. However, availability can be also measured on weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, if needed for specific IT monitoring.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator 7
Other methodological comments	For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is January-June 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overall, annual values are stable, on track with regards to milestones and final target expected.

Indicator 4: Union Law and Policy Application and Implementation Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of actions under the Programme organised in this area										
2013	Milestones									2021
0	60	60	100	100	100	100	100	100		100
	Actual Progress									Final
	67	65	123	122	114	132	88	33		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Number of recommendations issued following those actions										
2013	Milestones									2021
0	200	200	200	200	100	100	100	100		1200
	Actual Progress									Final
	312	290	225	267	133	163	107	9		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions and recommendations/guidelines.
Cut-Off Date	30/11/2021
Data source	Activity Reporting Tool (ART) or its replacement managed by DG TAXUD; Action Follow-up Forms.
Narrative	The Union Law and Policy application and implementation index measures the progress in the preparation, application and uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy inter alia on the basis of: number of actions under the programme organised in this area and number of recommendations/guidelines issued following those actions. The uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy is the pillar of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods.
Methodology	Actions counted for this indicator must have at least one meeting in the reporting period (1 January and 30 November 2021).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicators 1 and 2
Other methodological comments	When counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, it should be taken into account that the indicator only counts the actions for which the objective in question was chosen as primary objective. This is done so to avoid counting twice the same action under different objectives. However, it should be noticed that there are many actions having "Support the preparation, coherent application and effective implementation of Union law/policy" as secondary

	objective that are not counted under this indicator. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is January-November 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	This data is contained in the Annual Progress Report (APR) which is publicly available in the TAXUD EUROPA website.
Justification of the trend	We should take into account that, while earlier years had more actions in total, and more actions specifically addressing concrete issues, in the last years many actions were to a greater extent organised in broader projects covering themes rather than specific interventions. Content-wise, the projects are usually multi-annual rather than annual, as the actions and processes they cover stretch over more than one year. This may lead to less new initiatives and in a decrease in the total number. COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the figures for 2020-2022.Regarding the number of recommendations in 2021, non-representative data was reported in 2021 due to limited feedback received in AFFs for 2021 from action managers.

Indicator 5: European Information System Availability

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Centralised IT customs applications (including tariff systems): business hours										
	Milestones									2021
	0.99	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97		0.97
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.987	0.9944	0.9627	0.9982	0.999		
Are we on track :	On track									
Centralised IT customs applications (including tariff systems): otherwise										
	Milestones									2021
	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95		0.95
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.987	0.9944	0.9627	0.9982	0.999		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage terms of the availability (time) of specific Union components of the European Information Systems during business hours or outside business hours respectively.
Cut-Off Date	30/06/2021
Data source	IT statistics produced by TAXUD.
Narrative	In accordance with the Union Customs Code and the e-Customs Decision, the customs European Information Systems (EIS) lie at the heart of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods. This indicator provides a measurement of the availability of specific Union components of the EIS that are in operation, namely centralised IT customs applications (including tariff systems).
Methodology	Timeliness: for the purpose of monitoring programme's objectives, the frequency is annual. However, availability can be also measured on weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, if needed for specific IT monitoring.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator present in 2021-2027 MFF but measuring the availability of individual systems.
Other methodological comments	For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is January-November 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	N.A.
Justification of the trend	Overall, annual values are stable, on track with regards to milestones and final target expected.

Indicator 6: Best Practices and Guideline Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of actions under the Programme organised in this area										
2013	Milestones									2021
	84	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100
	Actual Progress									Final
	85	200	191	92	133	121	77	5		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Percentage of participants that made use of working practice/administrative procedure/gudeline developed/shared with Programme support										
2013	Milestones									2021
0%	88%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%		90%
	Actual Progress									Final
	50.42%	81.01%	68.25%	75%	81%	82.66%	74.39%			
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions in this area and percentage of respondents within national authorities indicating that their authority made use of a working practice.
Cut-Off Date	30/11/2021
Data source	ART and Event Assessment Forms (EAFs)
Narrative	The Best Practices and Guideline index measures the evolution in the identification, development, sharing and application of best working practices and administrative procedures, inter alia on the basis of: number of actions under the programme organised in this area; percentage of participants that made use of a working practice/guideline developed with the support of the programme. The uniform implementation of customs legislation and policy is the pillar of the Customs Union, which is one of the elements supporting the smooth running of the Single Market by allowing the free circulation of goods.
Methodology	Action having at least one meeting in period 1 January and 30 November.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicators 14 and 15
Other methodological comments	When counting the number of actions that are operational in a year under a specific objective, the indicator only counts the actions for which the objective in question was chosen as primary objective. This is done to avoid counting twice the same action under different objectives. However, there are many actions having "Identify, develop, share and apply best working practices and administrative procedures" as secondary objective that are not counted under this indicator. Content-wise, the projects are usually multi-annual rather than annual. For 2021, due to the overlap between Customs 2020 and the Customs Programme, the reporting period for this indicator is January-November 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	This data is contained in the Annual Progress Report (APR) which is publicly available in the TAXUD EUROPA website.
Justification of the trend	We should take into account that, while earlier years had more actions in total, and more actions specifically addressing concrete issues, in the last years many actions were to a greater extent organised in broader projects covering themes rather than specific interventions. Content-wise, the projects are usually multi-annual rather than annual, as the actions and processes they cover stretch over more than one year. This may lead to less new initiatives and in a decrease in the total number. COVI-19 pandemic may have impacted the figures for 2020.

Indicator 7: Learning Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of officials trained by using common training material of the Union										
2013	Milestones									2021
	4 112	3 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	300 000		407 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	4 776	3 092	23 685	19 234	17 547	37 796	18 109	384 696		
Are we on track :	On track									
Number of times Programme eLearning modules were downloaded										
2013	Milestones									2021
0	3 200	3 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000		66 200
	Actual Progress									Final
	3 219	3 202	12 920	12 291	12 612	9 978	34 347	10 877		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of officials trained and number of times the eLearning modules were downloaded per year.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Customs & Tax EU Learning portal and data provided by participating countries.
Narrative	The Learning index measures the progress resulting from actions under the programme aiming to reinforce skills and competences of customs officials, inter alia on the basis of: number of customs officials trained by using common training material and number of times eLearning customs modules were downloaded. Human capacity building will support the customs authorities to reinforce their capacities in fulfilling their role in the Customs Union.
Methodology	Annual.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator 3
Other methodological comments	Timeliness: annual frequency. Despite the overlap between Customs 2020 and the new Customs Programme, all learning activities in 2021 were funded under the budget of Customs 2020. Therefore, the indicator bellows reports the whole year 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of officials trained has increased significantly in the last year given the availability of the new Customs & Tax EU Learning Portal. Regarding the number of downloads, while previously the number was increasing, the last year numbers significantly decreased given the online access to the eLearning courses since the availability of the Learning portal replacing downloading. In that sense, it

	is a positive development to read in conjunction with the number of officers accessing the courses, which is 20 times more than in the previous year.
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6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

N/A

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

During 2021, the following actions contributed to climate mainstreaming and were conducted under the auspices of the Customs programme^[1]:

- Two eLearning modules on F-gas-CERTEX, within the framework of the EU Customs Single Window (CSW). In particular, the two eLearning modules will deal with the EU CSW-CERTEX interconnection with CLIMA F-gas system. This activity started in Q4 2021 and will continue in first semester 2022.
- The Customs Business Group (CBG) met to discuss activities in cooperation with DG CLIMA (regarding F-gas and ozone depleting systems) and DG ENV (CITES). Online meeting with no associated costs.
- Meeting on the “Best working practices related to non-compliance with import requirements of F-gas legislation”. Online meeting with no associated costs.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0: 116 Score 0*: 9.5							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Customs programme’s interventions are split in relation to gender equality score as follows:

- Score 0: relates to IT expenditure, in particular on the development and operation of European Electronic Systems, which does not target the promotion of gender equality.
- Score 0*: relates to the remaining types of expenditure, i.e. collaboration activities, trainings, studies and communication, for which a potential to promote gender equality has been identified.

At policy level, the programme’s objective is to support customs cooperation across the EU and within the customs union. DG TAXUD takes note of the potential relevance of gender equality in the customs policy domain, among others, in light of the different impacts, challenges and opportunities that trade policies can have on women and men⁴ as well as the paramount importance that diversity and inclusion have for performance and quality of service within Customs⁵.

In particular, on 24 September 2021 DG TAXUD hosted under the auspices of the WCO the first virtual event of the Network on the topic of “Women in Customs”⁶. The event brought together approximately 200 representatives of customs administrations from around the world. However, the organisation of this event was not covered by the Customs programme (i.e. no funding needed from the programme to support EU Member States participation).

Furthermore, DG TAXUD joined the Network for Gender Equality and Diversity in Customs launched by the World Customs Organisation in November 2021. The Network advocates for the need to and the benefits of implementing gender-responsive and inclusive policies in customs worldwide, and to foster and promote exchanges of experience at international level. It also encourages greater and long-term support from senior management on this matter.

^[1] These actions were not tracked in ABAC as they are part of a cluster of activities (framework contracts or grants) that in its majority does not contribute to climate mainstreaming. These expenditures may be reflected in future years after a revision.

⁴ [World Customs Organization \(wcoomd.org\)](https://www.wcoomd.org)

⁵ [gender-equality-declaration.pdf \(wcoomd.org\)](#)

⁶ [Women in Customs: How gender balance can make customs more resilient, credible and representative \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

DG TAXUD is currently working on its Equality Work Plan. Any contextual analysis it may contain on potential gender-specific inequalities, constraints, needs or opportunities in the policy area the programme contributes to will be analysed to ascertain whether the programme could potentially be relevant to address them.

Considering this context, there have been no programme's interventions in 2021 regarding gender equality and no interventions have been planned or identified, for the time being, for 2022.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.3.1. Goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The Customs Union is a foundation of the European Union and an essential element in the functioning of the single market. The single market can only function properly when there is a common application of common rules at its external borders. To achieve that, the 27 national customs administrations of the EU act as though they were one. These common rules they apply go beyond the Customs Union as such with its common tariff and extend to all aspects of trade policy, such as preferential trade, health and environmental controls, the common agricultural and fisheries policies, the protection of our economic interests by non-tariff instruments and external relations policy measures

In that regard, the Custom Programme contribution to the development of efficient, modern customs is an essential element to ensure a proper balance between effective controls and safety within the single market, and the facilitation of legitimate trade, a cornerstone for the economic prosperity of the EU. The programme secures this contribution through the support to digitalisation, efficiency of the EU Customs Union and operations, as well as at developing human competency and training for customs officials, thus contributing to SDG 8.

Overall, considering the objectives of the programmes, all activities contribute to the EU's priority to support 'an economy that works for people' for its whole duration, including both IT capacity building, collaboration and other activities. As a result, the whole budget of the programme contributes to the attainment of SDG 8.

As an example, in 2021, the Commission successfully deployed the UCC Import Control System 2 (ICS2) Release 1. Since its launch, the system has been processing a large amount of data with about 10 million Entry Security Declaration (ENS) per month, supporting effective risk-based customs controls whilst facilitating free flow of legitimate trade across the EU external borders. The system represents the first line of defence in terms of protection of the EU internal market and the EU consumers.

HEADING 1: Single Market, Innovation and Digital

EU Space programme

Lead DG: DEFIS

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

In order to establish a coherent space policy and effective governance to support the EU's political priorities, the Commission's proposal brings all existing and new space activities under the umbrella of a single EU Space Programme.

The EU Space Programme enables solutions to tackle global challenges such as sustainability and climate change, safety and security, natural disasters and mobility and strengthens the EU's role on the international scene as a global space power. The EU's space flagships foster innovative services that can meet the needs of users whilst guaranteeing European competitiveness. It will support security and defence capabilities relying on space-based services, and enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce autonomy in areas of strategic importance.

The EU Space Programme, by reason of scale, exceeds the financial and technical capacities of a single Member State and encompasses a pan-European capacity. Furthermore, it depends on the provision of data and services throughout all the Member States, requiring coordination at Union level. In addition, given the requirements in terms of security, all Member States must be involved. Taking the above into account, and given that the programme components fully fall within EU competence, action at EU level is necessary.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The mission of the EU Space Programme (Galileo/EGNOS, Copernicus, SSA and GOVSATCOM) is to develop, maintain and operate the necessary infrastructure to support the policies of the Union and the Member States. In particular, it contributes to Union's strategic autonomy and its space industry and ensures the delivery of high quality services to users in a continuous and reliable manner (Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS). The EU Space Programme comprises the following components: Galileo and EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) for satellite navigation, Copernicus for Earth Observation, the Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) capacity and in the near future the reinforced Space Situational Awareness (SSA), and GOVSATCOM to provide the critical means of communication, even in times of crisis.

1.3. Specific objectives

The EU Space Programme pursues the following objectives:

- to provide long-term, of state-of-the-art and, where appropriate, secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness;
- to deliver accurate and reliable Earth Observation data, information and services integrating other data sources, supplied on a long term sustainable basis, to support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Union and its Member States' policies, and actions based on user requirements;
- to enhance Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) capabilities to monitor, track and identify space objects and space debris, with the aim to further increase the performance and autonomy of SST capabilities at Union level, to provide space weather services and to map and network Member States Near-Earth Objects (NEO) capacities;
- to ensure the long-term availability of reliable, secure and cost effective satellite communications services for GOVSATCOM users;
- to support an autonomous, secure and cost-efficient capability to access space, taking into account the essential security interests of the Union;
- to foster the development of strong Union, space economy including by supporting space ecosystem and by reinforcing the competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity building in all Member States and Union with particular regard to small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups or legal and natural persons from the Union active or wishing to become active in that sector.

1.4. Public intervention context

The EU's action is based on Article 189 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The EU Space Programme can support and transform many areas of EU legislation in the fields of environment, civil protection, security, climate change, internal market, transport, energy, agriculture, cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid and many more.

Under the same Article, EU action for space research under Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation framework programme, is supporting technological development and the competitiveness of European upstream and downstream space sectors, including support to space entrepreneurship.

1.5. Actions

The EU Space Programme is implemented through each of its components. In addition to maintaining continuity of the existing infrastructure and services from its flagship components (Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS), the EU Space Programme introduces a number of new features, such as the Copernicus security and emergency services, and the Galileo Public Regulated Service that can be used for emergency services, peacekeeping operations, crisis and border management, or military operations. New initiatives include secure satellite communications and Space Situational Awareness to preserve assets of the EU Space Programme to reinforce links between space, security and defence. GOVSATCOM will provide reliable, secured, and cost-effective satellite communication services for EU and national public authorities managing security critical missions and infrastructures. The underlying secure satellite communication capacity and services will be provided by Member States and by security-accredited commercial private companies, while future space assets could be developed after 2024.

1.6. Delivery mode

Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. The EU space components are implemented mainly through indirect management with the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), the European Space Agency (ESA), EUMETSAT, and other entrusted entities whereas, a part of the budget is implemented through direct management by the Commission (grants and procurement).

The EU Space Programme enables a wide range of EU policies, including climate, environment, security, and mobility. As a consequence, extensive collaborations exist between DG DEFIS and other services such as DG HOME, DG AGRI, EEAS, EAC, DG CLIMA, DG CNECT, DG GROW, DG ENVI, DG INTPA, DG ECHO, DG JRC, DG MARE, DG TAXUD, DG FPI, DG SANTE, DG ESTAT and DG MOVE.

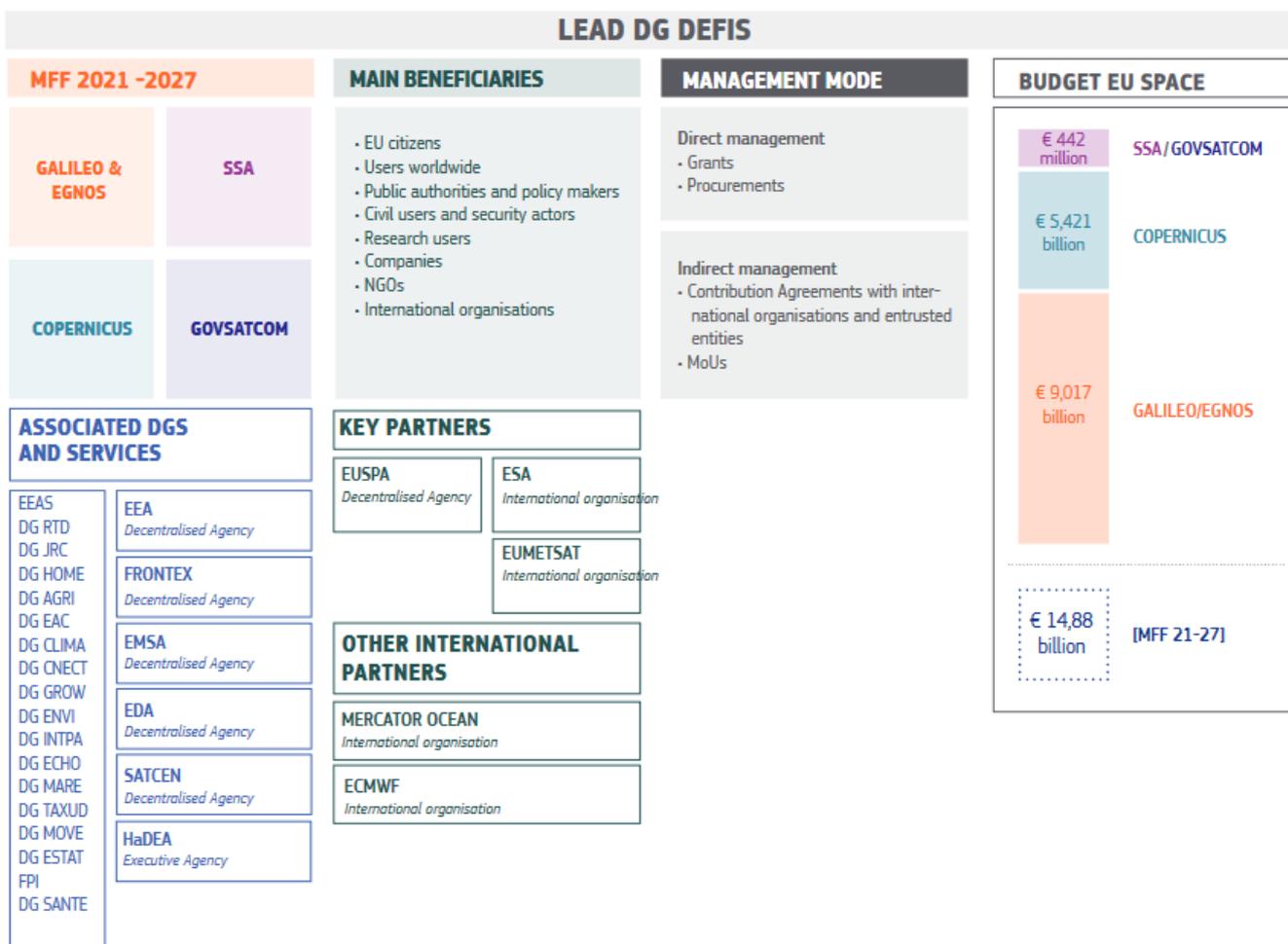
For the research, DG DEFIS closely collaborates with DG RTD that is in lead for Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe and implement mainly through direct management by DG DEFIS and with the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). A special and long-term relation exists with DG JRC, active in operational research for Galileo/ EGNOS and Copernicus, and potentially for other space and defence industry aspects in the future.

DG DEFIS coordinates the EU efforts on countering hybrid threats and Military Mobility, and in that capacity, co-operates with services in the Security Union family as well as with the European External Action Service.

The EU Space Programme and its partners, within their respective roles and responsibilities, support Europe to remain a leading international actor, in addressing various societal challenges and in strengthening the competitiveness of the European space industry through the whole value chain. In particular, by mapping critical technologies dependence and supply chains of the defence, aeronautics and space ecosystem in fast evolving markets, informed policy actions will result, to enhance strategic autonomy and technological sovereignty in Europe, whilst promoting investments and reinforcing support to SME's.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

EU SPACE PROGRAMME



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Union Space Programme and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013 and (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 69).	2021 - 2027	14 880.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The EU space programme Regulation (EU) 2021/696, under the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU for 2021 -2027, was adopted by co-legislators on 28 April 2021, published on 12 May 2021 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 69–148), and is applicable from 1 January 2021. The Regulation is bringing together the existing space programmes in this domain from previous MFF periods (Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS) and provides a legal basis for new initiatives such as GOVSATCOM and SSA.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 977.3	2 008.2	2 045.1	2 088.3	2 051.2	2 095.1	2 124.7	14 390.0

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	123.4	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	123.4
Total	2 100.8	2 008.2	2 045.1	2 088.3	2 051.2	2 095.1	2 124.7	14 513.4

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The EU Space Programme is building on the success of its predecessor components that will be continued with more focus on synergies with other EU policy areas. For the next programming period, the Commission proposed to maintain and further enhance the EU's leadership in space. The proposal brings all existing and new space activities under the umbrella of a single EU Space Programme. The latter maintains existing infrastructure and services and introduces a number of new features, e.g. fostering a strong and innovative space industry in Europe, maintaining Europe's autonomous access to space and a unified system of governance.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

[EU Space Programme \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	2 078.6	14 513.4	14%
Payments	1 577.3		11%

Following the adoption of the EU Space programme Regulation (EU) 2021/696 in April 2021, a Financial Framework Partnership Agreement (FFPA) and Contributions Agreements (CA) between the Commission, the European Space Agency (ESA) and EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Programme)¹ were signed on 22 June 2021. The FFPA and the CA set out the general obligations applicable to the tasks entrusted to both entities for the implementation of the EU space programme components by indirect management.

For the EU Satellite Navigation component (Galileo and EGNOS), most of the implementation, except the overall programme management, is delegated to EUSPA, which subsequently delegates part of it to ESA, and it is expected to consume fully the total of commitment appropriations of the year 2022. The overall implementation of the Galileo programme progressed well during 2021. Activities focused on ensuring the continuity of service provision and related operations and on developing new innovative service features such as the Galileo emergency warning service, the high accuracy service, and the authentication services.

A highlight was the successful Galileo satellite launch in December 2021 with two new satellites added to the Galileo constellation, bringing the total number of Galileo satellites in orbit to 28, which increases the robustness and availability of the existing public services; the Galileo Open Service and the Galileo Search and Rescue Service, including the Return Link Service.

COVID-19 imposed severe restrictions on travel and working procedures that have led to delays of several months in achieving key milestones of the programme, such as declaration of the Open Service Full Operational Capability (OS FOC) and the improved PRS Service Initial Operational Capability. Considering these constraints, the programme remains on track and in particular, the key services are being delivered according to expectations.

¹ C(2021) 4351 and C(2021) 4319

For the EU Earth Observation component (Copernicus), six new contribution agreements with the other entrusted entities (EUMETSAT, MERCATOR OCEAN, ECMWF, EEA, FRONTEX, EMSA)² were signed by the end of 2021. A new contribution agreement with SATCEN is under negotiation, with signature expected in 2022. Most of the implementation is delegated to ESA, EUSPA and to the other entrusted entities and it is expected to consume fully the total of commitment appropriations of the year 2022. Despite the COVID-19 crisis-related restrictions, overall operations and service provision activities were normal. There were no disruptions in the implementation of Copernicus programme thanks to excellent cooperation with the entrusted entities and overall business continuity that could be ensured. Services continuity was assured in 2021 without interruptions and, according to the reported KPIs on satisfying user needs and the regular feedback from the User Forum, with a high level of satisfaction from users, even though the ground segment operations and the services faced the difficulty to operate remotely due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Russia's military aggression in Ukraine has demonstrated how promptly we need to reinforce the EU's strategic autonomy, notably by:

- 1) working on a new security and defence framework in Europe and enhancing synergies between space and defence
- 2) supporting New Space initiatives and strengthening our EU space programme
- 3) ensuring an autonomous access to space, and
- 4) reinforcing resilience of EU supply chains.

The unilateral decision of the Russian space agency Roscosmos to withdraw from the Guiana Space Centre following the sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU and its partners in response to Russia's military aggression in Ukraine will have no consequences on the continuity and quality of the Galileo and Copernicus services, and it does not put the continuous development of these infrastructures at risk. Relevant decisions for the implementation of the programme will be taken in due course in order to resolutely continue developing the second generation of the EU flagships and to ensure EU strategic autonomy. DG DEFIS is also assessing with industry and with ESA critical dependencies of technologies and the supply of raw materials on Russia, Belarus or Ukraine for the EU space ecosystem, and putting in place, where necessary, mitigating measures.

For the SSA component, implementation of actions related to Space Weather, Near-Earth Objects are delegated to ESA, and implementation of actions related to user uptake, information and other support are delegated to EUSPA. It is expected to consume fully the total of commitment appropriations of the year 2022. The Commission implements the remaining activities, notably the Space Surveillance and Tracking, in direct management.

For the GOVSATCOM component, activities are delegated to EUSPA, notably the procurement of the secure operational ground segment (GOVSATCOM Hubs) and the user-related aspects, and to ESA, notably the development and deployment of end-to-end demonstrators of future GOVSATCOM space segment and related ground segment and upstream research and development. It is expected that the total of commitment appropriations of the year 2022 is consumed.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Galileo and EGNOS

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	6 841.4	6 841.4	100%
Payments	6 412.3		94%

During the MFF 2014-2020, the EU Satellite Navigation programmes (Galileo and EGNOS) committed EUR 6 841 million, making full use of the appropriations made available and reaching 100% execution in terms of commitment appropriations. In terms of payment appropriations, payments made during that same period amounted to EUR 6 412 million which represented 94% rate of payment execution.

Copernicus

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	4 251.4	4 251.5	100%
Payments	3 942.2		93%

² C(2021)5261

During the MFF 2014-2020 the EU Earth Observation programme (Copernicus) committed EUR 4 251 million, making full use of the appropriations made available and reaching 100% execution in terms of commitment appropriations. In terms of payment appropriations, payments made during that same period amounted to EUR 3 942M, which represent 93% rate of payment execution.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

EGNOS and Galileo

Galileo is the EU's state-of-the-art global navigation satellite system, providing a highly accurate global positioning service under civilian control. Galileo consists of a satellite constellation and the necessary ground infrastructure to control the satellites and enable the provision of positioning, navigation and timing services. Galileo offers autonomous navigation and positioning services but is also compatible with the US GPS satellite navigation system. Galileo is an EU large infrastructure project and is entirely financed by the EU budget. Galileo ensures Europe's autonomy in an area that is of strategic importance to both its economy and security. As for the previous programming period, the key priority for the MFF 2021-2027 is to ensure the continuity of Galileo and EGNOS services, continue development in preparation of full operational capability of Galileo services and promotion of market uptake of Galileo and EGNOS services.

Galileo Services

The positioning and timing performance of Galileo is better than that of any other Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) system. Galileo Initial Services are fully interoperable with GPS, and their combined use is bringing more accurate and reliable positioning for end users. Navigation in cities, where tall buildings can often block satellite signals, particularly benefits from the increased number of satellites of Galileo and GPS combined. In addition, Galileo's accurate timing contributes to enabling more resilient synchronisation of banking and financial transactions, telecommunication and energy distribution networks to help them operate more efficiently. With regard to the Galileo services, several important developments have taken place in 2021:

- The Search and Rescue (SAR) functionality called the Return Link Service (RLS), which was declared operational in January 2020, has been upgraded to Full Operational Capability in March 2021 allowing the commercialisation of RLS enabled emergency beacons worldwide. The Galileo system has delivered excellent SAR services since their declaration, as reported in the Galileo SAR Quarterly Performance Reports³. It takes less than 10 minutes with the Galileo's Search and Rescue service to detect emergency distress beacons and locate people in distress when compared to up to 3 hours previously required. As the location of the distress beacon is determined more accurately, people lost at sea or in the mountains can be rescued more quickly. With the new functionality, the Galileo SAR RLS service, an automatic acknowledgement message is sent back to the user in distress, informing them that their request for help has been received. Further SAR functionality is being defined, in particular Remote Beacon Activation (RBA) and 2-Way Communication. RBA will allow remote activation of the alert beacons in case the beacon user cannot do so (the main use case for aviation is the aircraft disappearance Malaysian airline MH370) and for maritime, it can be a sailor in distress who is unable to switch on the alert beacon). This service will be uniquely provided by Galileo. The service declaration is scheduled during the first half of 2023. The 2-Way Communication service will allow collection of information from the distress area using the RLS. It will allow exchanging messages between the Rescue Coordination Centre and the people in distress. The service declaration is not expected to happen before 2024 and it will be targeting second generation beacons only.
- The OSNMA (Open Service Navigation Message Authentication) test phase started live in November 2020, and for the High Accuracy Service (HAS), which will provide 20 cm positioning accuracy over Europe, the service concept was consolidated and the first phase of testing has begun. The Commercial Authentication Service (CAS) concept has been further developed and the roadmap for implementation has been defined. Requirements and concept for an Emergency Warning Service are being finalised in collaboration with civil protection authorities of EU Member States.
- In addition, a new version of the Open Service Signal In Space Interface Control Document, (SIS ICD) was published early 2021. This publication incorporates new signal features for increasing robustness and acquisition time, especially in difficult environments. All modifications are backwards compatible, so legacy receivers are not impacted. These improvements will also be implemented in the actual Signal in Space (SIS) broadcast by the satellites by the end of 2023. In the meantime, the publication of the SIS ICD document allows manufacturers to adapt their products accordingly.

The COVID-19 crisis-related restrictions as well as other issues resulting from the lessons learned exercise following the Galileo service incident in July 2019 led to delays of several months in achieving key milestones of the Galileo and EGNOS programmes. The milestones affected were the following:

³ Available on <https://www.gsc-europa.eu/>

- The Open Service Full Operational Capability (OS FOC) milestone was delayed due to new ground segment development and deployment activities stemming from the implementation of the July 2019 incident recommendations, which required improvements in the robustness of the system. The schedule was further slowed down by the COVID-19 crisis which has led to travel restrictions, constraints in accessing the sites of the control centres, etc. Delays in the satellite development activities resulted due to the COVID-19 crisis but also due to issues with the satellite clocks. The initial schedule for OS FOC was end of 2020, while the milestone is now planned for end of 2022. The delay in the OS FOC should not be considered as a major issue for the Programme, as Galileo is already delivering services and very accurate signals to more than two billion users through signals sent by the 22 operational satellites currently in orbit. The successful launch of another 2 satellites carried out in December 2021 will improve and reinforce the OS service. The upcoming satellite launches will further improve and reinforce the OS service, by improving the performance in terms of service availability.
- The Public Regulated Service (PRS) milestones, in particular the Initial Operational Capability milestone has been delayed for similar reasons as the OS FOC, since it relies on the deployment of appropriate ground infrastructure and satellites. The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact, notably due to the classified nature of activities linked to PRS, which requires strong security measures for handling the information and to a large extent requires physical meetings. This milestone was initially planned for end-2021 and is now planned for end-2023 but with a risk of delay to 2024 due to issues affecting the deployment of the new Galileo infrastructure release, the so called System Build 2.0. This delay is more of a concern than any potential delays with OS FOC, as Member States need to plan defence investments associated with the use of PRS. The Commission is engaging with Member States to keep them continuously informed on risks associated with this calendar.

No Galileo service disruptions occurred in 2021. The Galileo Open Service has been delivered with excellent quality and availability, and performance of the Galileo Search and Rescue (SAR) service, including the Return Link Service has also been excellent during 2021. Work is continuously going on to improve the resilience of the Galileo system in order to ensure uninterrupted availability of all services. An operational Galileo gives the Union a strong position on the world stage of satellite navigation where the US and Russian systems are being modernised and the Chinese system is rapidly being developed.

Galileo Infrastructure

The **space segment** has been stable with 28 Galileo satellites in orbit by end of 2021 after a successful Galileo launch carried out in December 2021. The two new satellites launched in December 2021 will be incorporated into the Galileo operational constellation in the second quarter of 2022. The manufacturing of additional satellites to complete the constellation and provide sufficient spares for ensuring its continuity has continued, but with delays in the schedule due to the COVID-19 situation. The next launches of Galileo satellites were expected to take place in April 2022 (2 satellites) and in the second semester of 2022 (2 satellites). However, due to the crisis precipitated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, these launches (which were scheduled on Russian Soyuz rockets) will not take place as planned. Possibilities for use of alternative launchers are under study. In particular, the programme intends to use the European Ariane-6 launcher in the near future and the development of a specific dispenser to carry the Galileo satellites on-board Ariane-6 was initiated in 2019 and will be completed in 2022.

With regard to the **ground infrastructure**, despite delays incurred due to the COVID-19 crisis, the System Build release SB1.7 was deployed in advance of the satellite launch in December 2021. The new release meets all the requirements related to the deployment and operation of the Galileo satellites, including the upcoming “so called Batch 3” satellites. Work has also continued in parallel on the next System Builds, which will support advanced features and improved resilience of the system.

Galileo next generation

Galileo has made major progress on the preparation of the Galileo Second Generation (G2G). Following the adoption of a Commission Implementing Act in December 2020⁴, the overall schedule for G2G including the procurement of the first G2G satellites were accelerated to allow for a first launch of the second generation satellites to take place by end 2024. The technical requirements were consolidated and the first of two industrial contracts was signed in the first quarter of 2021.

EGNOS – the regional satellite navigation system

EGNOS, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service, is a fully operational regional satellite navigation system, monitoring and correcting open signals emitted by the US GPS and, in the future, Galileo. It consists of several transponders installed on geostationary satellites and a network of ground stations. By improving the accuracy and reliability of the US GPS signal over the territory of Europe, EGNOS allows users in Europe to use GPS signals, for instance, for safety-critical applications such as operating aircraft. It allows users in Europe and beyond to determine their position to around 1 metre.

The performance of the EGNOS programme that is providing satellite-based services improving the performance of GPS and is gradually covering all EU Member States, has steadily improved and just a few territories remain uncovered (i.e. the following territories have APV-I availability less than 99%: Azores of Portugal, part of Canary Islands of Spain, part of Cyprus and small

⁴ Commission Implementing Act C(2020)8969 of 17 December 2020

parts in the East of Romania and North of Scandinavia). The coverage of all of these territories is envisaged to be achieved with the launch of the EGNOS V3 technology around 2026.

The continuous provision of **EGNOS services** was successfully achieved by efficient implementation of recurrent activities and preparation of system evolutions.

To guarantee the continuity of services beyond 2020, the development of the major **EGNOS evolution V2.4.2-A** was finalised with the entry into services in fourth quarter of 2021 while the qualification of the major evolution V2.4.2-B is on-going, targeting the entry into service in 2023. These major evolutions solve major obsolescence issues and improve the coverage of European Member States' territories.

EGNOS has successfully managed the transition to a new generation Central Processing Facility⁵ with the entry into service of the EGNOS V2.4.2.A. The activities for the development of a new generation of EGNOS, the EGNOS version 3, continued.

Market uptake Galileo and EGNOS

Since the declaration of Galileo Initial Services in 2016, the market uptake of Galileo-enabled smartphones has been very rapid. In 2021, the estimated number of Galileo-enabled smartphones sold worldwide has reached more than 2.5 billion. In 2021, there were 895 Galileo-enabled smartphone and tablet models available on the market. The full overview of Galileo-enabled devices is available online: <https://www.usegalileo.eu/>. Other activities supporting the market uptake of Galileo included myGalileosolution initiative to foster the developments of applications that use Galileo signals and standardisation activities to ensure that Galileo is properly considered in standardisation bodies.

The key market segment for EGNOS is civil aviation. Today, EGNOS is used at more than 769 airports in Europe and its usage is increasing as in 2019 there were 373 airports with EGNOS-based approach procedures. This is also thanks to the requirements of Regulation 2018/1048 mandating the publication of Localizer Performance with Vertical guidance (LPV procedures) delivered by EGNOS in all instrument runway ends before January 2024. Beyond the aviation sector, EGNOS improves and extends the scope of such GNSS applications as precision farming, on-road vehicle management and navigating ships through narrow channels.

With regard to the Key monitoring indicators (2021-2027), the specific objective to provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness has been measured by the number of Galileo and EGNOS receivers in the total number of receiver models worldwide. The analysis is based on the capabilities of more than 500 receivers, chipsets and modules currently available on the market (end of Q4 2021). There is a positive trend of the increasing production of Galileo-enabled receivers that Galileo enabled and the actual progress is going towards the milestones set. In 2021, the presence of Galileo in receiver models was at 64 % of the total number of receiver models worldwide, the key market segment were consumer devices (smartphones and tablets). With regard to the EGNOS enabled receiver models, the market share stabilised at 63% of the total number of receiver models worldwide. This is because consumer solutions such as mobile phones are far less likely to be enabled for satellite based augmentation systems (only 45% uptake in Q4 2021) as such systems provide high accuracy but involve also energy costs due to continuous Signal In Space data reception. However, the low adoption rate in consumer solutions countered by an almost 100% uptake in high precision applications (such as agriculture and geomatics), while newer technologies such as drones also have a high uptake (94%) of satellite based augmentation systems. Safety of life applications benefit the most from EGNOS implementation in other segments, such as aviation, maritime, rail and road markets.

In 2021, the European Court of Auditors published a Special Report 07/2021 that assessed the measures taken by the Commission since 2014 to promote the uptake of services derived from the EU space programmes Galileo and Copernicus, towards achieving the expected economic and societal benefits. The Commission accepted the four recommendations of this report and is working towards delivering on them. The European Court of Auditors proposed four recommendations, which the Commission accepted, whereby the Commission should:

- by 2023 develop a comprehensive strategy for supporting the uptake of EU space services,
- by 2024 develop a conceptual framework for estimating the benefits of the EU space programmes and improve performance measurement,
- by 2024 ensure full readiness of Galileo and better targeted action on uptake of the EU space services,
- by 2024 ensure a better use the regulatory framework to support the uptake of EU space services.

Copernicus

Copernicus, the EU Earth observation and monitoring system, has continued to meet the criteria established in its general and specific objectives under the EU space Regulation. Robust and reliable Earth monitoring data and information were provided on a full, free and open basis. Copernicus is building on the achievement of a European autonomous access to environmental knowledge and a major role of the EU at international level. Over the past years, the key priority has been ensuring the continuity of Copernicus services, preparing the future Copernicus 2.0 and the promotion of market uptake of Copernicus services.

Copernicus Infrastructure

⁵ The "heart" of the EGNOS system, computing corrections and integrity.

The **ground segment operations** faced some difficulties to operate remotely due to the COVID-19 crisis but managed to continue operational activities. Most of the teams involved in the operations of the Copernicus space component across Europe, both within ESA and in industry, are teleworking and access to the operational centres was minimised, impacting the contingency management and the capability to timely react to potential anomalies. Special non-essential operations have been temporary suspended to focus on the continuity of the routine operations.

The Copernicus cross-cutting **in situ network**, producing quality-assured information, focused its work in 2021 on the maintenance of the Copernicus In Situ Information System (CIS) and the Copernicus Reference Data Access Portal CORDA. This facilitated access to in situ data for service providers active in the core service production. CORDA provides access to Copernicus services to almost 2000 geospatial datasets, delivered via more than 6 000 data services managed by 258 European data providers and owners.

After the successful Copernicus Sentinel 6A satellite launch on 21 November 2020, the Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich in-orbit commissioning review was completed in 2021. This satellite (S6A) provides improved and high-precision measurements of the sea level, with evident relevance for climate change observations. With **eight operating satellites in orbit**⁶, complemented by a ground infrastructure and in-situ measurements, the Copernicus monitoring capacities are successfully deployed.

Copernicus services

The six Copernicus services (land, marine, atmosphere, climate change, emergency and security) are all operational and continued to provide continuous and reliable geo-information on key indicators. For example, on biophysical parameters, temperature measurements, ocean state, levels of sea ice, greenhouse gases (GHGs), carbon dioxide (CO₂), and methane (CH₄), these being key anthropogenic drivers of climate change, wildfires, volcanic eruptions and floods. Copernicus-data based monitoring solutions i.e. for water ecosystem monitoring, coastal ecosystems monitoring, snow and ice ecosystems monitoring and terrestrial ecosystems monitoring, support EU's climate ambition for 2050 climate-neutrality and sustainability and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The Copernicus Earth observation data and information also facilitated monitoring changes to land, air, and water from corporate activities allowing to objectively, frequently and consistently measure ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) performance. Ongoing Copernicus activities additionally tried to identify possible environmental factors affecting the spread of the COVID-19 disease such as humidity, temperature or wind, as well as the impact on the environment of the reduction of human activities due to lock-down of cities/countries.

The **Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS)**, operational since April 2012, continued to provide information for emergency response in relation to different types of natural or man-made disasters worldwide. In 2021, the rapid mapping and the risk and recovery mapping on-demand services of Copernicus EMS were activated 61 and 15 times respectively and reached a milestone of attaining 500 CEMS activations in total. Notable CEMS activations included support to Germany, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg during the extreme floods in July 2021, support to Greece when faced with a devastating fire season in July/August 2021 and the most intense heatwave in the last 30 years, and support to Spain to manage the volcanic eruption in September/October 2021 in La Palma, Canarias with high resolution images showing the extent and the changes of the lava flow, the ash deposit, as well destroyed buildings, roads and facilities

The **Copernicus Security Service**, covering sub-services within three areas:

1. The Copernicus Border Surveillance service (CBS) supporting Member States, EU Agencies and EU institutions in tackling cross-border criminality and irregular migration. Apart from helping to save lives at sea, the Earth Observation tools have contributed significantly to increasing the efficiency of Frontex surveillance operations.
2. **Copernicus Maritime Surveillance service (CMS)**: 58 different Member States Administrations, EU institutions and International organizations continued using the Copernicus Maritime surveillance service in 2021 to support the monitoring of activities at sea that have an impact on areas such as: fisheries control maritime safety and security law enforcement marine environment (pollution monitoring) support to international organisations
3. **Copernicus Service in Support to EU External Action (SEA)**: in 2021, the SEA continued to provide its users with rapid, on-demand geospatial information for the detection and monitoring of events or activities outside the European borders that may have implications for European and global security. The service continued delivering custom-designed intelligence products based on the analysis of satellite imagery, taking the form of a range of printable and digital maps and reports in support of humanitarian aid, conflict and crisis, and the rule of law.

The **Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS)** continued providing systematic reference information on the marine ecosystems, both for global oceans and for the European regional seas. The future design of the CMEMS for the period 2021-2027 was in focus, seeking to match an ambitious science roadmap and the EU green deal priorities. The CMEMS published its 5th Ocean state report and successfully delivered on eutrophication⁷ monitoring at Exclusive Economic Zone in support of

⁶ Sentinel-1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 5P, 6A

⁷ Harmful algal blooms, dead zones, and fish kills are the results of a process called eutrophication—which begins with the increased load of nutrients to estuaries and coastal waters.

Eurostat reporting of SDG 14.1. The publication ‘7 years of CMES achievements (2015-2020)⁸’ was released showing an exponential user uptake in the number of users. More than 34 296 users registered for CMEMS, 4 480 users for the Copernicus WEkEO service and 324 unique products in 2021. Under the [EU4OceanObs project](#)⁹, partners worldwide were reached by means of 29 workshops and international meetings in 2021. Since June 2021, CMEMS information products are searchable per policy area with a dedicated MSFD catalogue (<https://marine.copernicus.eu/news/new-catalogue-support-msfd-joint-copernicus-marine-and-emodnet-initiative>).

The **Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS)** continued to provide various land monitoring information products at local, pan-European, global level and counted a total of 94 813 users by 2021. The CLMS Corine land cover (CLC) product was updated, the service continued the production of the HRLs2018 and the implementation of the next generation CLC+ that will support the LULUCF (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) reporting obligations. A series of 2018 updates of the local hotspot monitoring products (Urban Atlas, Riparian Zones, Natura2000, Coastal Zones monitoring information with the CMEMS) were updated in 2021, and were further enriched, such as the 3D information (building block height) included in Urban Atlas. The High Resolution Vegetation Phenology and Productivity layer covering the period 2017-2020 was published on the standard WEkEO interface. The global land monitoring continued to provide on a ten daily basis over 20 variables, supporting the monitoring of vegetation, agriculture, energy, cryosphere and water cycle. The 500 metre ‘Lake Ice Extent over Northern Hemisphere’ product was released as well as the 1 km ‘Snow Cover Extent Northern Hemisphere’ product that was added to the regular production chains. The sectoral activity Copernicus4GEOGLAM, completed its first round of field campaigns for collection of ground observations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In 2021, the ‘in season agriculture mask and crop type mapping’ were completed for these areas and were added to the hotspots explorer.

The **Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS)** continually monitored air quality worldwide and reported a total of 117.419 users at by the third quarter of 2021. CAMS contributed significantly to the debates on the links between air quality and COVID-19 symptoms. CAMS supports research by providing information on the distribution and evolution of fine particulate matter close to Earth’s surface. To make relevant air quality information easier to access, CAMS has built the web-based [CAMS COVID resource](#), which includes graphs and animations to support researchers, policymakers and the public. CAMS data is also feeding the joint Commission and ESA Rapid Action on Coronavirus platform: <https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/european-air-quality-information-support-covid-19-crisis>. CAMS also continued to monitor global wildfire activity as well as the resulting emission of pollutants. Quality-assured information about the state of the ozone layer supported in particular the monitoring of the Antarctic ozone hole which is considerably larger again in 2021.

Another positive development came when the three CAMS information products were taken up in the 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report. Thereby these CAMS information products supported a widely respected report on the physical understanding of the climate system and climate change.

The **Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)**, operational since June 2018, which routinely monitors the Earth’s climate, provided throughout 2021 continuous and reliable information on key indicators such as temperature, sea ice and CO₂ levels. In October 2021, the number of users registered exceeded 100,000. The climate data store keeps delivering to its users some ~2 PB per month of quality-controlled climate data and is serving global re-analysis, multi-model seasonal forecasts, Essential Climate Variables (ECV) products and other datasets as they become available. ERA5, C3S most popular dataset, provides hourly estimates for a large number of atmospheric, ocean-wave and land-surface quantities. User can now consult the hourly time-series for any meteorological parameter from 1950 to near real time (5 days before present).

C3S and CMAS received broad coverage in top-tier media outlets, in Europe and beyond, across TV, radio, print and online thanks to its proactive outreach to the press regarding the service's climate intelligence products such as its monthly climate bulletin. Through a TV media partnership with Euronews (<https://www.euronews.com/programs/climate-now>), where C3S sponsors and provides content for the programme Climate Now, C3S reaches around 7.7 million viewers per quarter. Furthermore, under a partnership with the global broadcaster CNN, data driven content from the service, along with that of CAMS, reaches around 268.7 million people across the world each quarter.

The added value of Copernicus CAMS and C3S services in the context of climate adaptation were put at centre stage when presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021, in Glasgow (UK) during a session called "Climate adaptation enabled through the Copernicus Services and international cooperation"¹⁰.

Copernicus next generation

Evolution plans and the preparations for Copernicus 2.0 requires the renewal of the existing Delegation Agreements with entrusted entities for the next seven years. A number of Contribution Agreements were negotiated and signed by end 2021 (also see section 2.1). In 2021, an industry survey (request for information) and an industry workshop were organised to prepare the revision of the Copernicus Contributing Missions (CCM). Future missions will feature Copernicus commercial satellite data. European new space is expected to answer to the Copernicus services’ very high resolution data need.

⁸ <https://marine.copernicus.eu/news/copernicus-1-marine-service-achievements-2015-2021>

⁹ project led by DG FPI on behalf of DG DEFIS and RTD

¹⁰ Session organised by ECMWF in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and DG DEFIS

Copernicus user and market uptake

Copernicus is reaching more than 497,286 registered users on the open hub and as shown by the reported KPIs on satisfaction to the user needs with a high level of satisfaction from users. The overall number of Copernicus Sentinel products which were available for download on the open hub by the end of third quarter of 2021 was 45 million data products, corresponding to 29.95 PiB¹¹ of data. This is the total number of Sentinel-1,-2,-3 and -5P products.

Copernicus has successfully embraced the big data revolution in various ways. Most notable was the setting up of the **Data Access and Information Services (DIAS)** collocating Copernicus data and information procured with European Earth Observation (EO) and cloud providers and making it available on line and near-line ready to be processed on demand. The progress in the quality of the services and the completeness of the data on offer have been steady. The development of a Copernicus integrated data management approach seeks to streamline the data access infrastructures and interfaces to provide a more consistent experience of Copernicus data and information. By working closely with the existing dissemination infrastructures of the different Copernicus components and building on the DIAS technological approach, Copernicus will offer to users more robust and feature-rich data and information exploitation infrastructures eventually providing a Copernicus data and information space. It will allow for the provisions of data analytics tools by third parties for the user benefits and also enable the European digital Big Data projects implementation.

With regard to the market uptake, the EUSPA EO and GNSS Market Report estimates that over the next decade the revenues are set to double from roughly EUR 2.8 billion to over EUR 5.5 billion as the market for Earth Observation applications is boosted by a large pool of value-added services (i.e. 85% of global revenue)¹². The top five segments, namely Urban Development and Cultural Heritage, Agriculture, Climate Services, Energy and Raw Materials, and Infrastructures, generate over half of global revenues (i.e. 55%). The Insurance and Finance segment is expected to experience the fastest growth over the next decade for both data and value-added service revenues, boosted by the growing use and demand for parametric insurance products in the context of disaster resilience frameworks. Although the European EO industry is dominated by SMEs and start-ups, from a supply perspective, European companies hold over 41% of the global EO market.

Copernicus is a major building block to start the development of **DestinationEarth** project¹³ by providing massive amounts of Earth Observation and monitoring data and information and outputs from modelling services¹⁴. **DestinationEarth** is developing digital twins of the Earth, related to climate adaptation and weather-induced extreme events. The key value for Copernicus is to own an operational service framework fully connected to beneficiaries and demonstrating its high quality of standards. In addition, Copernicus proposes an integrated data management concept to foster the reuse of the former Copernicus DIAS investment to contribute to the future CONNECT digital platform (cloud+High Performance Computing).

DG DEFIS also worked closely with DG JRC to set up the **Knowledge Centre for Earth Observation (KCEO)** to ensure the uptake of Copernicus within/by user-DGs. The KCEO is an important tool to boost the uptake of Copernicus services' information products within cross-sectoral policy areas. The KCEO involves some 17 user DGs across the Commission, closely coordinated with DG R&I and CNECT.

The second phase of the action deploying a Farm Sustainability tool and platform jointly supported by DG DEFIS, DG AGRI, and DG DIGIT (ISA² Programme) was extended and carried out in further Member States in 2021. The **FaST** digital service platform will make available capabilities for agriculture, environment and sustainability to EU farmers, Member State Paying Agencies, farm advisors and developers of digital solutions. The vision of this project is for the FaST to become a common platform for the generation and re-use of solutions for sustainable and competitive agriculture based on space data (Copernicus and Galileo) and other public and private datasets.

The **international dimension** has been enlarged through specific agreements signed with several countries, adding to the role of the EU in international fora and conferences, including various UN agencies. With the conventional data access infrastructure (e.g. ESA Open hub) and the setting up of the Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS), the entire Copernicus database is available on a **free, full and open data policy**, including to GEOSS¹⁵ members. This means that users (public authorities, companies, researchers, NGOs...) have the possibility to choose from which platform they prefer to access the data and information. The target of 100 % excludes the restricted products from the Emergency and Security Services.

Cooperation arrangements have been concluded with the United States, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the African Union Commission, India, Serbia and Ukraine. Whereas the timeline of discussions with Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Argentina, Indonesia, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis with no new arrangement signed with international partners in 2021. In 2018, the European Commission took over the chair of the Committee for Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and is now recognised as a major space player. Copernicus is regarded as the global benchmark for Earth Observation. At the 34th Plenary CEOS, the Greenhouse Gas Roadmap for CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and

¹¹ 1 PiB = 250 bytes

¹² <https://www.euspa.europa.eu/2022-market-report>

¹³ part of the Digital Europe Programme and Horizon Europe and co-lead by DG CNECT, DEFIS, RTD, JRC

¹⁴ the Climate Change service, the Atmosphere Monitoring Service, the Marine Environment Monitoring Service, the Land Monitoring Service and the Emergency Management Service

¹⁵ Global Earth Observation System of Systems

CH4 (methane) was endorsed. Thanks to European leadership, space agencies operating Earth Observation satellites worldwide are coordinating on relevant observations from space to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as, other policies of international or global nature such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the European Development Policy. Furthermore, the joint EU-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Council adopted on 29 October 2021 the Decision to incorporate relevant parts of the EU Space Programme Regulation into the European Economic Area Agreement (for Norway and Iceland).

SST/SSA

Space Situational Awareness (SSA) is a new component of the EU Space Programme. SSA is a holistic approach, including comprehensive knowledge and understanding, to the main space hazards: encompassing collision between space objects, fragmentation and re-entry of space objects into the atmosphere (grouped under SST domain), space weather phenomena (SWE), and near earth objects (NEO).

SST sub-component

At the operational level, the EU is active in the field of Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) since 2014 (Decision 541/2014). The EU SST Consortium delivers three SST services related to risk assessment of collision, detection and characterisation of in-orbit fragmentations, break-ups or collisions, and risk assessment of the uncontrolled re-entry. Currently, the EU SST Consortium is providing collision avoidance services to more than 260 European spacecraft and serves more than 130 organisations from 23 EU Member States.

The objectives of the SST sub-component are to enhance safety, security and sustainability of all outer space activities pertaining to space objects and debris proliferation, as well as space environment. This is done by implementing appropriate measures, including development and deployment of technologies for spacecraft disposal at the end of operational lifetime and for space debris disposal. A new SST Partnership will take over the activities performed by the SST Consortium regarding the provision of SST services at Union level while ensuring a smooth transition and the continuity of the provision of SST services.

To further support the implementation of the SST Decision, to ensure a seamless transition without EU SST service discontinuity and to allow for time necessary for the establishment of the future EUSST Partnership, two main objectives were prioritised in 2021: uninterrupted provision of SST services and establishment of the EUSST Partnership. The Commission has decided to extend until 31 December 2022 the ongoing grant (“1SST2018-2020”) managed by the EUSST Consortium. The extension was announced in the adopted SSA Work Programme 2021. The Commission services worked at the same time on the preparation of an Implementing Decision on the participation of Member States in the SST sub-component and the establishment of the SST Partnership.

GOVSATCOM

GOVSATCOM is a new component of the EU Space Programme. A preparatory action was started prior to 2021 with funding support by the European Parliament. This Preparatory Action has supported a series of activities, in view of the successful start of the operational GOVSATCOM component of the EU Space Programme. The focus of the preparatory actions has been on: interface with users, operational user requirements, security requirements and procurement of the secure operational ground segment studies.

The implementation of the GOVSATCOM component will consist of preparing the grounds for a timely and appropriate level of adoption of the GOVSATCOM services when they will start to be provided; and continuation of the procurement of the GOVSATCOM ground segment infrastructure. These objectives are implemented through own resources, actions in direct management and actions in indirect management.

The first priority in 2021 is to start consolidating the implementing acts for the GOVSATCOM service portfolio, the operational requirements, the general security requirements, the location of the Hub(s) and the sharing and prioritisation of resources. The second priority is supervising and supporting the procurement of GOVSATCOM Hubs, which is entrusted to EUSPA. In parallel, downstream research for GOVSATCOM services uptake and upstream technology are being carried out respectively by EUSPA and ESA. Thirdly, the Commission is preparing the adoption of GOVSATCOM services through specific outreach activities. Finally, the Commission is working with Member States for the consolidation of the security requirements of GOVSATCOM. No infrastructure of GOVSATCOM has been deployed yet (procurement ongoing). Therefore, no GOVSATCOM services can be provided yet.

CASSINI

To foster innovation and support the emerging European New Space industry, in particular the small and medium-sized enterprises, the CASSINI initiative was rolled out in 2021. The actions under this initiative are funded by the Union space programme, Horizon Europe and InvestEU.

To raise interest in becoming an entrepreneur in the space area, a contract for CASSINI Hackathons was launched in 2021. Two large events took place online and in ten locations each, in June and November 2021, respectively.

The next action, the CASSINI Matchmaking which will be bringing together start-ups with investors and large companies, will be launched in April 2022 and with the first event planned to take place in June 2022.

Later in the year 2022, the CASSINI Business Accelerator, with the aim to improve business skills and networks among start-up companies, will be launched.

The lack of risk capital will be improved by the CASSINI Seed and Growth Funding Facility. This action will be starting in the second quarter of 2022 and is expected to strengthen private investment in space-related companies. EIF will be acting as an implementing partner for this action.

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

EGNOS and Galileo

To ensure continuity during the transition from the old to the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), some core programme activities for EGNOS and Galileo, carried in 2021, were financed under the previous MFF budget. These activities focused in particular on the rolling operations of the ground and space infrastructure and the satellites deployed to ensure continuous provision of services.

Two Galileo satellites were launched in December 2021 therefore the number of satellites in orbit has increased to 28. Of these, one satellite is unavailable for operational use, an additional satellite is available as in-orbit spare but not participating in the operational constellation. There are also 2 satellites that due to a launch anomaly in 2014 were placed into non-nominal eccentric orbits. These satellites have been contributing to the Search and Rescue service for several years. The 2 newly launched satellites are expected to contribute to the Galileo services including the SAR from the second quarter of 2022.

On the Galileo ground infrastructure, a new version, System Build 1.7, was deployed and is supporting the requirements associated with the launch in December 2021 and planned launches in 2022 and the increased number of satellites. The System Build 2.0, which is the baseline for Galileo Full Operational Capability will be deployed in the fourth quarter of 2023 instead of by the end of 2020, due to reasons that are directly linked to the incident in July 2019 and delays due to the COVID-19 (also see section 3.1.2 on Galileo infrastructure).

With regards to the EGNOS coverage extension, the 1-2% of EU land-masses not covered are known (Azores of Portugal, North East part of Finland and Eastern part of Cyprus) and these parts will only be covered when the new generation EGNOS V3 will become operational. The activities for the development of a new generation of EGNOS, the EGNOS version 3 continued (also see section 3.1.2 on EGNOS).

Copernicus

To ensure continuity during the transition from the old to the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), some core programme activities for Copernicus, carried in 2021, were financed under the previous MFF budget. These activities focused in particular on the continuation of the six Copernicus services, the maintenance of the Copernicus cross-cutting in situ network and the rolling operations of the space infrastructure and the satellites deployed to ensure continuous production

The Copernicus satellite Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich in-orbit commissioning review was completed in 2021. It established that with eight operating satellites in orbit, complemented by a ground infrastructure and in-situ measurements, the Copernicus monitoring capacities are successfully deployed (also see section 3.1.2. Copernicus Infrastructure).

3.2. Key achievements

EGNOS and Galileo

More than 2.5 billion	3 times better	5	2 more satellites	Less than 10 minutes	Less than 15 minutes	5- metre	18	57
Galileo-enabled devices in use.	positioning accuracy performance compared to other	unique new Galileo services are under development and close to deployment:	Successfully launched in Dec 2021, bringing the number of satellites	time required by Galileo’s Search and Rescue service to detect emergency distress beacons, compared to up to	time required by Galileo’s Search and Rescue service to send an acknowledgement message to the beacon in distress.	accuracy of Galileo’s E112 location information, compared to 2-10 km accuracy displayed by the	Member States are ready to process 112-emergency call location driven by Galileo	car brands are commercialising models with Galileo

	GNSS, with an excellent availability.	The Galileo Open Service Navigation Message Authentication (OSNMA) and Galileo High Accuracy Service (HAS), which are both in live testing phase. The Commercial Authentication Service (CAS), Emergency Warning Service (EWS) and Timing Service (TS).	in orbit to 28.	3 hours previously required.	This is a unique feature of Galileo.	Global Systems for Mobile Communications Cell ID-based technology.		worldwide
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Copernicus

8	497,286	324	76	217	91	100.000	45 million	45 mio products = 29.95 PiB ¹⁶	34 000
Copernicus satellites are in orbit	497,286 registered users are accessing the European data access points and over 2021.	information products are available in the Copernicus Marine Environment Service catalogue.	activations of the Rapid Mapping and the Risk and Recovery Mapping on-demand services were reported in 2021.	economic indicators in the Rapid Action Coronavirus Earth observation dashboard to monitor the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.	products are provided under the Copernicus Land Monitoring service.	registered users on the Copernicus Climate Change service have access to more than 70TB of quality-controlled climate data per day (status December 2021)	data products have been published in 2021.	downloaded by 497,286 registered users of the Copernicus data access portals.	users of the Copernicus Marine service.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

- SWD(2018) 327 - Final Impact Assessment accompanying the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for Space Programme

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To provide long term, state-of-the-art and, secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness

Indicator 1: Accuracy of navigation and timing services provided by Galileo and EGNOS separately

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
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¹⁶ A pebibyte (PiB) is a unit of measure used to describe data capacity. One pebibyte equals 250 bytes.

Galileo horizontal accuracy										
2021	Milestones									2027
1.8				4						4
	Actual Progress									Final
	1.8									
Are we on track :	On track									
Galileo vertical accuracy										
2021	Milestones									2027
2.8				8						8
	Actual Progress									Final
	2.8									
Are we on track :	On track									
EGNOS horizontal accuracy										
2021	Milestones									2027
2				1.5						1.5
	Actual Progress									Final
	1									
Are we on track :	On track									
EGNOS vertical accuracy										
2021	Milestones									2027
3				2.5						2.5
	Actual Progress									Final
	1.5									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Metres
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2027
Data source	EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Programme); EGNOS Service Provider Monthly Performance Report (January 2022).
Link to the objective	To provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	Galileo horizontal and vertical accuracy is measured 95% of the time. EGNOS horizontal and vertical accuracy is measured 95 % of the time.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On Galileo, the achieved positioning accuracy is already significantly better than the commitment. The primary goal for the future is to ensure that the level of accuracy achieved is maintained in a stable and consistent manner. On EGNOS, better accuracy than expected was achieved mainly due to the high number of GPS satellites improving the geometry and the low impact of ionosphere due to the mild conditions.

Indicator 2: Availability and continuity of services provided by Galileo and EGNOS separately

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Galileo availability										
2021	Milestones									2027
99.5%				99.5%						99.5%
	Actual Progress									Final
	99.5%									
Are we on track :	On track									
Galileo continuity										
2021	Milestones									
Not yet defined										
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
EGNOS availability - APV-I										
2021	Milestones									2027
97%				99%						99%

	Actual Progress								Final
	97%								
Are we on track :	On track								
EGNOS availability - LPV-200									
2021	Milestones								2027
95%	95%								95%
	Actual Progress								Final
	95%								
Are we on track :	On track								
EGNOS continuity - APV-I									
2021	Milestones								2027
98%	98%								98%
	Actual Progress								Final
	98%								
Are we on track :	On track								
EGNOS continuity - LPV-200									
2021	Milestones								2027
93%	85%								93%
	Actual Progress								Final
	93%								
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2027
Data source	EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Programme)
Link to the objective	To provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	The Galileo continuity is not yet defined. It will be defined in the applicable issue of the Open Service-Service Definition Document (OS-SDD) which is expected in the course of 2022. EGNOS: APV-I = Approach procedure with vertical guidance, category 1. LPV-200= Localizer Performance with Vertical guidance to a decision altitude of 200ft. EGNOS availability - APV-I - is measured as the percentage of EU territories with APV-I availability more than 99% of the time. EGNOS availability - LPV-200- is measured as the percentage of EU territories with LPV-200 availability more than 99% of the time. EGNOS continuity - APV-I - is measured as the percentage of EU territories with APV-I continuity risk better than 5*10-4/15 seconds. EGNOS continuity - LPV-200 - is measured as the percentage of EU territories with LPV-200 continuity risk better than 5*10-4/15 seconds.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	For Galileo, the availability of the positioning and timing services already meets and exceeds the final target value, and the goal for the future is to ensure that the availability is maintained and stable. Continuity requirements for Galileo will be defined by the time Full Operational Capability is declared. Accuracy of the services are already well above the target values and will not be impacted. For EGNOS, the APV-I availability is expected to reach 99% in 2024 and keep the performance till the end of the period; for LPV-200 the same performance is expected to be maintained (95%) for the next years. In terms of continuity, while for APV-I the performance is expected to be maintained (98%), a degradation in continuity is expected for LPV-200 in 2024 (85%) to the increased solar activity; a recovery is targeted by the end of this period (93%).

Indicator 3: EGNOS services geographical coverage

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones								2027	
97%	97%								99%	
	Actual Progress								Final	
	97%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage geographical coverage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2027

Data source	EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Programme)
Link to the objective	To provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator replacing the former Objective 2 - indicator 1
Other methodological comments	% of the EU territories with more than 99% of APV-I service level availability.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The compliance will likely be reduced in the coming years where there will be the solar peak of cycle 25 (2023-2026) and then an improvement is expected for compliance similar to the target in 2027.

Indicator 4: Number of EGNOS procedures published (both APV-I and LPV-200)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
690	Actual Progress									Final
	769				900					1 150
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of airports with EGNOS procedures
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2027
Data source	EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Programme)
Link to the objective	To provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator replacing the former Objective 2 - indicator 2
Other methodological comments	Number of LPV (i.e. APV-I) and LPV-200 procedures
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend will be positive and it is expected that by the end of this MFF all the EU instrument runway ends will have EGNOS procedures.

Indicator 5: EU user satisfaction with respect to Galileo and EGNOS services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
EU user satisfaction with respect to Galileo services										
2021	Milestones									2027
80%	Actual Progress									Final
	80%					85%				90%
Are we on track :	On track									
EU user satisfaction with respect to EGNOS services										
2021	Milestones									2027
85%	Actual Progress									Final
	85%									90%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage, based on index value satisfaction survey
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2027
Data source	EUSPA (European Union Agency for the Space Programme)
Link to the objective	To provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	This indicator measures the user satisfaction perceived by the users that participated in the annual user satisfaction survey organised by the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) in cooperation with the European GNSS Service Centre for Galileo users and European Satellite Services Provider for EGNOS users. Global user satisfaction score out of 10, based on the user satisfaction survey on year 2020, performed in Dec 2020-April 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend is expected to be positive as the availability of the services will increase.

Indicator 6: Share of Galileo and EGNOS enabled receivers in the worldwide and the EU Global Navigation Satellite Systems/ Satellite Based Augmentation System (GNSS/SBAS) receivers market

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Share of Galileo enabled receivers worldwide										
	Milestones									2027
57					63					70
	Actual Progress									Final
	57									
Are we on track :	On track									
Share of EGNOS enabled receivers worldwide										
	Milestones									2027
63					64					65
	Actual Progress									Final
	63									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2027
Data source	European Union Space Agency (EUSPA) Earth Observation and GNSS Market Report
Link to the objective	To provide long-term, state-of-the-art and secure positioning, navigation and timing services whilst ensuring service continuity and robustness
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator replacing the former General Objective 1 - indicator 1. This indicator will be continued in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Galileo and EGNOS penetration in receiver models, worldwide is based on EUSPA’s independent analysis assesses the capabilities of more than 500 receivers, chipsets and modules currently available on the market (end of Q4 2021). For the analysis, each device is weighted equally, regardless of whether it is a chipset or receiver and no matter what its sales volume is. The results should therefore be interpreted as the split of constellation support in manufacturers’ offerings, rather than what is in use by end users. The analysis includes all major receiver manufacturers in Europe and worldwide.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	For Galileo receivers the market share shall increase gradually. For EGNOS receivers the market share is stabilised and is not expected to increase substantially for the reasons explained in the performance section.

Specific Objective 2: To deliver accurate and reliable Earth Observation data, information and services integrating other data sources, supplied on a long-term sustainable basis, to support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of the Union and its Member States' policies, and actions based on user requirements

Indicator 1: Number of EU users of Copernicus Services, Copernicus data, and Data and Information Access Systems (DIAS) providing, where possible, information such as the type of user, geographical distribution and sector of activity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
400 000					1 000 000					1 200 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	857 273									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of users (registered)
Cut-Off Date	30/01/2028
Data source	Quarterly and Semester reports and data dissemination dashboards
Link to the objective	To provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security. To enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicator replacing the former Objective 1 - indicator 1 of last MFF “Number of engaged users showing sustained uptake through registered data download”
Other methodological comments	EU users (27) for this indicator are considered to be users from EU Member States (and their oversea

	territories), and include EFTA users and users from other participating states, EU agencies and institutions.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Vast number of registered users expected to grow steadily with a further increase once the Copernicus CO2 missions are launched and will be delivering data.

Indicator 2: Where applicable, number of activations of Copernicus Services requested and/or served

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
76	300									500
	Actual Progress									Final
	76									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of requests for services (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2028
Data source	Quarterly and Semester reports of the Copernicus Services
Link to the objective	- to provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security; - to "enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator under MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	The indicator is the number of on-demand services for EMS service (not limited to rapid mapping) and security services, all types included. In the future, this indicator may also possibly include other services in case they develop on-demand services.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Based on the 2012-2021 trend

Indicator 3: EU User satisfaction with respect to Copernicus Services and DIAS

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
90%	95%									98%
	Actual Progress									Final
	90%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage, based on index value satisfaction survey
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2028
Data source	Based upon a yearly user survey
Link to the objective	To maximise the socio-economic benefits, in particular by fostering the development of an innovative and competitive European upstream and downstream sectors, including small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups, thereby enabling growth and job creation in the Union and promoting the widest possible uptake and use of the data, information and services provided by the Programme's components both within and outside the Union; while ensuring synergies and complementarity with the Union's research and technological development activities carried out under the Horizon Europe Regulation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Replacing the former objective 1- indicator 2: "Progression in number of satisfied users expressed by the percentage of returning and engaged users"
Other methodological comments	Complex calculation because it will be based on different user satisfaction surveys.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Copernicus is a user-driven programme and seeks to maximise the satisfaction of its users.

Indicator 4: Reliability, availability and continuity of the Copernicus Services and Copernicus data stream

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Availability of the Copernicus Services and Copernicus data stream										
2019	Milestones									2029
94				97						99

	Actual Progress								Final
	99.97								
Are we on track :	On track								
Reliability of the Copernicus Services and Copernicus data stream									
2022	Milestones								2029
95					97				99
	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :	No data								
Continuity of the Copernicus Services and Copernicus data stream									
2022	Milestones								2029
95					97				99
	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :	No data								

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2028
Data source	Copernicus Data dashboards, Quarterly Implementation Reports and Semestrial reports
Link to the objective	- to provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security; - to "enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Replacing the former objective 2 - Indicator 1: "The accomplishment of the space infrastructure in terms of satellites deployed and data it produces for integration into geo-information services" and Objective 3- Indicator 1: "Sustained availability of in-situ data for supporting Copernicus services"
Other methodological comments	On availability: complex calculation as it will be a combined indicator based on the availability of the different Copernicus services and Copernicus data stream. Reliability and reliability indicator values are indicative and remain tbc.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Maximising the availability, reliability and continuity.

Indicator 5: Number of information products delivered in the portfolio of each Copernicus Service

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones								2029	
88					96					100
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2028
Data source	Copernicus Services Data/information products' dashboards
Link to the objective	- to provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security; - to "enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The indicator will be a combined/composed indicator because each of the 6 Copernicus services produces information products.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Number of information products are based on the available budget which allows mainly for (enhanced) continuity. Additional information and data will become available once the Copernicus CO2 missions are launched.

Indicator 6: Amount of data generated by the Sentinels

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
35.000.000 data products corresponding to more than 330 million Gigabytes					85.000.000 data products					125.000.000 data products
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	IT data amount (volume of data in Pbytes per year, number of data products generated per year)
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2028
Data source	Quarterly reports and data dissemination dashboards
Link to the objective	- to provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security; - to "enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The calculation is based on ESA dashboard. Increase is due to the launch of Sentinel4, Sentinel5 and CO2 expansion mission. Other candidate missions are not taken into account since their launch is expected after 2028. The possible launch of C/D units do not affect the calculation since they will replace A or B units at end of lifetime.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Steady increase with spikes in the years where new Sentinels are launched.

Specific Objective 3: To enhance Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) capabilities to monitor, track and identify space objects and space debris, with the aim to further increase the performance and autonomy of SST capabilities at Union level, to provide space weather services and to map and network Member States Near-Earth Objects (NEO) capacities

Indicator 1: Number of EU users of SSA components providing, where possible, information such as the type of user, geographical distribution and sector of activity.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of users (Organisations)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EU SST Consortium, EU SST Front Desk
Link to the objective	Enhance safety, security and sustainability of all outer space activities pertaining to space objects and debris proliferation, as well as space environment, by implementing appropriate measures, including development and deployment of technologies for spacecraft disposal at the end of operational lifetime and for space debris disposal.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The baseline for the indicator measuring the number of EU users of SSA components will be set at zero (0) as the future SST Partnership does not exist yet. First data expected in the course of 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Availability of services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of available services
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	EU SST Consortium, EU SST Front Desk
Link to the objective	Enhance safety, security and sustainability of all outer space activities pertaining to space objects and debris proliferation, as well as space environment, by implementing appropriate measures, including development and deployment of technologies for spacecraft disposal at the end of operational lifetime and for space debris disposal.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Considering the lack of historical data, the baseline and target values remain tbd and will depend on the type of EU SSA/SST and Space Weather Service selected. First data are expected by 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: To ensure the long-term availability of reliable, secure and cost-effective satellite communications services for GOVSATCOM users

Indicator 1: Number of EU users of GOVSATCOM providing, where possible, information such as the type of user, geographical distribution and sector of activity.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of users
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission, GOVSATCOM Hub
Link to the objective	Provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security; Enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies;
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is not yet applicable, as the services will start to be provided in 2024.

Indicator 2: Availability of Services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of available services
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission, GOVSATCOM Hub

Link to the objective	Provide, or contribute to the provision of, high-quality and up-to-date and, where appropriate, secure space-related data, information and services without interruption and wherever possible at global level, meeting existing and future needs and able to support the Union's political priorities and related evidence-based and independent decision making, inter alia for climate change and, transport, security; Enhance safety, the security of the Union and its Member States, and reinforce its autonomy, in particular in terms of technologies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is not yet applicable, as the services will start to be provided in 2024.

Specific Objective 5: To support an autonomous, secure and cost-efficient capability to access space, taking into account the essential security interests of the Union

Indicator 1: Number of launches for the Programme (including numbers by type of launchers)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	1 Soyuz (Galileo#L11)	2 Soyuz (Galileo#L12 and L13)	1 Ariane6 (Galileo#L14) 1 Vega-C (Copernicus Sentinel-1C)	2 Ariane6 (Galileo#L15 and L17) 1 Vega-C (Copernicus Sentinel-2C)	2 Ariane6 (Galileo#L16 & L18) 2 Vega-C (1 Copernicus Sentinel-3C and 1 Copernicus Sentinel-1C) 2 M-A)	2 Ariane6 (Galileo#L19 and L20) 1 Vega-C (Copernicus Sentinel-2M-B)	2 Ariane6 (Galileo#L21 and L22)	2 Ariane6 (Galileo#L23 and L24)	2 Ariane6 (Galileo#L25 and L26)	20 (15 Galileo, 5 Copernicus)
Actual Progress										Final
	1 Soyuz (Galileo#L11)									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2029
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	To support an autonomous, secure and cost-efficient capability to access space, taking into account the essential security interests of the Union
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Based on the available and foreseen budget to maintain and ensure the current and new services under the EU space programme with the launch of satellites.

Specific Objective 6: To foster the development of strong Union, space economy including by supporting space ecosystem and by reinforcing the competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity building in all Member States and Union, with particular regard to small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups or legal and natural persons from the Union active or wishing to become active in that sector.

Indicator 1: Number and location of space hubs in the Union

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
38	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of space hubs, ecosystem impact
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission (with inputs from Member States + ESA + other stakeholders)

Link to the objective	To foster the development of a strong Union space economy including by supporting the space ecosystem and by reinforcing the competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity building in all Member States and Union regions, with particular regard to small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups or legal and natural persons from the Union active or wishing to become active in that sector
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The baseline was set out on the basis of an ad-hoc study (Mapping, Analysis and Characterization of “Space Hubs” in the EU, PwC, June 2019). To be noted, the number of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) will be counted under this indicator instead of ‘Space hubs’ as such given that these are interconnected and often overlap with the wider ICT and digital industrial ecosystem etc. More data on the milestones and the target value are expected by the end of 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Share of SMEs established in the EU as a proportion of the total value of the contracts relating to the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	To foster the development of a strong Union space economy including by supporting the space ecosystem and by reinforcing the competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, skills and capacity building in all Member States and Union regions, with particular regard to small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups or legal and natural persons from the Union active or wishing to become active in that sector
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	In absence of historical data, the baseline for this indicators remains to be determined on the basis of an ad-hoc study. The target will be determined taking into account the baseline and the programme’s technical expectations. First data are expected in the course of 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available yet.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems (EGNOS and Galileo)

Specific Objective 1: To develop and provide global satellite-based radio navigation infrastructures and services (Galileo) by 2020

Indicator 1: Galileo infrastructure Cumulative number of operational satellites

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
4	Actual Progress									Final
	3	9	18	22	26	26	26	28		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of satellites
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	European Space Agency and European GNSS Agency
Narrative	This indicator was chosen as it impacts the quality and coverage of the GNSS services provided. The 30 satellite target includes allowance for in-orbit spares that ensure service continuity in case of unexpected events. Users are already experiencing excellent performance levels with the number of

	satellites that are currently in orbit.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Two Galileo satellites were launched in December 2021. Therefore the number of satellites in orbit has increased to 28. Of these, one satellite is unavailable for operational use, an additional satellite is available as in-orbit spare but not participating in the operational constellation. There are also 2 satellites that due to a launch anomaly in 2014 were placed into non-nominal eccentric orbits. These satellites have been contributing to the Search and Rescue service for several years. The 2 newly launched satellites are undergoing in-orbit testing and once they are successfully tested they are expected to contribute to the Galileo services including the SAR in early 2022. The next launches of satellites were planned in April 2022 (2 satellites) and in the second semester of 2022 (2 satellites). However, due to the crisis precipitated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, these launches (which were scheduled on Russian Soyuz rockets) will not take place as planned.

Indicator 2: Galileo infrastructure New terrestrial infrastructure deployed version

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
June 2011	Milestones									2020
In orbit validation (IOV) initial configuration	IOV final configuration	Ground Segment Version 2.0	System Build 1.5.0	System Build 1.5.0	System build 1.5.1	System build 1.5.1	System build 1.5.1	SystemBuild 1.5.1 then SystemBuild 1.7	SystemBuild 1.7	System Build 2.0
	Actual Progress									Final
		GSM Version 2.1/GCS 2.0	SystemBuild 1.5.0	SB 1.5.0	SB 1.5.0	Migration ongoing to system build 1.5.1	Migration ongoing to system build 1.5.1	SystemBuild 1.7		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	System build validation
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Space Agency and European Union Space Agency (EUSPA)
Narrative	This indicator was chosen as it impacts the quality and coverage of the GNSS services provided
Methodology	Once the System Build are deployed and validated, this ongoing metric monitors the status of the Galileo ground segment. Performance commitments are associated with System build validation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	The system upgrade System Build 1.5.1 which will improve the operability, robustness and security of the system was delayed in 2018 due to changes in the composition of the industry consortium due to BREXIT. The System Build 1.5.1 was expected be implemented in 2019 but the migration was further prolonged due to the impact of the technical incident of July 2019. The complete System Build 1.5.1 is now expected to be fully in operations by April 2021. The more recently defined System Build SB1.7, which provides all functionality necessary to support the upcoming satellite launches, was deployed in September 2021. System Build 2.0, which is the baseline for Galileo Full Operational Capability (FOC) will be deployed in Q4 2023, which is in line with the current roadmap to FOC.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The system upgrade System Build 1.5.1 which will improve the operability, robustness and security of the system was delayed in 2018 due to changes in the composition of the industry consortium due to BREXIT. The System Build 1.5.1 was expected be implemented in 2019 but the migration was prolonged due to the impact of the technical incident of July 2019. The complete System Build 1.5.1 is now expected to be fully in operations by April 2021. System Build 1.7 was deployed is supporting the requirements associated with the launch in December 2021 and upcoming launches in 2022 and the increased number of satellites. The System Build 2.0, which is the baseline for Galileo Full Operational Capability will be deployed in Q4 2023 instead of by the end of 2020, due to reasons that are directly linked to the incident in July 2019 and delays due to the COVID-19.

Specific Objective 2: To provide satellite-based services improving the performance of GPS to gradually cover the whole ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) region by 2020 (EGNOS) and European neighbouring countries

Indicator 1: Progress of the EGNOS coverage extension versus agreed coverage extension

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2015	Milestones									2020

										98,2%
	Actual Progress									Final
		98,98%	98,9%	98,7%	99,1%	98,2%	97%			98,2%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of Geographical coverage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EUSPA Quarterly Implementation Reports
Narrative	The geographical area is where EGNOS services meet the accuracy, availability, continuity and integrity levels. The current EGNOS Service Evolution Plan (SEP) sets out the baseline for the implementation of the EGNOS mission and security requirements. It defines the extension of EGNOS services over the European territory in terms of their availability, which is depicted in a form of 'availability maps'.
Methodology	The progress of EGNOS APV-I coverage extension versus the Programme objective to cover EU28 states (plus Norway and Switzerland) is reported through the percentage of EU28-NO-CH land masses that effectively achieve APV-I 99% availability coverage (i.e. observed EGNOS performance). APV-I = Approach procedure with vertical guidance, category 1.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	A similar indicator will be reported in MFF 21/27 under Indicator 3: EGNOS services geographical coverage
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Trend is stable with a yearly variation depending on yearly circumstances. The 1-2% of EU land-masses not covered are known (Azores, north east part of Finland and eastern part of Cyprus) and will only be covered when the new generation EGNOS V3 will become operational.

Previous Program 2: European Earth Observation Programme (Copernicus)

Specific Objective 2: Providing sustainable and reliable access to spaceborne data and information from an autonomous European Earth observation capacity

Indicator 1: Accomplishment of the space infrastructure in terms of satellites deployed and data it produces for integration into geo-information services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
	1	2	4	7	7	7	8	8		8
	Actual Progress									Final
	1	2	4	6	7	7	8	8		8
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of satellites deployed
Cut-Off Date	28/02/2021
Data source	ESA
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	Copernicus satellites: Sentinel 1 A&B, Sentinel 2 A&B, Sentinel 3A&B, Sentinel 5P, Sentinel 6A
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Following the deployment schedule

Specific Objective 3: Providing a sustainable and reliable access to in-situ data, relying, in particular, on existing capacities operated at European and national levels, and on global observation systems and networks

Indicator 1: Sustained availability of in-situ data for supporting Copernicus services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
	2	4	6	6	6	6	6	6		6
	Actual Progress									Final

	2	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Services receiving in-situ data
Cut-Off Date	28/02/2021
Data source	Quarterly implementation Reports by EEA on the cross-cutting in situ component
Narrative	All 6 services use service-specific in-situ data within their service;.The Copernicus In Situ Component coordinated by the EEA maps the landscape of in situ data availability, identifies data access gaps or bottlenecks, supports the provision of cross-cutting data and manages partnerships with data providers to improve access and use conditions.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	n/a
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Following the planned activities.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	254.25	288.80	305.10	313.80	316.50	327.80	333.50	2139.75	15%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The entire Copernicus programme (and its budget) is set up to provide the necessary data and information services based on satellite and in situ data to observe and monitor our planet and its (changing) environment. The different Copernicus services provide consistent and quality-controlled information to closely monitor the climate crisis.

Part of the investment on the Copernicus component of the EU Space programme support the implementation of climate-related policies. This share is estimated to be approximately **EUR 2 162 million for the period 2021-2027**.

The mission of the Copernicus Climate Change is to support adaptation and mitigation policies of the European Union by providing consistent and authoritative information about climate change. Climate Data Store (CDS) provides a wealth of information about the past, present and future climate, on global, continental and regional scales. CC3S provides access to several climate indicators (e.g. temperature increase, sea level rise, ice sheet melting, warming up of the ocean) and climate indices (e.g. based on records of temperature, precipitation, drought event) for both the identified climate drivers and the expected climate change impacts¹⁷. These activities come up to approximately **EUR 241 million in the MFF 2021-2027**

More than 40% of the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service activities are linked directly or indirectly to climate change monitoring. CAMS provides information related to air pollution and health, solar energy, greenhouse gases and climate forcing, everywhere in the world. CAMS will develop a new portfolio for the assessment of the anthropogenic emissions, based on existing third-party data and on the new CO2 candidate mission which is scheduled end 2025.

The climate-related activities come up to approximately **EUR 68 million in the MFF 2021-2027**

More than 40% of the The Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring service activities are climate mainstreamed: CMEMS operates an Ocean Climate Service and will develop with other services a knowledge hub dedicated to Arctic changes mainly due to climate change. These activities come up to approximately **EUR 91 million in the MFF 2021-2027**

More than 40% of the The Copernicus Land Monitoring service activities are linked directly or indirectly to climate change monitoring. CLMS supports the requests for land-related information to monitor (changes in the) biodiversity and ecosystems, relevant aspects of the circular economy (e.g. a sustainably built environment), land degradation. These activities come up to approximately **EUR 80 million in the MFF 2021-2027**

¹⁷ The European Commission signed a Delegation Agreement with ECMWF (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts) for the implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change service. It is operational since June 2018.

About 40% of the The Copernicus Emergency Management system activities are linked directly or indirectly to climate change monitoring. The CEMS provides critical information and early warnings regarding floods, droughts and forest fires. These activities come up to approximately **EUR 31 million in the MFF 2021-2027**

All these services rely heavily on space-borne observation data. We assume that the related investment is about 40% of the space component dedicated to these observations (e.g. Sentinels 1, 3, 5P, 6 and CO₂ mission). The corresponding share of the space component funding is expected to be about **EUR 1 651 million in the MFF 2021-2027**.

6.1.3. Key achievements

Thanks to the near real time production of the reanalysis, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) was the first to call 2020 as the joint warmest year on record (on a par with 2016). C3S contributed with temperature data and graphics, as well as an “Arctic side-bar” section to the preliminary WMO statement on the State of the Climate in 2020. C3S is represented at international climate fora and events such as the Partner Advisory Committee of the Global Framework for Climate Services and the Climate Coordination Panel of WMO. C3S was also approached by WMO to explore the possibility for the service to become a GCOS endorsed global data repository of for upper air humidity data for GNSS.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) works together with businesses across the globe to turn raw climate data into sector-specific information aimed at users within the field, such as businesses, researchers and policymakers. One of these projects is the Global Biodiversity service which aims to support those working to preserve species, to protect the areas that are most climate sensitive, to increase the resilience of ecosystems, to reduce biodiversity loss around the world by providing the information needed to create plans to sustain ecosystems in present and future climate conditions.

In addition, Galileo and EGNOS, the EU’s Global navigation satellite systems also contributed towards tackling climate change by supporting environmentally friendly transport solutions, sustainable agriculture and meteorological monitoring. For example:

1. **Reduced fuel consumption:** satellite navigation enables optimal routes for cars, buses, boats and airplanes by providing accurate positions. This allows significant reduction of the fuel required to go from A to B and thus contributes to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.
2. **Sustainable agriculture:** As the centrepiece of precision farming, use of satellite navigation reduces the need for fertilisers. In turn, this means a reduction of greenhouse gases such as CO₂, nitrous oxide and ammonia in the atmosphere.

6.1.4. Performance

The Copernicus programme contributed EUR 1 408 million in the 2014-2020 period to support the implementation of climate-related policies.

The mission of the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is to support adaptation and mitigation policies of the European Union by providing consistent and authoritative information about climate change. Climate Data Store (CDS) provides a wealth of information about the past, present and future climate, on global, continental and regional scales. C3S provides access to several climate indicators (e.g. temperature increase, sea level rise, ice sheet melting, warming up of the ocean) and climate indices (e.g. based on records of temperature, precipitation, drought event) for both the identified climate drivers and the expected climate change impacts. These activities came up to approximately EUR 218 million in the MFF 2014-2020.

Around 50% of the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) activities are linked directly or indirectly to climate change monitoring. CAMS provides information related to air pollution and health, solar energy, greenhouse gases and climate forcing, everywhere in the world. The climate-related activities came up to approximately EUR 30 million in the MFF 2014-2020.

Around 50% of the Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring service activities are climate mainstreamed. The activities came up to approximately EUR 70 million in the MFF 2014-2020.

About 50% of the the Copernicus Land Monitoring service activities are linked directly or indirectly to climate change monitoring. CLMS supports the requests for land-related information to monitor (changes in the) biodiversity and ecosystems, relevant aspects of the circular economy (e.g. a sustainably built environment), land degradation. These activities came up to approximately EUR 60 million in the MFF 2014-2020.

About 50% of the Copernicus Emergency Management system (CEMS) activities are linked directly or indirectly to climate change monitoring. The CEMS provides critical information and early warnings regarding floods, droughts and forest fires. These activities came up to approximately EUR 30 million in the MFF 2014-2020.

All these services rely heavily on space-borne observation data. We assume that the related investment is about 50% of the space component dedicated to these observations. The corresponding share of the space component funding was about EUR 1000 million in the MFF 2014-2020.

In the near future, the high-priority satellite mission “Copernicus Carbon Dioxide Monitoring” is foreseen to be launched in 2025.

Under the Paris climate accord, countries must compile CO₂ inventories. The Copernicus CO₂ mission will provide supporting data.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	165.00	165.00	930.00
Share compared to total envelope	6.07 %	5.98 %	5.87 %	5.75 %	5.85 %	7.88 %	7.77 %	6.46 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Part of the investments into the Copernicus component of the EU Space programme support the implementation of biodiversity-related policies. This share is estimated to be approximately **EUR 930 – 1 130 million for the period 2021-2027**.

- More than 70 % of the Copernicus Land Service activities are linked directly or indirectly to biodiversity monitoring and maintenance.¹⁸
- Some products are directly linked to Biodiversity/eco-system scale patterns, such as the monitoring of green infrastructure, the riparian areas and the Natura 2000 sites in Europe for DG ENV, and the monitoring of key ecological landscapes and protected areas in Africa for DG INTPA.
- Others are indirectly supporting the biodiversity policies and strategy such as the monitoring of woody feature for the CAP or the provision of biophysical variables for the UN SDG 15 assessment.
- Overall the land cover mapping and land cover change mapping at European and Global scale carried out by the land service is an essential element for monitoring the evolution of biodiversity and for supporting its conservation and sustainable use. These activities come up to approximately **EUR 130 million in the MFF 2021-2027**.
- In addition, there are smaller activities indirectly related to marine biodiversity in the Copernicus Marine Environment Service and the Copernicus Climate Change Service is providing specific sectoral indices for biodiversity. The latter two are less important in budget and difficult to disentangle and to quantify.
- All these services rely heavily on space-borne observation data. Similar to the approach taken for the last exercise to estimate biodiversity related spending in the MFF 2014-2020, we assume that the related investment is about 30-40% of the space component dedicated to optical observations (Sentinels 1, 2 and 3 to monitor ecosystem-scale patterns). The corresponding share of the space component funding is expected to be about **EUR 800 – 1 000 million**.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

Copernicus products and services in the Copernicus land monitoring service support Biodiversity policies in EU. Land cover products and specific products related to Natura2000 sites, land degradation, monitoring of riparian and coastal zones, forest change are amongst those that are supporting to protect biodiversity in Europe. The Copernicus land monitoring service provides the High Resolution Layer Small and Woody features: small woody landscape features are important for a number of ecosystem services, among others related to biodiversity and habitat connectivity. They also improve air quality, water quality, water quantity, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration, climate change adaptation, regulation of soil erosion and soil quality, support biodiversity and pollination, and are important for cultural and recreational reasons. This CLMS information product helps to monitor the green infrastructure strategy of the EU the effectiveness of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Furthermore, the CLMS continued to provide contributions to conservation efforts at global level with the Copernicus Hot Spot Monitoring component.

6.2.4. Performance

Part of the investments of the Copernicus programme has supported the implementation of biodiversity-related policies. This share amounted to approximately **EUR 700 million for the period 2014-2020**.

2014-2020 programming							Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
63	91	98	98	105	140	105	700

- More than 70 % of the Copernicus Land Service activities are linked directly or indirectly to biodiversity monitoring and maintenance.¹⁹

¹⁸ There are currently two principal paradigms for mapping biodiversity patterns with EO. First is to directly measure species, community or ecosystem-scale patterns. Second is to model biodiversity patterns indirectly using EO as predictive environmental features. Source: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ele.13106> - see figures featuring Sentinel 1A and 2A.

¹⁹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ele.13106> - see figures featuring Sentinel 1A and 2A.

- Some products are directly linked to Biodiversity/ecosystem scale patterns, such as the monitoring of green infrastructure, the riparian areas and the Natura 2000 sites in Europe for DG ENV, and the monitoring of key ecological landscapes and protected areas in Africa for DG INTPA.
- Others are indirectly supporting the biodiversity policies and strategy such as the monitoring of woody feature for the CAP or the provision of biophysical variables for the UN SDG 15 assessment.
- Overall the land cover mapping and land cover change mapping at European and Global scale carried out by the land service is an essential element for monitoring the evolution of biodiversity and for supporting its conservation and sustainable use. These activities came up to approximately **EUR 100 million M in the MFF 2021-2027**.
- In addition, there are smaller activities indirectly related to marine biodiversity in the Copernicus Marine Environment Service and the Copernicus Climate Change Service is providing specific sectoral indices for biodiversity. The latter two are less important in budget and difficult to disentangle and to quantify.
- All these services rely heavily on space-borne observation data. We assume that the related investment is about 30-40% of the space component dedicated to optical observations (Sentinels 1, 2 and 3 to monitor ecosystem-scale patterns). The corresponding share of the space component funding is expected to be about **EUR 600 – 700 million**.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0* : 0.29 Score 0: 1977.05							

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

By the end of 2021, DG DEFIS procured a pioneering project, financed under the EU space programme for a total value of 289 400 EUR to set out a demographic categorisation of the workforce employed in the defence, aeronautics and space sector, with a special focus on Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I). The results are not yet known since the main activities will be rolled out in 2022. The database expected to result from the data collected via anonymous, individual responses will cover the six dimensions of equality will be complemented by a mapping of best-case initiatives on ED&I, at global, international, regional and EU level in these and other related/linked industries.

The project contributes to SDG 5 aimed to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and to the Commission’s high-level objective of fostering a Union of Equality, complementing initiatives in place to support all people in all their diversity to pursue any chosen path in life, free from discrimination and other unjust biases.

The remaining part of the voted budget for implementation in 2021 under EU Space Programme (1977, 05 million EUR) was not directly targeted at gender equality initiatives. Nevertheless, indirect contributions supporting the gradual awareness raising of this horizontal Commission priority are continuously made as opportunities arise and when identified by the DG equality coordinator and other staff of the DG. For instance, special mention of gender equality aspects in communication activities and at events on various matters related to the EU space components, when promoting the competitiveness and innovation of the EU space industry or when promoting the market uptake of relevant space-based applications.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Copernicus Land monitoring information is highly valuable for agricultural activities, monitoring crop conditions, providing early warnings on failing crops and predicting crop yields (food security). As agriculture is a crucial economic activity worldwide, providing livelihoods and employment for many, these monitoring activities can help reduce hunger.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The [Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service](#) provides daily air quality forecasts that account for pollutants’ emissions and for the consequences of events such as large wildfires or volcanic eruptions. This information supports the SDG of good health and wellbeing (SDG 3) by enabling informed decision-making, providing data for smartphone applications and websites, and as a way to notify the public or to assess health impacts.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) systematically provides in near real time information on global inland water bodies and their seasonal replenishment, lake and river water levels, temperature, turbidity and trophic state, including potential water availability from snow and ice cover helping to protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) provides global 5-day forecasts of desert dust and the other main aerosols (sulphates, sea salts, black and organic carbon).

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) provides climate indicators of electricity consumption, alongside estimates of the combined production from all renewable sources.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

The Copernicus Emergency Service can contribute to safeguarding cultural heritage by monitoring and documenting the impact of earthquakes through interferograms, which depict where the earthquake impact is most severe along with information for emergency response to different types of disasters, including floods, as well as related prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Copernicus Climate Change Service provides routine access to key indicators on a number of Essential Climate Variables i.e. temperature levels, sea-ice extension, CO₂, etc.)

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Copernicus Marine Monitoring Service offers monitoring of the oceanic carbon cycle, ocean PH and acidity, monitoring of fishing grounds. Effective maritime surveillance can help combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, thereby contributing to sustainable fisheries goals. Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service, can supply satellite data to ensure that fishing is carried out safely and sustainably.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Copernicus Land Monitoring Service delivers products for the protection of Natura2000 areas for instance their grassland status and information on vegetation index, land degradation, deforestation and loss of biodiversity. DG ESTAT is assessing the possibility to introduce in the future new Copernicus based sub-indicators for various SDGs.

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

In 2021, the EU space programme started a traveling exhibition "Space for our Planet - People and Space Solutions: Together for Change" <https://www.space4ourplanet.org/about/>. The exhibition in physical format will travel for about 3 years in city centres and major strategic events around the world. It is based on a digital platform highlighting how the EU Space programme can provide innovative solutions to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It shows real life testimonies from scientists and users across the world.

The Copernicus programme is a powerful instrument to help reporting on the SDG indicators and to provide the relevant information in support of effective monitoring of progress towards the SDG targets and compliancy with International Agreements. Moreover, the Copernicus full, free and open data and information policy reduces considerably the cost of this monitoring the SDGs and International Agreements. The systematic Earth Observation data and information provision by Copernicus assist governments and stakeholders worldwide, in developing strategies and actions, to assess, track and attain the goals that are formulated in these different international agreements/conventions, like for example: the Ramsar convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to name a few.

SDG 2 – Zero hunger

Agriculture is a crucial economic activity worldwide, providing livelihoods and employment for many. Rising populations, changing demands and diets as well as environmental changes (e.g. extreme weather, climate change) put increasing stress on the world's food supply. In many countries affected by hunger, there are already significant efforts made to address these challenges, such as closing yield gaps (difference between current yields and what might be possible under optimum conditions) and implementing sustainable land management practices.

To monitor and respond to such needs, governments and aid workers need accurate, timely, systematic and comprehensive information. Dedicated products derived from Earth Observation satellites fulfil this requirement more and more. Copernicus data provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS), help national institutions in monitoring crop conditions, providing early warnings on failing crops and predicting crop yields. Crop indices, Dry Matter Productivity and Soil Moisture information are provided every ten days on a global scale. The NGO 'Action Against Hunger' and the 'Centre de Suivi Ecologique de Dakar' are using Copernicus indices such as the Dry Matter Productivity for pastoral Early Warning System in West Africa informing pastoral communities and Governments on biomass conditions.

Smart farming is emerging as a concept with huge potential of making agriculture more productive and sustainable. Using EU space services for precision agriculture can mean a considerable reduction in the use of fertilizers, fuel and pesticides. The result is healthier food and a reduced environmental impact which is for the benefit of millions of people worldwide. Galileo and EGNOS link data to specific geographical coordinates and provide geolocation, tracking and positioning. Copernicus generates valuable space data that when combined together with modern technologies are providing innovative solutions for smarter farming.

SDG3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) provides daily air quality forecasts at global scale and, with higher resolution, over Europe. These forecasts, derived from satellite observations, account for routine pollutants' emissions but also for those related to exceptional events such as large wildfires or volcanic eruptions. The forecasts are used daily by a wide range of public and commercial entities for decision-making, smartphone applications and websites, or for downscaling to local areas in order to inform the public or assess health impacts.

Data from EU Space Programme are key for the development of smart health services. Nowadays used in combination with in situ data or with other technologies such as 5G, Internet of things, Artificial Intelligence, for any physical device that can become a connected device, Copernicus and Galileo enable new applications to facilitate the end user's day-to-day life. To mention but a few examples, there are numerous consumer apps for checking daily sport and fitness activity and performance levels, encouraging a healthy lifestyle. There are apps used for patients monitoring like for instance for local-izing patients with Alzheimer's, to oversee patients with cardiac conditions and help with issuing emergency call warnings if needed, or apps used for guidance to support for instance the visually impaired.

eCall devices using data from Galileo and EGNOS are now fitted in all new car types sold in the European Union to speed up emergency response times in case of a road accident. eCall is connecting the passengers of the car involved in an accident to the nearest emergency centre while also communicating their exact location. It is estimated that eCall, in its first 10 years of operation, will save more than 2000 lives in Europe, avoid almost 20,000 severe injuries and significantly reduce the severity of injuries in 15% of all accidents involving damage to health.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) systematically provides in near real time information on global inland water bodies and their seasonal replenishment, lake and river water levels, temperature, turbidity and trophic state, including potential water availability from snow and ice cover. The product supports a wide range of applications in the field of food security, sanitation, energy, health, transport, preservation of biodiversity and natural risk management.

Space technologies play a crucial role in optimizing potable water processing operations in order to achieve higher quality. For instance, water utility services can benefit from early warning system that indicate incidences of water quality deterioration. Copernicus services help a broad range of water managers dealing with water allocation, flood management, ecological status and industrial water use. Better information and forecasts help them to adapt their strategies in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

A serious issue for the productivity of solar power plants and their operators is desert dust. Deposition of dust blocks solar radiation, and this can affect the mirrors or photovoltaic panels, thus significantly reducing their efficiency. Airborne particles, also called aerosols, directly affect the amount of solar radiation reaching the Earth's surface: together with clouds, aerosols are one of the main variables determining the solar energy yield that can be obtained from a solar energy production facility.

To prevent power efficiency losses and improve the design and management of solar power plants, the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) provides global 5-day forecasts of desert dust and the other main aerosols (sulfates, sea salts, black and organic carbon).

The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) provides climate indicators of electricity consumption, alongside estimates of the combined production from all renewable sources at national and sub-national level in Europe. These two sets of indicators help planners and policy makers identify the pros and cons of different energy mix options and optimise investment decisions accordingly.

Copernicus and Galileo provide information that is already used to create more resilient and efficient energy infrastructure. Space data is also improving the production of renewable energies, providing valuable insights about the energy potential of natural resources like sun and wind. Smart grids improve overall energy efficiency and are essential to ensure synchronization and adjust demand to distribution across a wide geographical area. Galileo supports the implementation of smart grids and efficient energy transmission through its precise synchronization services. In addition, Galileo authentication services contribute to a more resilient infrastructure with better synchronization and augment power system monitoring, control and protection functions.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Many cities over the world are exposed to natural hazards, such as floods, which presently account for 31% of all economic losses worldwide resulting from natural hazards. As the frequency and magnitude of flood disasters is projected to increase due to climate change, soil sealing and growing population exposure, flooding is one of the key societal challenges of this century.

With Galileo & EGNOS, as one of the key technologies used within infrastructure design and mobility of smart cities, city services can be considerably improved and at a lower cost. Positioning and timing information is essential for instance for operating and managing public transportation, power supply, connectivity, waste management, and much more.

The Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) provides information for emergency response in relation to different types of disasters, including floods, as well as related prevention, preparedness, response and recovery activities. Copernicus images are also used to provide up-to-date urban maps, which allow for careful management and view of status of green areas and city infrastructure. This information is essential for making urban planning more efficient.

Another goal pertaining to SDG 11 is to strengthen efforts to protect our cultural heritage. Cultural heritage is often affected by natural disasters, in particular earthquakes. The Copernicus programme can contribute to safeguarding cultural heritage by monitoring and documenting the impact of earthquakes. Although damages to historical buildings cannot be reversed, the mapping of the severity of an earthquake and assessment of the resulting damage allows the competent authorities to safeguard the remaining buildings. One of the ways Copernicus can assist in this matter is by assessing the magnitude of the earthquake through interferograms, which depict where the earthquake impact was most severe.

SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change is affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow. To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015, which aims at keeping this century's global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) routinely monitors the Earth's climate and its evolution. It provides routine access to key indicators on a number of Essential Climate Variables (temperature, sea-ice, CO₂, etc.) and is therefore a powerful tool to monitor the success of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. These climate indicators will also support European adaptation and mitigation policies in a number of economic sectors.

In case of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, the use of satellite signals is critical. The Galileo Search and Rescue service provide more precise positioning, helping to reduce response times and save lives.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) produces ocean monitoring products based on satellite and in situ observations as well as numerical models.

Copernicus operates the Arctic Ocean forecasting centre to closely monitor the polar areas and the effects of climate change on the sea-ice extent and thickness, icebergs concentration and changes in temperature or salinity affecting the ocean circulation and the overall weather.

Through the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service, with the support of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) as well as EMSA, fisheries control administrations from across the EU can benefit from Copernicus satellite data in their efforts to ensure that fishing is carried out safely and sustainably. Effective maritime surveillance can help combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, thereby contributing to sustainable fisheries goals. Copernicus satellite imagery, combined with information from vessel positioning from Galileo, monitor activities of fishing vessels at sea to detect and deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing practices. Thanks to Galileo, data can be provided to fishing authorities on the location, speed and course of fishing vessels operating in Europe, allowing authorities to detect and track movement and activity in restricted fishing grounds. In the EU, about 9000 fishing vessels are equipped with a satellite-based device (VMS) providing data to fishery authorities to support enforcement efforts. Copernicus Earth Observation data help anglers and aquafarmers to require accurate real time and forecasts information on fish growth rates and fish health.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Europe's space technologies contribute to better understanding and protection of our wildlife and forests.

As part of the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS), the European Environment Agency (EEA) delivers spatially detailed products on pan-European and local land cover and land use information. The local component focuses on areas that are prone to specific environmental challenges and issues in the European Union. Under this local component, EEA offers information on Natura2000 protected hotspots, which is used to assess the preservation and status of these sites, and whether the decline in the grasslands cover is evident. The status of Natura2000 hotspots will ensure that these are accurately mapped, and can be used to draw attention to events that threaten the preservation of the sites. The Global component of the Land Service is currently also mapping protected areas but in Africa to support the biodiversity strategy. Furthermore and recently the Global component extended its product portfolio to include a Global Land Cover Map in order to provide spatial information about land for applications ranging from global forest monitoring (REDD+), crop area monitoring, biodiversity conservation to land status and climate modelling. The new Land Cover Map is completing the current portfolio of vegetation products that are related to biomass dynamics. These products are clearly earmarked for addressing the SDG 15.3 on land degradation neutrality.

Smart farming can lead to about 20 % decrease in the consumption of water, fertilisers and pesticides, all whilst increasing production. Galileo-enabled drones assist with field monitoring before harvesting.

HEADING 2A: Economic, Social and territorial cohesion**Regional Policy (European Regional and Development Fund and Cohesion Fund)****Lead DG:REGIO**

Associated DGs:CNECT, ECFIN, HOME, MARE, MOVE, RTD

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

Regional disparities show a generally decreasing trend among the EU regions, based on 2019 data, even though the pace of convergence was slower after the crisis of 2008. In 2000, GDP per head of the most developed regions accounting for 10% of the Union's population was 6.1 times higher than GDP per head of the least developed regions also accounting for 10% of the Union's population. In 2018, the ratio dropped to 3.4. However, significant disparities still remain and many regions still have a GDP per head and an employment rate below pre-crisis levels. Only in 2014, disparities in employment started to narrow, followed by disparities in GDP per head in 2015. Europe was severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Commission proposed a strong and coordinated set of answers allowing for recovery measures as a reaction to the health crisis and its impact on Europe's economy and society.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and other ongoing challenges, cohesion policy is crucial for ensuring a balanced recovery, fostering convergence and making sure no one is left behind. REGIO delivers on these objectives primarily through programmes financed from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). Together with the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the ERDF and CF (and, from 2021, the Just Transition Fund - JTF) comprise the European Union's cohesion policy funds. The implementation of these funds allows the Union to fulfil the long-term objectives of strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU.

The main challenges that cohesion policy will have to face in the coming years relate to the socio-economic and territorial aspects of regional development. It is apparent that regions and sectors are unevenly affected by the crisis, which is likely to have a long-term impact on the pace and direction of convergence. The implementation of the Green Deal and the transition towards a climate neutral economy will also impact regions hosting highly emitting industries of fossil fuel extraction activities. The design of the 2021-2027 programmes, which focuses resources on environmental and climate spending under the second policy objective ('a

greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility’) will allow regions to benefit from economic opportunities arising from the green transition. Funding from the ERDF and the CF together with the other cohesion policy funds played a central role in 2020 and will continue doing so in the years to come.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

REGIO’s activities are guided by Article 174 of the Treaty. It provides that, in order to strengthen its economic, social and territorial cohesion, the Union is to aim at reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions, and that particular attention is to be paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps. Thanks to the policy's specific features, e.g. redistribution of resources at EU level, alignment of investment to EU-wide priorities, concentration of resources on less developed and transition regions, multiannual programming, place-based approaches, multi-level governance, interregional cooperation, administrative capacity building, the supported investments bring strong European added value, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity.

The main characteristics of the policy:

1. **Aligning investment to EU priorities:** the political priorities of the von der Leyen Commission are implemented through the policy objectives and the role they play in programming as well as the thematic concentration requirements. This influences national investment policies, leading to coordinated EU-wide action that is critical to addressing global challenges.
2. **Contributing to economic governance:** There is a close relationship between regional policy funding and economic governance, including the macroeconomic conditionalities but also the programming process and implementation aligned with the European Semester process and taking due account of Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs). The framework conditions meant to ensure effectiveness of policy implementation ex ante (enabling conditions) expected to play a significant role in improving the strategic framework and the application of EU legislation in Member States - as well as in fostering structural reforms.
3. **Multiannual programming provides stability, certainty and sustainability to investments in Member States, reducing their vulnerability across economic and political cycles and improving implementation on the ground.** However, the policy’s flexibility was also shown during the COVID-19 crisis, demonstrating its ability to adapt quickly to new circumstances - funds were mobilised with unprecedented speed and flexibility.
4. **Concentration of resources on the less developed and transition regions:** support is provided to key investments, which would otherwise not take place in poorer regions. That concentration also produces spill-over effects to the rest of Europe, notably via increased connectivity and trade flows and thus supporting the Single Market.
5. **The “place-based” approach of ERDF programming allows the identification of specific development needs, the definition of appropriate investment strategies aligned to EU priorities and better conditions for sound implementation of investments on the ground.**
6. **Interregional cooperation and the exchange of experience:** Cooperation - both cross-border and across the EU - is an area where the ERDF brings clear European added value. REGIO makes a substantial contribution to identifying cross-border barriers to the Single Market and offers tailor-made solutions.

1.3. Specific objectives

In line with the cohesion policy legislative framework for the 2021-2027 period, the high-level policy objectives are proposed as follows:

1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity;
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;
3. A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility;
4. A more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;
5. A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives.

Policy objectives 2 and 3 above are proposed for the CF while all five objectives are proposed for the ERDF. The five policy objectives are broken down to 23 specific objectives for the ERDF and CF and there are 2 Interreg specific objectives. As an additional instrument the JTF follows a specific objective that is added to the above five and only the JTF implements it.

1.4. Public intervention context

The ERDF and CF, together with the JTF and the ESF, are the budgetary instruments of the EU's cohesion policy. Article 174 TFEU establishes cohesion policy and describes its objectives.

According to Article 175 of the TFEU, the formulation and implementation of the Union's policies and actions and the implementation of the internal market shall take into account the objectives of cohesion policy and shall contribute to their achievement.

The allocated budget for the ERDF and the CF amounts to EUR 262.7 billion (in current prices without JTF) in the 2021-2027 period, which represents 21.3%¹ of the EU budget (ie excluding Next Generation EU) for this period.²

1.5. Actions

Through the ERDF and CF, a critical mass of investment is delivered in key priority areas, to bring structural change and respond to the needs of the real economy by supporting job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and by improving citizens' quality of life.

Cohesion policy addresses disparities through multi-thematic strategies, supporting multi-annual investments across diverse categories of regions (less developed regions, transitional regions and more developed regions). The policy is distinguished by the diversity of activities and actions.

Both **ERDF and CF** (and from 2021 the JTF) provide investments to develop infrastructures, productive investments in enterprises and "soft" support (consultancy services and advice), thus strengthening public policies. EU support is predominantly provided through grants but also through financial instruments.

The **CF** is distinguished by its geographical coverage (only for the 15 Member States of the Union having a Gross National Income per inhabitant not exceeding 90% of the EU average) and sectorial focus; this fund needs to be spent on environmental and transport investments under policy objective 2 – Greener Europe and policy objective 3 - Connected Europe. The ERDF is supporting all Member States and is implemented through national, regional and interregional (Interreg) programmes.

1.6. Delivery mode

Cohesion policy funds are delivered through shared management. Under the shared management mode, the co-legislators fix the legal framework and the overall funding and determine the allocations by Member States³ and category of region. The Commission adopts the programmes. As regards implementation, the Commission cooperates with Member States' administrations (at national and regional level), which are in charge of the operational implementation. REGIO leads on the Commission's side.

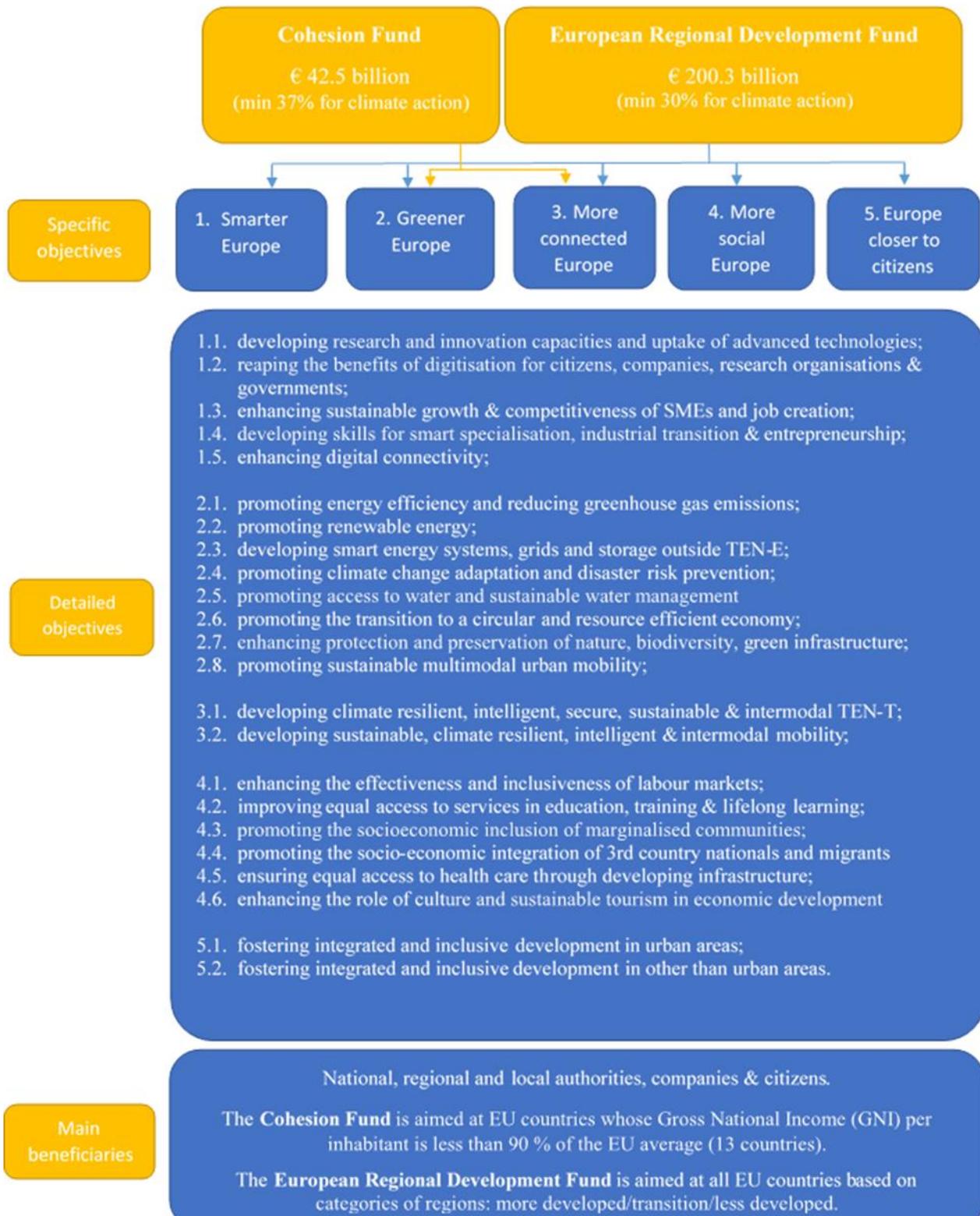
1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

¹ EUR 1 211 billion

² ERDF (including Interreg), CF (without transfer to CEF), JTF (excluding NGEU resources) and without REACT-EU

³ Where appropriate and for reasons of brevity, the term 'Member States' includes the United Kingdom, although the country has left the Union in 2020

Implemented via shared management* between European Commission - DG Regio & Member State authorities



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60).	2021 - 2027	48 026.16
Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 60).	2021 - 2027	226 047,5

1.8.2. Budget programming table

Regional policy:

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	261.7	43 436.4	44 457.2	45 704.8	46 990.1	39 923.5	41 292.9	262 066.6
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

REACT-EU:

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming								
NextGenerationEU	23 875.3	7 581.0	1.9					31 458.2
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The ERDF in 2021-2027 will focus on investing in five policy objectives: a smarter (1), greener (2), more connected (3), more social (4) Europe that is closer to its citizens (5). These correspond to the 11 thematic objectives in 2014-2020 presented in a new structure. With this structure the funds are leaner while maintaining the logic of the previous period. Via the thematic concentration, the CF will focus on two main objectives: a smart and digital transformation of the regional economies (Policy Objective 1) as well as a green transition towards a climate neutral economy (Policy Objective 2).

ERDF and CF sustain a link to the Country Specific Recommendations through the mechanisms of programming, macro-economic conditionality and mid-term reviews. In addition, programmes financed by the funds need to be based on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the National Energy and Climate Plans (under the energy Union).

The 2021-2027 regulation introduces new initiatives under direct or indirect management:

- European Urban Initiative: a tool integrating existing tools for cities and towns (continuation of Urban Innovative Actions).
- Interregional Innovative Investment: initiative that targets cooperation in research and innovation.

In relation to financial management, the logic of many targets was maintained from the 2014-2020 framework while the targets for the new programmes are more ambitious:

- EU-level targets for climate expenditure for ERDF and CF was set in the Common Provision Regulation (at 30% and 37% respectively);
- Flexibility amount, corresponding to 50% of the 2026 and 2027 commitments has been introduced (such amount will be definitively programmed at the mid-term review in 2025);
- N+3 rule has been maintained for decommitment (as for 2014-20) and except for the last year, where the end date of eligibility is set for 31 December 2029;
- Co-financing rates are stratified and slightly reduced compared to 2014-20. They were set out at 85% for less developed regions; 70% for transition regions that were classified as less developed in 2014-20; 60% for transition regions; 50% for more developed that were classified as transition in 2014-20, and 40% for more developed region

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

The main websites on the cohesion policy funds provide all the necessary details about their nature and structure, their legal basis, news and further practical guidance. Currently it presents narratives for more than 290 ERDF and CF programmes under the 2014-2020 MFF here:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/funding/erdf/

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/funding/cohesion-fund/

The Cohesion Open Data Platform <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/> - provides data on investment financing and achievements under the ESI funds 2014-2020 and the extension of coverage to the 2021-2027 programmes already planned for second semester of 2022.

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate of regional policy at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	260.8	262 066.6	0%
Payments	37.6		0%

Cumulative implementation rate of REACT-EU under regional policy at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	24 038.4	31 458.2	76%
Payments	4 926.4		16%

The results for the ERDF and CF are presented in a single programme statement from 2022. It presents global figures for both funds together (especially on performance), as the funds' logic and objectives are similar. However, key budgetary and performance figures will continue to be presented separately by fund. This allows for a shorter, more focused presentation of the performance of both funds.

As foreseen, the adoption process of the 2021-2027 programmes has been slower than expected. For reasons see section 3.1. As a consequence the whole 2021 allocation (EUR 34.9 billion) is to be reprogrammed in four equal tranches for the years 2022-2025.. In the 2022 budget, the allocation for ERDF and CF together equals EUR 35 billion (ERDF EUR 29.9 billion and CF EUR 4.8 billion) in commitment appropriations. Both the 2021 commitments and first pre-financing payments for all the MFF instruments will take place once the new programmes for the 2021-2027 period are adopted. An amount of EUR 2.6 billion is available in payment appropriations for pre-financing.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	262 530.3	262 533.4	100%
Payments	227 999.5		87%

Note: this table represents the gross level of payments made by the Commission to the managing authorities for ERDF and the Cohesion Fund for the period 2014-2020, not taking into account the amounts actually recovered by the Commission. For further detail on the implementation, please check the Open Data Platform: [Open Data Portal for the European Structural Investment Funds - European Commission | Data | European Structural and Investment Funds \(europa.eu\)](https://open-data-portal.ec.europa.eu/).

At the end of December 2021, the overall implementation of the EU budget for the 2014-2020 period stands at 65% on average for CF and ERDF. In the first half of the 2014-2020 period, EU payments were modest, but broadly in line with the previous programming periods. This slow start was due, firstly, to the nature of cohesion policy investments, which have a long start-up phase (planning, programming, authorisations) without significant financial execution. Secondly, the impact of the 2008-2010 crisis slowed the execution of 2007-2013 national and regional programmes, leading to the late completion of those programmes (in 2014 and 2015) overlapping with the start of the 2014-2020 programmes. Finally, the regulatory provisions of the 2014-2020 period (e.g. the level of pre-financing, the N+3 de-commitment rule) did not provide incentives for a fast start of implementation in Member States.

In 2020 and 2021, there was a significant increase in EU payments which was partly triggered by the progress in project selection rates in recent years. Moreover, the prompt cohesion policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic has played an important role in the accelerated implementation of the funds. In particular, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII(+)) measures provided for 100% co-financing for expenditure declared during the accounting year 2020-2021, while 2019 annual pre-financing amounts were not recovered in 2020 in order to ease budgetary pressure at national level. Financial implementation has also been impacted by some revised allocations due to the performance review exercise and CRII(+) transfers. Considering all those aspects, ERDF and CF show respectively EU payments implementation rates of 64% and 70% at the end of 2021, substantially higher than the rates registered at the end of 2019 (ERDF 35% and CF 39%). (For the ERDF, the calculation of the absorption rate includes the REACT-EU allocations added in 2021 – see below.)

In addition to CRII(+) measures, the Commission also proposed additional financing under “Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe initiative” (REACT-EU). Over 2021-2023, original 2014-2020 EU financing will be topped up with EUR 50.4 billion (in current prices) under REACT-EU to finance crisis repair measures. This will contribute to a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy by adding fresh additional resources to existing cohesion policy programmes. The progress with the adoption of REACT-EU allocations, which will continue during 2022, is presented in the [REACT EU Dashboard](#).

With regard to financial instruments, almost EUR 31 billion of ERDF and CF resources are planned to be delivered through financial instruments by 2023, constituting over 8% of the overall EU allocation, creating an efficient and sustainable alternative to traditional grants. Almost EUR 14 billion of support is allocated to finance the competitiveness of SMEs under thematic objective 3. Programmes in 24 Member States and the UK benefit from these instruments. The total amount of ERDF+CF resources invested in final recipients by the end of 2021 amounted to almost EUR 18 billion. Loans accounted for 53% of eligible costs for all selected instruments, followed by guarantees (28%) and equity-type instruments (17%).

In 2022 the COVID-19 related economic crisis and the parallel implementation of other instruments (e.g. REACT-EU and the start of the 2021-2027 programming period) might affect implementation progress in some Member States. The addition of the REACT-EU resources during 2021 in particular the on-going 2014-2020 programmes, has had a dilution effect on the relative pace of financial implementation due to the increased base amount.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The submission, approval and implementation of the 2021-2027 national and regional programmes is so far negatively affected by the following elements (in addition to disruptions caused by the pandemic, in particular in terms of human resources in administrations):

1. The delayed agreement on the MFF 2021-2027 and adoption of the legislative proposals for the ERDF-CF meant that the Member States' partnership agreements and programmes could only be officially submitted as from mid-2021.

2. Recovery instruments supported from Next Generation EU, in particular the financially most prominent instrument, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and their shorter spending horizon have often led to decisions at national level to prioritise those programmes before presenting cohesion policy programmes (including ERDF-CF).

3. NGEU grants and loans under RRF are expected to have an impact on the implementation of 2021-2027 cohesion programmes because of the accelerated RRF delivery timetable, overlaps between important investment components and the additional RRF incentive of 100% EU co-financing and different Delivery model based on financing not linked to costs.

4. The 2014-2020 ERDF/CF programmes will continue until end-2023 under the n+3 rule. That rule will also apply for most of the 2021-2027 period. It reduces pressure on national and regional programmes to implement promptly.

The MFF 2021-2027 provides for the total budget appropriations available by fund, Member State and category of region. It is only with the formal adoption of the national and regional programmes that the budget, the indicators and target values for each specific objective becomes available. Until the formal shared management programmes are adopted, it is therefore not possible to detail the budgets set by specific objective nor the indicator targets.

In the programme statement for the draft budget 2024, the Commission will set out the degree of progress made in the shared management programming and provide an explanation of the progress in setting up the performance framework based on adopted programmes.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 will have started

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The 2014-2020 ERDF and CF programmes contribute principally to four of the policy priorities of the von der Leyen Commission: a European Green Deal, a Europe fit for the Digital age, an Economy that Works for People and a Stronger Europe in the world. The programming was aligned to contribute to the EU's effort to overcome the structural weaknesses in its economies, improve competitiveness and productivity and underpin a sustainable social market economy.

The efforts of the 2014-2020 programmes to set clearer intervention logics and to use fund-specific "common output indicators" led to more robust and coherent performance reporting on the investment actions and outputs. The programme implementation reports submitted in May 2021 present a rich source of information on performance, in terms of common indicator achievement values at the end of 2020 (including the first information on the measures taken in 2020 to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic). Generally, the reported values show a strong upward progress in implementation by end-2020 and a plausible relationship between the indicator targets and values from selected projects.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Commission proposed specific measures to broaden the list of eligibility measures in the healthcare systems to support the public health response in Member States and to encourage reprogramming in other sectors of their economy, while providing exceptional flexibility for the use of the ESI funds under CRII(+). Specific measures adopted in CRII(+) have enabled Member States to mobilise support from ERDF, ESF and CF and focus it on the most urgent needs (saving lives, preventing job losses through short-time work schemes and supporting SMEs).

The vast majority of Member States have used at least one or another form of CRII(+) flexibility, such as extended deadlines for project implementation and for project calls, accelerating payments to beneficiaries and have used the opportunity to submit COVID-19 related expenses for reimbursement with retroactive eligibility since 1 February 2020. The use of financial instruments have also accelerated due to CRII(+) measures.

The Commission also worked with programmes to use COVID-19 programme specific indicators in order to understand their main priorities and achievements in terms of supporting the health response, SMEs and people. By December 2021, 165 ERDF programmes had set targets using those ad hoc COVID-19 indicators. See the cohesion policy [CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD](#) for more details.

More generally, the more extensive use of EU common indicators for 2014-2020 has significantly improved the information available on performance. The data reported by Member States and the United Kingdom in May 2021 reflect the situation at the end of 2020.

It is expected that there will be significant changes (increases and decreases) in a number of targets linked to (1) changing priorities in response to the pandemic, (2) the addition of EUR 10 billion of REACT-EU resources during 2022 and (3) the negative effects of the crisis. Overall, the uncertain socio-economic conditions, reduced demand, high unemployment and uncertain prospects for the relaunch of the economy mean that the uncertainty around performance is high. The Commission will monitor closely the programmes until closure.

When interpreting performance against targets over time, some general aspects should be recalled:

1. The multi-annual character of interventions (especially in case of infrastructure interventions) and long programme cycle need to be factored in. Actual achievements were not visible in early years. The experience from 2007-2013 is that many infrastructure investments are fully implemented only by the end of the period. The implementation of the 2014-2020 programming period lasts until 2023, therefore the 2020 achievement values refer to the situation at the 7th year of a 10 year implementation cycle.

2. Milestone-values (2018) were not available for most indicators as milestone values were required only for a subset of the indicators in the programmes. Where at the EU aggregate level the subset for a certain indicator represents a small share of the total, the milestone value was not representative to illustrate performance objectives.
3. The common indicators covered an estimated 50-60% of the actions funded and they give a partial picture on the performance. Programmes also use over 8 000 specific indicators beyond the 46 common indicators, which cannot be aggregated at EU level due to their specific nature.
4. Target values for common indicators can change (the EU legislation allows for programme amendments during the implementation period) and are mainly driven by changes in national or regional development needs, changing economic conditions, variability in demand for different supports and the reallocation of funding within and across theme.

At EU level, the following overall performance trends are evident from the monitoring of the ERDF and CF based on 2020 achievements reported:

- Overall project selection rates is at nearly 100% of planned investment everywhere by end 2021⁴ (the main exception relates to the REACT-EU resources only added to the programmes in 2021. EU interim payments at end 2021 were at 64% for ERDF and 70% for CF. High project selection rates do not automatically translate into prompt expenditure. Expenditure is slower to materialise for projects that are still in the planning or procurement stage, projects with multi-annual implementation periods or projects that are otherwise immature.
- By thematic objective, project spending is above average in areas such as SME competitiveness, sustainable transport and education infrastructure. On the other hand, the average spending rates are lower than average for low-carbon economy, environmental investments and social inclusion. The bulk of countries are clustered around the EU average spending rate at the end of 2021. That said, there are differences in reported progress with important beneficiaries SK, ES and RO lagging under the ERDF and HR, BG and EL lagging under the Cohesion Fund.
- The performance data below reflects the end-2020 reporting on common indicators (reported in May 2021). Overall, positive implementation trends are registered for most indicators (see “key achievements”).
- For some indicators with more important gaps between the decided and implemented, the forecast indicator values from selected projects are close to or exceed the target values, raising the prospect that the targets could still be achieved. In many of those cases, the high level of project selection is expected to translate into achieved outputs only late in the period. That phenomenon of late achievement of indicator values was evidenced by the trend in reporting in the 2007-2013 period. The 2020 reporting exercise suggested that at the end of 2020 many of the 2023 targets for those indicators could still be achieved.
- For some common indicators (i.e. those measuring population benefiting from wastewater, water supply, risk prevention and health interventions), the decided values from selected projects, compared to targets at the end of 2019, showed a prospect of overachievement. This led to important increases in certain target values during 2020 (these are highlighted in section 5 below). Deviations from targets are scrutinised and followed-up in cooperation with the Member States affected by implementation difficulties.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to increased uncertainty and sharp changes in needs. A wave of programme modification in 2020 and 2021 led to a rise in some common indicators target values, particularly in the areas of enterprise support linked to crisis support during the pandemic. However, the uncertain socio-economic conditions, reduced demand, high unemployment and uncertain prospects for the relaunch of the economy mean that the Commission will continue to monitor carefully the programmes until closure

CRII(+) and REACT-EU

In relation to the reprogramming since 2020 to support the immediate response to the pandemic and its effects, the new COVID-19 specific indicators were introduced to give an important insight into the supported actions and their target outputs. By the end of 2021 the total targets set under CRII and REACT-EU allocations for key indicators were as follows:

- 3.2 billion items of personal protective equipment for the health services;
- 13 170 ventilators, 12 400 additional bed spaces and 374 ambulances supported;
- Over 25.8 million people were targeted to receive a vaccination with ERDF support under REACT-EU;
- 754 000 SMEs targeted with grant support to working capital;
- 246 000 SMEs targets with repayable working capital

The progress in delivering the targets set by the end of 2020 was reported to the Commission for the first time during 2021. Many ERDF programmes were in a position to report some monitoring values on the implementation of pandemic

⁴ after adjusting for overbooking effects

measures. However, many 2020 implementation values appear to be under reported. EC services therefore see the 2020 implemented values for COVID-19 indicators as giving a preliminary picture to be completed in future reporting rounds. The reported values are presented in this open data tool - [Overview of COVID-19 indicator values](#).

For the general objective the indicators and their values presented below are statistical in nature, many being provided by EUROSTAT.

For the specific objectives the indicators presented below are 27 ERDF and CF common output indicators reported by the national and regional authorities. The target values have been corrected to the values set under the adopted programmes as of end 2020 (changes take place over time linked in particular to the reallocation of finances between themes impacting the targets or to correct errors). With over 290 programmes the achievement values can also be corrected over time (for instance in case of previous under reporting or in order to correct implemented values when operations are no longer EU funded). The most recent public values are visualised on the [ERDF](#) and [CF](#) pages on the Cohesion Open Data Platform under "achievements" and the data is found in [this data file](#). The platform offers transparency and provides additional encouragement through ‘peer pressure’ in reporting timely and reliable data.

By the end of 2020, a majority – 55% or 15 of 27 indicators – show strong or over performing trends. 26% of indicators show a moderate trend and 15 % a weak trend that require accelerating annual growth rates in order to achieve their 2023 targets. Under achievement of the target is likely for the indicator Rehabilitated housing in urban areas.

Table: performance of (common) indicators per specific objective (SO)

(Green colour shows positive performance, yellow and orange weak/at risk performance)

	SO 1	SO 2	SO 3	SO 4	SO 5	SO 6	SO 7	SO 8	SO 9	SO 10	Total	%
Outperforming						1			1	1	3	11%
Strong trend	3		3	1	2		2	1			12	44%
Moderate trend	2	1		1		2	1				7	26%
Weak Trend				2		1	1				4	15%
At risk of underachievement									1		1	4%
											27	100%

Overall, most indicators were on track to meet their targets at the end of 2020. For the few indicators that are not performing the reasons are diverse. Indicators linked to urban investments in renovated building and housing show low achievement but have project selection rates that approach or exceed the target values.

Several indicators reported in PS 2022 have a limited use and representativeness and are not presented in this synthesis (those indicators were - building new railway tracks, additional energy users connected to smart grids and building / renovating buildings in urban areas). The implementation values are published on the Open Data platform.

3.2. Key achievements

SMART GROWTH:

5.5 million	1.4 million	238 000	10 900
households have access to broadband of at least 30 Mbps by the end of 2020	enterprises were supported by the end of 2020	jobs were created in supported enterprises by the end of 2020	researchers were employed in supported entities by the end of 2020

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

4.4 million	358 000	1 890	1.7 million	1 540
tonnes of CO2 equivalent were saved by the end of 2020	households saw an improvement of their energy consumption classification by the end of 2020	GigaWh/year of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings were saved by the end of 2020	tonnes/year of additional waste recycling capacity were implemented by the end of 2020	km of railway lines were reconstructed or upgraded by the end of 2020

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

52 million
people benefitted from new or modernised health services by the end of 2020

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the 2007-2013 ex post evaluation were presented in [Staff Working Document \(SWD\(2016\) 318](#) of September 2016 and in the Programme Statements 2018.

The Common Provisions Regulation 2014-2020 requires Member States to carry out evaluations in order to improve the quality of the design and implementation of programmes, as well as to assess their effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The number of evaluations carried out so far on actions supported by ERDF and CF in 2014-2020 programmes has reached almost 1 000 (not counting evaluations of the period 2007-2013 completed since 2015). The evaluations published in the first years of the 2014-2020 period were mostly concerned with assessing implementation progress and monitoring of the programmes. However, the number of evaluations focused on the impact of the supported actions has grown significantly for the past two years, topping 30% of the evaluations completed more recently and reaching over 50% in a some Member States. Impact-oriented evaluations are in general well designed and some apply advanced techniques to distinguish the effects of the measures examined from other factors. In parallel, implementation-oriented evaluations have supported the managing authorities for the necessary adjustments of the interventions in order to maximise their benefits. While the evaluation findings are mostly specific to the individual evaluations, as they are strongly dependent on the local implementation context, some common findings are starting to emerge, showing positive results in many areas and effective support to beneficiaries. The Commission [2021 synthesis of evaluation findings](#) provides more details.

The Commission is finalising two evaluations. The ex-post evaluation of investment projects in infrastructures, competence centres and activities for research and technological development financed by the ERDF in the 2007-2013 period started from the collection of detailed data on projects and beneficiaries. The analysis has led to the production of a manual in the form of a cookbook. It details the underlying mechanisms of the main work funded by the policy and summarises the key ingredients for an effective policy. The Commission will publish the evaluation report in 2022. At the end of 2020, the Commission launched the evaluation of e-Cohesion, the electronic data exchange system to make it easier to exchange documents and data between ESI Funds beneficiaries and the relevant authorities. This evaluation is progressing on schedule. The main data collection is complete and the analysis phase has begun. The Commission will publish the evaluation report in 2022.

The Commission has started the ex post evaluation of the 2014-2020 period, which is structured in cross-cutting and thematic work packages covering the various sectoral domains supported by cohesion policy. The findings of the ex post evaluation will be published in 2025. It is during the evaluation phase that the wider impacts and achievements of programming can be assessed.

The [8th Cohesion Report](#) was published in February 2022. The Report assesses economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU. It shows that less developed regions have been catching up, but that many transition regions have been stuck in a development trap. Furthermore, the growing innovation divide will make it harder for both types of region to catch up. At the EU level, employment rates are now higher than before the economic crisis in 2008, but regional disparities are still above their pre-crisis level. Demographic change will affect all regions in the coming decades. Regions will have to adjust to a shrinking labour force and student body and a growing population that is aged 65 and over. Fiscal consolidation after the crisis in 2008 reduced public investment and has not yet regained its pre-crisis levels. As a result, cohesion policy funding has become ever more important, growing from the equivalent of 34% to 51% of public investment between the 2007-2013 and the 2014-2020 periods. The report highlights that the green and digital transitions will be key drivers of EU growth, but argues that, without appropriate policy action, new economic, social and territorial disparities may appear.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Enhance research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

Indicator 1: Enterprises supported to innovate

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
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	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of enterprises supported to innovate by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Researchers working in supported research facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of researchers benefiting from modernised research conditions due to EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product, process, marketing or organisational innovation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments

Indicator 1: Enterprises and public institutions supported to develop digital products, services and processes

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									

	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Indicator 1: SMEs investing in skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of employees from SMEs supported by EU regional policy to enhance skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 5: Enhancing digital connectivity

Indicator 1: Additional dwellings and enterprises with broadband access of very high capacity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Dwellings and enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of dwellings and enterprises with broadband access of very high capacity enabled by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Additional dwellings and enterprises with broadband subscriptions to a very high capacity network

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 6: Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing green-house gas emissions

Indicator 1: Investments in measures to improve energy performance

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Euro
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Investments of EU regional policy in measures to increase energy performance of buildings and processes.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Savings in annual primary energy consumption

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 7: Promoting renewable energy

Indicator 1: Additional production capacity for renewable energy

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	MW
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Additional capacity for producing renewable energy due to EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Additional renewable energy produced

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 8: Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside TEN-E

Indicator 1: Digital management systems for smart energy systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Systems
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of smart energy systems created and modernised by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Additional users connected to smart energy systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 9: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

Indicator 1: Investments in new or upgraded disaster monitoring, preparedness, warning and response systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Euro
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and modernised systems financed by EU regional policy for monitoring, preparation, warning and response in disaster situations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Additional population benefiting from protection measures against floods, wild fires, and other climate related natural disasters

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 10: Promoting sustainable water management

Indicator 1: New or upgraded capacity for waste water treatment

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Population equivalent
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and enhanced capacity for waste water treatment financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Additional population connected to at least secondary waste water treatment

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 11: Promoting the transition to a circular economy

Indicator 1: New or upgraded capacity for waste recycling

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and extended capacity for waste recycling financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Additional waste recycled

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 12: Enhancing nature protection and biodiversity, green infrastructure in particular in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

Indicator 1: Surface area of green infrastructure

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and enhanced green infrastructure financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Population benefiting from measures for air quality

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 13: Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility

Indicator 1: Extension and modernisation of tram and metro lines

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Length of new or modernised tram and metro lines financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Annual users served by new and modernised tram and metro lines

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 14: Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T

Indicator 1: Road TEN-T: New, upgraded, reconstructed, or modernised roads

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Length of new or modernised roads for better TEN-T connectivity financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Rail TEN-T: New, upgraded, reconstructed, or modernised railways

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Length of new or modernised railways for better TEN-T connectivity financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Time savings due to improved road infrastructure

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Annual number of passengers served by improved rail transport

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 15: Developing and enhancing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility

Indicator 1: Road non-TEN-T: New, upgraded, reconstructed, or modernised roads

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Length of new or modernised roads for better access to TEN-T and cross border mobility financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Rail non-TEN-T: New, upgraded, reconstructed, or modernised railways

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Length of new or modernised railways for better access to TEN-T and cross border mobility financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	
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Indicator 3: Time savings due to improved road infrastructure

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Annual number of passengers served by improved rail transport

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 16: Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure

Indicator 1: Surface of new or modernised facilities for employment services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Square metres
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and modernised facilities for employment services financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend

Indicator 2: Annual users of new or modernised facilities for employment services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 17: Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure

Indicator 1: New or modernised capacity for childcare and education facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and modernised facilities for childcare and education financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Annual users served by new or modernised childcare and education facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	
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Specific Objective 18: Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services

Indicator 1: New or modernised capacity of temporary reception and social housing facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and modernised capacity for temporary reception and social housing financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Annual users of new or modernised temporary reception and social housing facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 19: Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care

Indicator 1: New or modernised capacity for health care facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons/year

Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	New and modernised capacity for health care services financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No comparable indicator in 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Annual users of new or modernised health care services

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 20: Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage, tourism and security in urban areas

Indicator 1: Population covered by strategies for integrated territorial development

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of persons included in strategies for integrated territorial development financed by EU regional policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Yes
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

General Objective 1: To reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions, in particular for rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps and to contribute to achieving the targets set out in the Europe 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and in particular towards the achievement of quantitative headline targets identified in that strategy

Indicator 1: Employment rate by sex, age group 20-64

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target	
2016	Milestones									2020	
71.1%							75%				75%
	Actual Progress									Final	
	69.2	70.1	71.1	72.2	73.2	73.9					
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of population 20-64
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	Eurostat lfsi_emp_a
Narrative	In 2019, the employment rate of the 20-64 year old population increased by 0.6% to 74%. Despite the slowdown in 2019 (the employment rate increased by 0.7% instead of 1% in 2018), the trend remains positive and the 2020 target of 75% is still within reach. However, these figures do not take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With major impacts already visible across Europe, we expect the target set to be missed.
Methodology	Labour Force Survey
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/lfsi_esms.htm
Justification of the trend	Cohesion policy contributes to improving the labour market situation through various strands. Relevant Specific Objectives: SO 2

Indicator 2: Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target	
2016	Milestones									2020	
2.03%							3%				3%
	Actual Progress									Final	
	2.03%	2.04%	2.04%	2.08%	2.11%	2.14%					
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	% of GDP
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	Eurostat RD_E_GERDTOT
Narrative	In 2019, gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) increased by 0.03%. With the very slow increase of 0.02% on average between 2015 and 2019, the overall situation remains unsatisfactory, if not critical.
Methodology	Statistical indicator
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/rd_esms.htm
Justification of the trend	Cohesion policy makes an important contribution to the sector and is even an important source of a large part of public investment in R&D in some countries. But it is also clear that these efforts are not enough. Especially since, in view of the pandemic, it is to be expected that the figures will initially fall (especially in the private sector) before they rise again. Public investment therefore remains critical in this area and the increased efforts through REACT-EU and the new programmes are an essential but probably insufficient contribution to raising the rate to a satisfactory level. Ultimately, however, Europe will not be able to avoid a joint effort by all actors to give this area the boost it needs. Relevant Specific Objectives: SO 1

Indicator 4: Share of renewables in gross final energy consumption

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target	
2015	Milestones									2020	
16.7%							20%				20%
	Actual Progress									Final	
	16.2%	16.73%	16.98%	17.48%	18.01%	18.87%					
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	% of gross final energy consumption
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	European Environment Agency (EEA) (NRG_IND_REN)
Narrative	In 2019, Europe will reach a share of renewable energies in gross final energy consumption of almost 19%. Projection shows that due to the moderate increase in the renewable energy sector in recent years, with an average increase of plus 0.5% between 2015 and 2019 and the overall positive trend, the achievement of the 2020 target (20%) remains within reach.
Methodology	statistical indicator
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_07_40_esmsip2.htm
Justification of the trend	In view of the upcoming funding period, the current 2030 climate and energy framework and the Green Deal, this figure needs to increase even more significantly to avoid reputational damage for the EU. Cohesion policy will continue to make an important contribution to ensuring the performance of the sector. However, the expectations and targets set will necessarily remain challenging. This is the main reason why performance under the heading "European Green Deal" has become the top priority in DG REGIO's strategic plan for the next five years. Relevant Specific Objective: SO 4

Indicator 5: Energy intensity of the economy (proxy indicator for Energy savings, which is under development)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Primary energy consumption										
2015	Milestones									2020
1 529.1							1 483			1 483
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 511.78	1 535.98	1 544.2	1 561.82	1 552.8	1 526.12				
Are we on track :										
Final energy consumption										
2015	Milestones									2020
1 082.2							1 086			1 086
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 069	1 091.07	1 111.48	1 123.25	1 124.9	1 117.71				
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Million tonnes of oil equivalent (TOE)
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	Eurostat NRG_IND_EFF
Narrative	Both Europe's primary and final energy consumption decreased in 2018, and for the first time relative to final energy consumption levels in 2014-2018. Our projection shows that a continuation of this trend could lead to the achievement of 2020 targets for both categories. While this is clearly a positive and necessary trend, it remains unclear how sustainable this trend is. Together with the indicators on renewable energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission reductions, the picture is slightly positive of a trend pointing in the right direction, but deserving further attention in the coming years.
Methodology	Statistical indicator
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_07_10_esmsip2.htm https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_07_11_esmsip2.htm
Justification of the trend	Cohesion policy contributes to improving energy consumption through various strands. In its focus on sustainable growth, it will play its part in ensuring that the positive trend continues. Whether this alone will be sufficient cannot be answered at this stage. Relevant Specific Objective: SO 4

Indicator 6: Early leavers from education and training by sex; Tertiary educational attainment by sex, age group 30-34

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Early School Leavers: Total										
2014	Milestones									2020
11.2%							10%			10%
	Actual Progress									Final
	11.2%	11%	10.7%	10.5%	10.5%	10.3%				
Are we on										

track :										
Early School Leavers: Female										
2014	Milestones								2020	
9.6%									10%	10%
	Actual Progress								Final	
	9.6%	9.5%	9.2%	8.9%	8.8%	8.6%				
Are we on track :										
Early School Leavers: Male										
2014	Milestones								2020	
12,7%									< 10%	< 10%
	Actual Progress								Final	
	12.7%	12.4%	12.2%	12.1%	12.2%	11.9%				
Are we on track :										
Younger generation: Total										
2014	Milestones								2020	
38%									> 40%	> 40%
	Actual Progress								Final	
	37.9%	38.7%	39.2%	39.9%	40.7%	41.6%				
Are we on track :										
Younger generation: Female										
2014	Milestones								2020	
42,3%									> 40%	> 40%
	Actual Progress								Final	
	42.3%	43.4%	43.9%	44.9%	45.8%	46.7%				
Are we on track :										
Younger generation: Male										
2014	Milestones								2020	
33,6%									> 40%	> 40%
	Actual Progress								Final	
	33.6%	34.0%	34.4%	34.9%	35.7%	36.6%				
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	% of the population
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	Leavers: Eurostat (EDAT_LFSE_14) tertiary education Eurostat (EDAT_LFSE_04)
Narrative	As for the 2019 figures, the numbers of early school leavers have decreased by 0.2 percentage points (overall) and the proportion of the population with tertiary education has increased by 0.9 percentage points. A clear gender gap is evident in the figures for primary and tertiary education. However, leaving aside the significant role of gender in education, which is well documented by many studies, the overall trend is positive. Thus, while the outcome for males will fall well short of the 2020 target, it can be extrapolated that if the trend continues, the targets will likely be met in 2023 (early school leavers) or 2024 (tertiary education).
Methodology	Statistical indicators
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/sdg_04_10_esmsip2.htm https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/edat1_esms.htm
Justification of the trend	Cohesion policy contributes to improving education and childcare through various strands. Relevant Specific Objectives: SO 10

Specific Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Indicator 1: Number of new researchers in supported entities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones								2023	
	Actual Progress								Final	
	68	285	693	2 327	5 342	8 164	10 930			

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Researchers (Full time equivalent)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Impact of R&D funding on researcher employment. We see a significant increase of 25% from 2019 to the 2020 figures now available, resulting in an achievement rate of 42% compared to the 2023 target. On the other hand, the level of project selection is high (28 000 new researchers are already forecast from selected projects) which raises the prospect that the target could be achieved.
Methodology	Data collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. The national and regional programmes could still meet the 2023 target based on the forecasts from the selected projects.

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
	Actual Progress									Final
	2	77	640	7 764	19 671	34 183	46 800			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of uptake of innovation. Over 46 800 companies were enabled to cooperate with research institutions thanks to regional funding. From 2019 to the 2020 there was an increase in the achievement rate to 70% of the 2023 target. This means that the programmes are on track to meet their 2023 goal.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. The projections show that national and regional programmes are likely to meet the 2023 target.

Indicator 3: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
	Actual Progress									Final
	364	6 959	13 873	23 825	36 774	37 259	44 800			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of researchers (Full time equivalent)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Impact on improving facilities for R&D funding researchers. In the latest numbers, we see almost an increase from 2019 to the 2020 resulting in a target achievement of 52.5% compared to the 2023 target. The level of project selection is very high (over 112 000 researchers are forecast under projects already selected) which raises the prospect that the targets could be achieved.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq

Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. The national and regional programmes could still meet the 2023 target based on the forecasts from the selected projects.
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Indicator 5: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
										29740
	Actual Progress									Final
	23	70	595	3013	11830	17498	23800			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of uptake of innovation. Until end-2020, roughly 23 800 new products were introduced to the market by enterprises supported by ERDF and CF. From 2019 to the 2020, there has been a significant increase in the achievement rate to 80% against the 2023 target. The programmes are well on their way to meeting their goal.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the 2023 target will be met or exceeded.

Indicator 6: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
										51 150
	Actual Progress									Final
	23	89	619	3 334	14 317	23 331	35 640			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of uptake of innovation. By 2019, approximately 35 600 new products had been introduced in ERDF and CF-funded companies. From 2019 to 2020, there has been a significant increase in the achievement rate to 70 % against the 2023 target. This means that the programmes are on their way to meeting their revised goal.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. The projections show that the national and regional programmes will meet the 2023 target. To note that the target was reduced during 2020 by 15%. This is partly explained by transfers of EU funds towards working capital support to SMEs during the Coronavirus crisis.

Specific Objective 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies

Indicator 1: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
										11939000
	Actual Progress									Final
		0	863916	1395775	2989418	4571786	5518000			
Are we on track :	On track									

track :	
Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of households
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of outreach of support to broadband. Until 2020 over 5.5 million additional households received broadband access of at least 30 Mbit/s with the help of regional funding. From 2019 to 2020 there was only a small increase in the absolute achievement. This was despite an increase in the 2023 target. The project pipeline is available to meet their 2023 goal .
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	No milestone figure concerning this indicator associated with specific objective 2 is included in the table above, as the programmes which include this indicator in the performance framework where milestones are set represent a small share of the total, which render the milestone value available not representative at EU level.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. Past experience show that the national and regional programmes may meet the overall 2023 target if the slower progress in 2020 is replaced by rapid completions in 2022-2023.

Specific Objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises

Indicator 1: Number of enterprises receiving support

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
0	181831									1780000
	Actual Progress									Final
	11203	32882	94617	201348	414302	612813	1428748			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of scope of all support to SMEs for growth & competitiveness. Approximately 1.4 million enterprise were supported with the help of regional funding. From 2019 to 2020 the figures show a significant increase in the target and achievements. This is strongly correlated with the Covid reprogramming to provide working capital support to SME using grants and financial instruments. There has been a significant increase in the achievement rate to 80% of the target buy the end of 2020. The previous target was far over achieved. The national programmes are on track to meet their revised 2023 goal.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the national and regional programmes will meet the higher 2023 target.

Indicator 5: Number of new enterprises supported

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
	177 000									177 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	757	4 100	18 282	35 087	69 746	88 015	124 200			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of scope of support to new enterprises. Approximately 124 200 new SMEs were

	supported with the help of regional funding. From 2019 to 2020 there has been an increase in the achievement rate to 70% of the 2023 target (which was also increased in 2020).
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Due to an encoding error, the figure for 2018 has been changed, to correspond to the actual figure existing in the open data portal
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the national and regional programmes will meet the 2023.

Indicator 8: Employment increase in supported enterprises

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									Final
		4052	11898	4049	108654	184529	238300			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Full time equivalent (FTE)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Effects on employment in enterprises supported. By 2020, over 238 000 jobs were created in mainly in SMEs supported by regional funding. The cumulative achievements rate increased by more than 60 000 jobs, to 66% of the 2023 target. The rate of achievement was partly influenced by the reduction of the target by 9%.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the national and regional programmes need to maintain the current rates of achievement to meet the revised target. This could be challenging, especially in view of the general decline in employment growth rates in 2020-2021 and the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specific Objective 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

Indicator 1: Additional capacity of renewable energy production (MW/MWH)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									Final
		1	4	228	905	1918	2407			
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	3	110	176	328			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Megawatts (MW)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Contribution to renewable energy capacity. Until 2020, a cumulative increase of 2735 mega watt of additional capacity of renewable energy production was achieved thanks to regional funding. From 2019 to the 2020 24% of the 2023 target has been implemented. The target was decrease by about 5% during 2020.

Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. The project pipeline shows that the national and regional programmes could reach the 2023 target. However, a strong rate of implementation will be needed in the last years of implementation. Based on past experience the achievement of outputs linked to multi annual infrastructure projects occurred late in the period.

Indicator 2: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									557700
	1694	7013	27103	65044	163750	267559	336000			Final
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									45600
	0	42	833	5490	9938	17811	21850			Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Households
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of scope of energy efficiency measures for households. Over 358 000 additional households have achieved an improved energy consumption classification with the help of regional funding. By the end of 2020 the achievement rate has reached 59% against the 2023 target, which however was reduced by 14% during 2020. As part of the CRII pandemic response funding under the CF was transferred to ERDF and ESF, which correlated with the reduction of the CF target for this indicator. The programmes are on track to meet the revised 2023 goal.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the national and regional programmes will meet the 2023 target.

Indicator 3: Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									4732400000
		111729	1174311	24559136	240217919	784640956	1326050000			Final
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									1750000000
				134461	295986122	447390529	565660000			Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	kWh/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States

Narrative	Contribution to energy efficiency in public buildings. A cumulative decrease of over 1.9 billion kWh of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings was so far achieved with the help of ERDF and CF funding. By end 2020 the 2023 target achievement rate has reached 29%.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. The decided values in selected projects suggest that the target may be achieved by end-2023. Based on past experience the achievement of outputs linked to multi-annual infrastructure projects tends to occur late in the period.

Indicator 5: Estimated annual decrease of GHG

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									16828700
	10197	31836	87612	365881	1138534	2532712	3939200			Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									3969870
			0	6995	142035	331348	519760			Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes of CO2 equivalent
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outcome of measures to reduce GHG emissions. By 2020, a reduction of over 4.4 million tons of CO2 equivalent per year had been achieved with the help of ERDF and Cohesion Fund investments. The rate of achievement has reached 21% of 2023 target. Based on past experience the achievement of outputs linked to multi-annual infrastructure projects tends to occur late in the period. The decided values in selected projects suggest that the target may be achieved by end-2023.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	"ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target. Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected."
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Weak trend. Although the achievement rate remains well below the set target, the forecasts from selected projects show that the 2023 target could be achieved.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Indicator 1: Population benefiting from flood protection measures

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									16347700
			11520	1453555	3784308	6261551	7686500			Final
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									11365950
				165717	343687	1225468	3624400			Final

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of scope of flood protection measures. Until 2020, almost 11.3 million people are reported as benefitting from flood protection measures supported by regional funding. The cumulative achievement rate now reaches 41% against the 2023 target. The Target was increased by 67% in 2020 linked to revisions of the population covered by selected measures. The programmes are on track to meet their 2023 goal.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target. Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the national and regional programmes could meet or exceed the 2023 target.

Indicator 2: Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0										21405600
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	1362645	6432091	7597849	7777350			
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	0	0	0	0	2398500					8330000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	462660	4412022	7690355	8334000			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of scope of fire protection measures. By the end of 2020, almost 16.1 million people are benefitting from forest fire protection measures supported by ERDF/CF regional funding. That achievement almost equals the 2023 target set at the end of 2019. During 2020 the cumulative target was raised to 29.7 million people (an increase of 80% in target, under the ERDF). The end-2020 achievement rate is therefore 54% of the new 2023 target.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target. Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong performance. Projections show that the national and regional programmes could reach or exceed the higher revised 2023 target.

Specific Objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Indicator 1: Additional waste recycling capacity

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0										1442815

	Actual Progress								Final
			100	10574	40469	105541	190276		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress								
Cohesion Fund									
2014	Milestones								2023
0	0	0	0	0	1150087				4251453
	Actual Progress								Final
	0	0	2187	47245	714936	1137797	1506825		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress								

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outcomes of supported projects on waste recycling. By 2020, additional waste recycling capacity for over 1.7 million tons of waste per year has been created with regional funding. The achievement rate of nearly 30% is now measured against the 2023 target which was increased in 2020. Despite the low achievement rate, the projections from the project pipeline show that the 2023 target could be reached.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Weak trend. Based on past experience the achievement of outputs linked to multi annual infrastructure projects occurs late in the period.

Indicator 2: Additional population served by improved water supply

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones								2023	
0					379412					4536090
	Actual Progress								Final	
			27089	161320	427904	1298436	1939947			
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones								2023	
0					772698					10361371
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0	0	162704	175378	728835	1196261	1592416			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outcome of drinking water supported projects. By 2020, more than 3.5 million additional people had been provided with improved water supply with the help of regional funds. From 2019 to the 2020 figures now available, there has been a significant increase of 42%, resulting in an achievement rate of approximately 24% against the 2023 target. Despite the low overall achievement rate to end-2020, programmes are on track to meet their 2023 objective.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target. Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. Projections from selected projects suggest that the national and regional programmes will meet the 2023 goal.

Indicator 3: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	841425									10369023
	Actual Progress									Final
	2030	109599	325553	715444	1557171	1913588	2329704			
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	0	0	0	0	138333					10493053
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	8399	54332	322241	1073632	1797502			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Population equivalent
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outcome of waste water treatment supported projects. By 2020, more than 4 million additional people had been served by improved wastewater treatment with the help of regional funds. From 2019 to the 2020 figures now available, there has been an increase of 37%, resulting in an achievement rate of approximately 20% against the 2023 target. Despite the low overall attainment rate, programmes are on track to meet their 2023 objective.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target. Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. Projections show that we will reach the 2023 target

Indicator 5: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0										8035336
	Actual Progress									Final
		13453	100094	1617264	2790692	5776429	6581673			
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0										293513
	Actual Progress									Final
		290	607	834	56550	149795	199410			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Measurement of the scope of supported projects on habitat protection. By 2020, more than 6,5 million hectares of habitats have achieved better conservation status with support from regional funds. From the 2020 numbers now available, there has been a 19% increase in the implemented value , resulting in an achievement rate of about 81% of the 2023 target.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the 2023 target will be met.

Specific Objective 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

Indicator 2: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total (European Regional and Development Fund)										
2014	Milestones									2023
					272					3112
	Actual Progress									Final
					412	562	632			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Total (Cohesion Fund)										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	0	0	0	0	226					2 151
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	92	281	526	685	912			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
TEN-T (European Regional and Development Fund)										
2014	Milestones									2023
										1488
	Actual Progress									Final
					143	139	170			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
TEN-T (Cohesion Fund)										
2014	Milestones									2023
0										2 151
	Actual Progress									Final
			92	281	526	685	912			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Scope of supported projects for the reconstruction of rail network. By 2020, more than 1540 km of rail track had been reconstructed – including 1 080 km of TEN-T. This represented a 30% achievement rate against the 2023 target. Despite the low overall attainment rate, programmes had selected operations to contribute to 90% of the 2023 target. Based on past experience the achievement of outputs linked to multi annual infrastructure projects occurs late in the period.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target. Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Weak progress from 2019 to 2020. There is a risk that the 2023 target will not be fully achieved.

Indicator 3: Total length of newly built roads

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total (European Regional and Development Fund)										
2014	Milestones									2023
					142					1648
	Actual Progress									Final
			8	168	454	786	1043			
Are we on track :	On track									
Total (Cohesion Fund)										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	0	0	0	0	62					2 079

	Actual Progress								Final
	0	0	41	336	681	1 035	1 339		
Are we on track :	On track								
TEN-T (European Regional and Development Fund)									
2014	Milestones								2023
					14				427
0	Actual Progress								Final
			54	156	274	343			
Are we on track :	On track								
TEN-T (Cohesion Fund)									
2014	Milestones								2023
									2 079
0	Actual Progress								Final
			41	336	681	1 035	1 339		
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Kilometers
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Scope of supported projects for the building of new road network. By the end of 2020, over 2 300 km of newly built roads were completed with support from regional funds. The rate of achievements was at a 64% of the 2023 target by the end of 2020 (67% for TEN-T projects).
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the 2023 target can be met.

Indicator 4: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total (European Regional and Development Fund)										
2014	Milestones								2023	
					1094					10498
	Actual Progress								Final	
		3	212	714	2622	4303	5394			
Are we on track :	On track									
Total (Cohesion Fund)										
2014	Milestones								2023	
					112					724
0	Actual Progress								Final	
		24	274	406	501	592	642			
Are we on track :	On track									
TEN-T (European Regional and Development Fund)										
2014	Milestones								2023	
										147
	Actual Progress								Final	
			39	50	80	85				
Are we on track :	On track									
TEN-T (Cohesion Fund)										
2014	Milestones								2023	
										724
0	Actual Progress								Final	
		24	274	406	501	592	642			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
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Unit of measurement	km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Scope of supported projects for the reconstruction or upgrade of the road network. By the end of 2020, over 6 000 km of roads were reconstructed or upgraded with support from regional funds. From the 2020 figures now available, there has been a moderate increase in this figure of 21%, resulting in an achievement rate of approximately 54% (84% for TEN-T projects) against the 2023 target.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the 2023 target is likely to be met.

Indicator 5: Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
European Regional and Development Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									253
					11	27	29			Final
Are we on track :	On track									
Cohesion Fund										
2014	Milestones									2023
0	0	0	0	0	52					225
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	6	53	74	108			
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	km
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Output of supported projects for tram and metro lines. By the end of 2020, over 130 km of new or reconstructed tram and metro lines were completed with support from regional funds. From the 2020 figures now available, there has been an increase in this figure of 36%, resulting in an achievement rate of approximately 29% against the 2023 target.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	ERDF and CF programmes contribute to the target.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Moderate trend. Projections show that the 2023 could be met as the forecasts from the selected projects exceed the 2023 target.

Specific Objective 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

Indicator 1: Employment increase in supported enterprises

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
	Actual Progress									361878
		4052	11898	40490	108654	184529	238344			Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Jobs (FTE)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Effects on employment in enterprises supported. By 2020, over 238 000 jobs were created in mainly in SMEs supported by regional funding. The cumulative achievements rate increased by more than 60

	000 jobs, to 66% of the 2023 target. The rate of achievement was partly influenced by the reduction of the target by 9%.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	No milestone figure concerning indicator 1 above is included in the table above, as the programmes which include this indicator in the performance framework where milestones are set represent a small share of the total, which render the milestone value available not representative at EU level.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Strong trend. Projections show that the national and regional programmes need to maintain the current rates of achievement to meet the revised target. This could be challenging, especially in view of the general decline in employment growth rates in 2020-2021 and the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specific Objective 9: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Indicator 1: Population covered by improved health services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
0	Actual Progress									66469968
		1590288	5552309	15256131	27458607	38716940	52024551			Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outreach of supported projects for health care facilities. Until the end of 2020, over 52 million people were covered by improved health services thanks to support from cohesion funds. From 2019 to 2020 there has been an increase of 34%, resulting in an achievement rate of around 78% against the 2023 target. The target was increased in several MS in 2020.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will report a variation on the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Aggregate target is not considered robust and likely to be exceeded due to difficulties forecasting ex ante the population covered by projects later selected.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Very strong trend. Projections show that the 2023 target will be met. Measures related to the Corona pandemic response will help to raise these numbers further, even above the now higher target set for 2023.

Indicator 4: Rehabilitated housing in urban areas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
	Actual Progress									23896
				289	1837	3354	7618			Final
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Housing Units
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outreach of supported projects for housing services. Until the end of 2020 around 7 600 housing units have been rehabilitated in urban areas with the support of regional funding. Looking at the latest figures, a significant increase in achievement of 127% is recorded between 2019 and 2020. However, this only leads to an overall achievement rate of about 14% compared to the 2023 target. In other words, the current achievements are still significantly below the target. On the other hand, the level of project selection is promising: projects representing nearly 21 000 housing units were already selected.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will not report the indicator in 2021-2027

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	At risk of underachievement. Projections show that the national and regional programmes need to significantly increase achievement rates to still reach the target.

Specific Objective 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

Indicator 1: Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2020
							6 900 747			17 839 592
	Actual Progress									Final
		2 663	32 642	166 450	6 799 156	15 550 946	19 756 762			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Places
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC/Member States
Narrative	Outreach of supported projects for enhancing access to education infrastructures. By end-2020, over 19.75 million places had been created or modernised in childcare and education facilities thanks to support from the regional funds. From 2019 to 2020, there has been a significant increase in numbers resulting in an achievement rate of around 110% against the 2023 target.
Methodology	Collected from supported operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report the indicator in 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	No milestone figure concerning this indicator associated with specific objective 10 is included in the table above, as the programmes which include this indicator in the performance framework where milestones are set represent a small share of the total, which render the milestone value available not representative at EU level.
Full metadata available at this address	https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/d/xiq3-56nq
Justification of the trend	Very strong trend. Projections show that the 2023 target are likely to achieved and even exceeded.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Climate contribution	37.02	13 309.34	13 659.09	14 043.39	14 440.56	12 256.17	12 679.39	80 424.95

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
REACT EU Climate contribution	4 559.46	2 037.38						6 596.84

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The ERDF and CF are important contributors to the overall EU tracking target - 20% of the EU budget 2014-2020 – given the scope of their objectives and the scale of their total budgets. Cohesion policy funding is delivering more than EUR 51 billion in investment in climate action in the 2014-2020 period (i.e. almost 20 % of the total ERDF/CF planned budget). With the establishment of a legally binding budget share for climate-related investments of 30% for the ERDF and 37% for the CF, the ambitions for the period 2021-2027 in this area have even increased.

In order to support the delivery on the ground of the European Green Deal, we need to be in close partnership with regions and cities. Cohesion policy is expected to invest more than EUR 78.2 billion in projects related to climate and environment over the next 7 years (2021-2027) in this partnership approach. The draft regulation sets out that “[t]he ERDF and the Cohesion Fund shall contribute with 30% and 37% respectively of the Union contribution to expenditure supported for the achievement of the climate objectives set for the EU budget”. Based on these values, we estimate an annual share of 30% and 37% of Union contributions for

this area. A more detailed projection will be possible only once the programming of the funds at national and regional level is more advanced.

The methodology used for tracking the ERDF and CF contribution to mainstreaming of climate action in 2022 remains stable and coherent with last year's programme statement. Based on the categories of intervention reported directly by the Member States, REGIO identifies the relevant financial allocations and tracks financial implementation as reported from the Member State level and the amounts can be explored using this [Climate tracking tool](#).

With regard to the 2014-20 programmes, the tracking of the contribution of ERDF and CF to the mainstreaming of climate action is done through the weighting of selected thematic allocations (100%-40%-0%) in the Member States' funding priorities reflected by the categories of intervention, which is then expressed as a percentage of the budget to be made available by year (latest data is from the end of 2021).

6.1.3. Key achievements

At the end of 2019 the ERDF and CF share of the EU planned support allocated to climate action was over 21% of the combined budget of the funds (EUR 55.2 billion). By end 2020, the ERDF and CF climate action share had fallen to EUR 51.3 billion or 20% as a result of the reallocations linked to the CRII(+) initiative to support the pandemic response, in particular to reinforcing allocations to the immediate public health response and support to SMEs. The total budget for climate action under the original 2014-2020 programmes had recovered somewhat to EUR 52.3 billion by the end of 2021.

The thematic distribution of the EU climate amount at end 2021 is distributed as set out in the table below.

	2014-2020 planned EUR m	Share of EU planned climate action - ERDF/CF
I. Productive investment	26.9	0.1%
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Energy infrastructure	19,407.8	37.9%
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Environmental infrastructure	1,391.3	2.7%
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Transport infrastructure	9,430.7	18.4%
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Sustainable transport	7,136.5	13.9%
IV Development of endogenous potential: Research and development and innovation	2,240.0	4.4%
IV Development of endogenous potential: Business development	3,039.7	5.9%
IV Development of endogenous potential: Environment	8,480.3	16.6%
IV Development of endogenous potential: Other	14.2	0.0%
Total	51,167.5	100.0%

The high share of ERDF and CF resources allocated and tracked for climate action has led to the selection of indicators and target values and leads to annual reporting on progress in implementation. The most relevant common indicators presented in detail in section 5 above are as follows:

- Specific Objective 4 : Low carbon economy
Indicators on new renewable energy capacity, GHG emission reductions, energy savings
- Specific Objective 5: Climate action
Indicators on population benefitting from climate related risks (wild fires and floods)
- Specific Objective 7: Network Infrastructure
Indicators on rail investments

Under the REACT-EU initiative the objective is that 25% of the additional EU financing be committed to climate action, which should redress the climate action reduction in 2020 linked to the immediate pandemic response. The full REACT-EU allocations will be only finalised during 2022. As of end 2021 more than EUR 5 billion was allocated to climate action under the additional REACT-EU allocation. This [REACT-EU Dashboard](#) provides a regularly updated presentation on the formally allocated amounts.

The following example shows how climate protection and regional development can go hand in hand.

The “[Smart Solar Charging](#)” project in the city of Utrecht (West-Netherlands) develops a bidirectional charging system for shared electric cars, where car batteries can either charge or deliver energy back to the electricity grid. This way sustainable energy can be

used when there is a high demand for energy in the local district. The project has contributed to installing 200 smart bidirectional charging points and is still scaling up.

6.1.4. Performance

Of the 10 indicators presented above and relevant for Climate mainstreaming (Specific Objectives 4, 5 and 7), seven show a moderate or strong trend in terms of achieving their 2023 targets. Overall, performance on the climate-related indicators can be described as satisfactory.

Performance on the following indicators by the end of 2020 illustrates the scale and scope of the investments being completed:

- Until 2020, an increase over 2 735 MWH of additional capacity of renewable energy production was achieved thanks to regional funding.
- A decrease of over 1.9 billion kWh of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings was achieved with the help of regional funding.
- By 2019, a reduction of over 4.4 million tons of CO2 equivalent per year had been achieved with the help of regional funds.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	0	2 050.00	2 424.10	2 826.10	3 252.60	3 704.70	4 183.90	20 138.20
Share compared to total envelope		4.56 %	5.25 %	5.95 %	6.66 %	8.87 %	9.68 %	7.04 %

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
REACT EU Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared REACT EU total implementation and programming	0.00 %			0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	

6.2.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Europe is currently not on track to halt biodiversity loss. The underlying causes (e.g. urban sprawl, intensive agriculture, pollution and invasive species) will probably persist, and the impact of climate change is projected to intensify. Cohesion policy investments support the EU's nature and biodiversity policies, for instance by strengthening the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. Such investments also contribute to EU objectives in the fields of water quality, air quality and climate change adaptation, which in turn are important for regional development.

The methodology used for estimating ERDF and CF contribution to financing biodiversity in 2022 remains stable and coherent with last year's programme statement and the 2014-2020 values presented in this [Biodiversity tracking tool](#). Based on the categorisation of the planned and implemented expenditure reported directly by the Member States, DG REGIO calculates the relevant financial allocations based on weighting agreed with expert Commission services (no target was set in the legislation).

In relation to the 2021-2027 MFF the overall objective is to provide 7.5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027.

Based on the 2014-2020 planned values (end 2020) the share of the total ERDF and CF budget allocated to biodiversity related activities is 4%. At this early stage of programming, precise figures on future commitments are not available, and a more reliable projection will only be available when programming of the 2021-2027 funds is further advanced. Maintaining at least the 4% share for the 2021-2027 period would result in a total allocation of EUR 10 billion to biodiversity objectives from ERDF and the Cohesion Fund. The Commission will work with the Member States during the programming towards securing a higher share of cohesion policy funding to biodiversity activities, than in the 2014-2020 period.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2020	Total 2014-20
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Environmental infrastructure	€ 560 19	€ 3.920
IV Development of endogenous potential: Environment	€ 1.010 97	€ 6.434
Total	€ 1.571 16	€ 10.354
In million		

Protection against floods for the inhabitants of Ermitage les Bains and Saline les Bains on the island of La Réunion, France. The objective of the project was to carry out the studies and necessary works for the protection against floods for the two districts housing more than 5 000 people and which are regularly inundated during heavy tropical and cyclonic rains.

6.2.4. Performance

The allocation of ERDF and CF resources to biodiversity actions have led to the selection of indicators and target values and leads to annual reporting on progress in implementation. The most relevant common indicator presented in detail in section 5 above is funded under Specific Objective 6: Environment - "Area of habitat with improved status".

The key areas of investment lie in two categories, i.e. (i) protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure and (ii) protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites.

However, the full range of investments that are indirectly related to biodiversity reach more than EUR 10.3 billion once the allocations to three other related interventions, indicated below, are taken into consideration:

- waste water treatment
- adaptation to climate change, prevention and management of climate risks
- development and promotion of tourism potential of natural areas

Strong performance is evident in these areas:

- By 2019, nearly 4.1 million additional people had been served by improved wastewater treatment with the help of regional funds.
- By 2019, nearly 6.8 million hectares of habitats have achieved better conservation status with support from regional funds.

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
3 868.70	3 994.80	4 124.60	4 267.30	4 414.20	4 565.80	4 722.40	29 957.80

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Clean air is essential to our health and to the environment. But as a result of rising industrial and energy production, the burning of fossil fuels and biomass, as well as the dramatic rise in traffic on our roads, our towns and cities suffer from air pollution. Investing in the reduction of air pollution therefore not only fosters human wellbeing and supports the protection of natural resources, but also makes economic sense and contributes to regional development.

Cohesion policy, through the ERDF and the CF, supports European regions and Member States in their efforts to reach the European clean air targets set for 2030. In the 2014–2020 period the policy has allocated more than EUR 29.8 billion to investments directly aimed at reducing pollution or 11% of the total EU budget. The methodology used for estimating the ERDF and CF contribution to financing clean air was introduced in 2020 through this [Clean air tracking tool](#). Based on the categorisation of the planned and implemented expenditure reported directly by the Member States, DG REGIO tracks the relevant financial allocations based on weightings in line with the common methodology established via the NEC Directive 2016/2284 (no target was set in the 2014-2020 regulation). Cohesion policy investments contribute to improving air quality, for instance through reconstruction of building heating systems or clean urban transport infrastructure. The methodology used for estimating ERDF and CF contribution to clean air remains stable and coherent with last year's programme statement. Based on the 2014-2020 planned values we have projected an estimated annual share of 11% of ERDF and CF contributions for clean air over the entire period 2021-2027. A more reliable ERDF and CF projection will be possible when the programming of the 2021-2027 funds is more advanced. The first estimate is that cohesion policy could/will contribute an additional EUR 30 billion to improving air quality between 2021 and 2027.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming					Total	
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027
Score 0* 260.8							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender equality is a horizontal principle of the ERDF and CF (including REACT-EU) in the 2014-2020 and the 2021-2027 period. This means that gender equality and a gender perspective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of the programmes. Bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination are among the key partners who have to be involved by Member States and the Commission in the partnership process.

For the 2021-2027 period, there was no expenditure on programmes in 2021. However, EUR 260.8 million have been committed for technical assistance. The exact Contribution to gender equality will be defined ex-post.

Also, for the 2021-2027 period, the legal requirements as regards gender equality have been further strengthened in two ways. First, a new funding precondition for Member States, called an enabling condition, was introduced on ensuring the effective application of the EU Charter on Fundamental rights, containing also the requirement on equality between men and women; and the thematic enabling condition related to gender equality was further strengthened. Second, a requirement to track the support to gender equality has been adopted for all cohesion policy funds which will allow for better monitoring of the gender targeted and mainstreaming investments.

The ERDF directly contributes to gender equality by improving the quality and access to childcare and by improving business support measures for women entrepreneurs. 2014-2020 data are available only for early childhood education and care infrastructure with EUR 1.3 billion. ERDF and CF investments also contribute to gender equality indirectly through improvements in education, research, business, health and other infrastructure, enhancing opportunities for women. Examples include ERDF projects supporting women entrepreneurship, return of women to labour market, reproductive health, equality in employment for women in specific (traditionally male) sectors and others.

Better business environment for women in border regions between Croatia and Serbia

The [Women Business HUB](#) project co-financed by the Interreg-IPA cross-border cooperation programme contributes to a better business environment for women in border regions between Croatia and Serbia. The partnership of the WBH project is determined to foster economic empowerment of women entrepreneurs in the project area and minimize impact of the obstacles for women to start their own businesses. Partners aim to establish two women's business centres in Erdut and Novi Sad offering a program of tailored trainings, mentoring, networking and promotion services that seek to educate more than 700 women and set up a cross-border network of women entrepreneurs.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 3

The newly opened [Geriatric Care Centre](#) in the Polish coastal city of Sopot is designed to provide the Pomorskie region's older residents with access to a comprehensive range of specialised medical services that were not previously available locally. The establishment of the centre provides elderly people in the region with easy access to geriatric, psychogeriatric and rehabilitation services. In addition, the establishment of the Centre is generating employment: in total, 70 new jobs.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 4 and SDG 8

The **House of Digitalisation** is a regional ecosystem in the field of digitalisation to promote education and training, science, industry and administration in the region of Lower Austria. Its objective is to provide cross-sectoral support to the domestic industry to increase the speed and efficiency of its digital transformation. During the COVID-19 lockdown, House of Digitalisation project supported regional companies in strengthening their online trading opportunities. The mobile application, developed by the students in Lower Austria allowed small shops to quickly and easily enter online retailing and keep in touch with the customers. The ERDF contribution amounts to EUR 1.2 million.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 4 and SDG 5

The [Remote School initiative](#) in Poland was launched in response to difficulties of continued school education during the coronavirus pandemic. Many children were left without access to the Internet or equipment on which they could continue their studies. Thanks to the initiative, Polish municipalities were able to equip over 23 000 schools with laptops, tablets or mobile internet for children who did not have them. Over 330 000 Polish pupils have benefitted so far.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 7, SDG 11 and SDG 13

Resource efficiency investments in the greenest company in Estonia: “Estonian Cell AS” The project invested in innovative technology that is more efficient in terms of energy and resource use. Estonian Cell produces biogas from wastewater using anaerobic wastewater treatment technology, which is a cutting-edge technology and an innovative solution alongside wood pulp production. It is the largest biogas production reactor in Europe. High methane biogas is fully utilized in the production of wood pulp and replaces a significant part of previously purchased natural gas. Wastewater treatment takes place in an oxygen-free or anaerobic environment, which does not require large amounts of electricity and does not generate sludge, unlike an aerobic environment. The processes produce valuable biogas with an average methane content of 75%. The new water treatment solution saves 5.5 GWh of electricity per year.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8, SDG 9 and SDG 11

[Office for Innovation](#), located in the Badajoz Science and Technology Park in Extremadura, Spain. The Office for Innovation is an instrument to promote innovation in the less developed region of Extremadura based on the exchange of knowledge. The Office facilitated access for 283 companies to support for R&D activities.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 13 and SDG 15

[PANDA: protecting Polish cities against heavy rainfall](#). The PANDA project represents the first up-to-date rainfall mapping system for urban areas in Poland, due to collaboration between rainwater and snowmelt management company Retencjapl, and the Polish Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute. The Polish Atlas of Rains Intensities (PANDA) project is the first online, digital and comprehensive rainfall mapping system in Poland. It is designed to help develop urban storm water and drainage systems that better protect Polish towns, cities and their residents against the effects of heavy rainfall.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

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

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership**6.5.2. Key achievements and performance**

The cohesion policy funds (ERDF, CF, ESF) are contributing substantially to the SDG. In 2014-2020 95% of the planned financial resources support the achievement of 11 SDGs out of the total of 17 SDGs.

REGIO maps the contribution of its funds to the SDGs on the basis of the intervention codes that each Member State provide along with the data of its programmes. In the table below, we present the list of those SDGs that are of key relevance for the 2014-2020 programmes.

The 2021-2027 cohesion policy will enable the EU to continue to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development and will help further the localisation of the SDGs, since cohesion policy is delivered in close cooperation with regions and local authorities. The mapping of SDGs will be made in the same way to the programmes of the 2021-2027 period. For 2021-2027 the mapping will be possible once the national and regional programmes are adopted with information on the specific allocation of EU funds.

ERDF and CF investment mapped to relevant SDGs (at end 2021) - In million EUR

SDG	SDG title	Planned Total Amount (EU+National)	Total Eligible Costs selected	Total Eligible Expenditure Declared	Selection rate	Spending rate	Share of planned total investment
SDG1	No poverty	9,892.4	11,125.5	5,587.3	112%	56%	3%
SDG3	Good health and well being	14,788.2	14,994.2	9,098.7	101%	62%	4%
SDG4	Quality education	9,588.3	11,806.0	6,801.7	123%	71%	3%
SDG6	Clean water and sanitation	17,130.7	23,492.2	10,008.2	137%	58%	5%
SDG7	Affordable and clean energy	34,376.9	40,981.0	21,105.5	119%	61%	10%
SDG8	Decent work and economic growth	74,365.3	94,489.1	57,967.8	127%	78%	21%
SDG9	Industry, innovation, infrastructure	137,618.8	170,108.6	93,908.6	124%	68%	39%
SDG11	Sustainable cities and communities	6,901.0	6,902.5	3,625.1	100%	53%	2%
SDG12	Responsible consumption and production	7,544.8	8,493.5	4,271.2	113%	57%	2%
SDG13	Climate action	8,855.9	11,957.6	5,767.9	135%	65%	3%
SDG15	Life on land	9,321.1	9,155.7	4,572.5	98%	49%	3%
	No SDG assigned	19,821.5	20,855.8	11,980.3	105%	60%	6%
	Grand Total	350,204.9	424,361.6	234,694.7	121%	67%	100%

(1) Due to the overlap among SDGs, SDG11 and SDG13 are underestimated (a significant share of investments assigned to SDG6, SDG9 and SDG12, for instance, are planned for urban areas and investments in SDG7 are relevant for climate action).

Cohesion policy's overall mission to reduce economic, social, and environmental territorial disparities between the EU regions is largely in line with the principles underpinning the SDGs, which allows for an assessment of how the Policy contributes to them.

In the long term, cohesion policy contributes to *reducing inequality within and among countries* (SDG10). The overarching mission of the funds is to *reduce economic, social, and environmental territorial disparities between the EU regions*. It can be deduced that cohesion policy aims at contributing to SDG10 in the medium to long term. However, its contribution to SDG10 cannot be quantified on the basis of monitoring data, but must be assessed through evaluations. Based on monitoring data, it is, nonetheless, possible to reliably estimate and assess how cohesion policy, across all its funds, contributes to the thematic chapters of the SDGs, as explained below.

The distribution of investments across the SDGs is shown in the table above. Here it can be seen that more than 70% of the investments are invested in the goals "affordable and clean energy" (SDG7), "decent work and economic growth" (SDG8) and "industry, innovation, infrastructure" (SDG9). In terms of implementation by December 2021, project selection data shows significant progress, with selection rates at or above 100% of planned allocation for almost all SDGs.

Section 6.5.1. serves as a pool of examples for the variety of the different projects funded under cohesion policy and their contribution to the different SDGs.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Support to the Turkish Cypriot Community****Lead DG: REFORM**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The Aid Programme aims to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Revision of the programme can only occur in the case where a reunification is achieved during the MFF period (in the absence of this, no major changes of strategy can be made).

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The programme is the only EU funding for the Turkish Cypriots, who are EU citizens. There is very little assistance from individual Member States due to difficult legal and political circumstances in the de-facto divided island. The EU programme supports reunification efforts and prepares the Turkish Cypriots for the lifting of the suspension of the application of the *acquis* in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control. The EU contribution, in supporting the political process, economic integration and improved living standards, is vital. Economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community in order to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus is mentioned very prominently in the Aid Regulation.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Aid Regulation was adopted in 2006. On this basis, the Commission continues to deliver assistance to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and working under six objectives:

- Objective 1: Developing and restructuring of infrastructure;
- Objective 2: Promoting social and economic development;
- Objective 3: Fostering reconciliation, confidence building measures and support to civil society;
- Objective 4: Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU;
- Objective 5 and 6: Preparing the Turkish Cypriot community to introduce and implement the *acquis*, in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession.

Specifically, the Aid Programme contributes significantly through support to private sector development, facilitating the involvement of the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and human capital development. Measures to be financed under the Aid Programme are exceptional and transitional in nature and are intended, in particular, to prepare and facilitate, as appropriate, the full application of the EU *acquis* in the areas where the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control, in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession, following a solution to the Cyprus problem.

The Aid Programme remains ready to accommodate developments in the settlement process and to finance confidence-building measures resulting from this process.

1.4. Public intervention context

The assistance programme is of an exceptional, transitional and temporary nature, aiming to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus. The Aid Regulation has no end date. Revision of the programme can only occur in the case a reunification is achieved during the MFF period (in the absence of this, no major changes of strategy can be made).

1.5. Actions

The assistance is implemented through direct and indirect management, taking account of the different types of constraints. Recently, innovative mechanisms on delivering aid have been initiated with the purpose of bringing coherence and streamlining priority infrastructure actions (Local Infrastructure Facility), improving the entrepreneurship ecosystem through enhanced linkages between research and business (Innovative Entrepreneurship), and supporting the bi-communal Technical Committees to carry out their activities more effectively. The underlying aim is to bring more tangible and visible impact in the priority areas with an annual programming resulting in a streamlined and compact set of actions.

Several infrastructure investments, with a strong environmental and bi-communal focus, are under implementation and will continue to be programmed through the Local Infrastructure Facility and/or through targeted direct interventions. Continued support is provided for strengthening the private sector and labour market, with an emphasis on innovation and increasing employability. Likewise, concrete measures have been put in place aimed at eradicating animal disease and improving food safety standards. The 'confidence building measures' (support for the Committee on Missing Persons and for the Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage) have shown solid progress and good bi-communal acceptance. Two new Green Line crossing points, specifically requested as a confidence building measure were opened in 2018 and in July 2019. The Commission played an active role in reaching a technically acceptable solution to both communities on the interoperability of mobile phones across the island. Intensive efforts continue on the preparation for the implementation of the *acquis*.

On 12 April 2021 the Commission adopted two measures regarding an important Cypriot heritage food product, namely Halloumi/Hellim cheese, which has been registered as a Protected Designation of Origin. After 1/10/2021 only producers in Cyprus who comply with the product specification are allowed to market their cheese under the name Halloumi/Hellim within the EU.

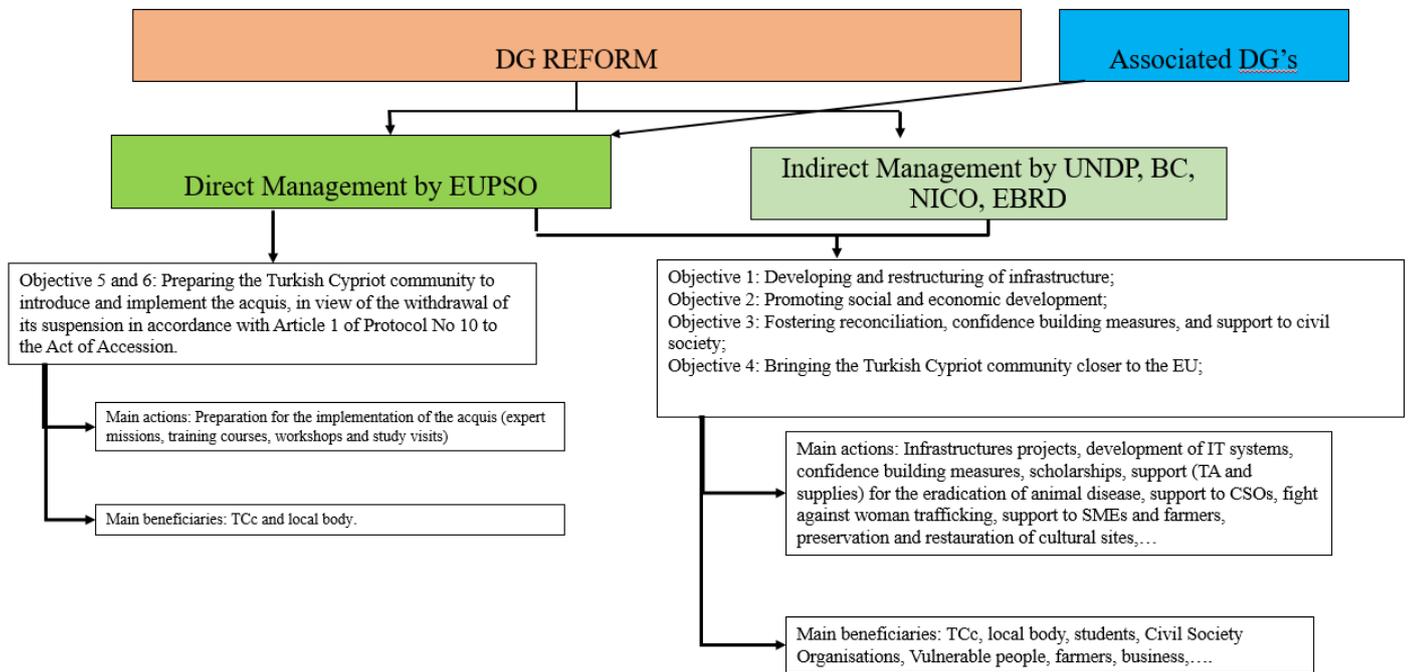
Another instrument allows Turkish Cypriot PDO compliant Halloumi/Hellim to be traded across the Green Line and thus into the EU market provided it fulfils all relevant EU animal and public health standards. The Commission will financially support the implementation of the Halloumi/Hellim package in the Turkish Cypriot community through the Aid programme. The Aid Programme remains ready to accommodate developments in the settlement process and to finance confidence-building measures resulting from this process

The EU contribution, in supporting the political process, economic integration and improved living standards, is and will remain vital.

1.6. Delivery mode

DG REFORM is the lead service for the programme implementation. The programme is implemented through direct management (procurement contracts and grants) and indirect management (contribution agreements with International Organisations and Member State Agencies).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 of 27 February 2006 establishing an instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 on the European Agency for Reconstruction	2021 - 2027	193.04

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000

The assistance programme is of an exceptional, transitional and temporary nature, aiming to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus. The Aid Regulation reflects this particularity. It has been adopted in 2006 and remains in force until a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem has been achieved.

1.8.3. Budget programming table:

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
---------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	32.0	34.3	33.6	34.3	35.0	35.7	36.2	241.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.8.4. Financial Programming Explanation

The programming of the financial assistance under the Aid Programme is based on a number of established programming principles such as project maturity, policy relevance and track-record of past implementation. The underlying aim is to bring more tangible and visible impact in the priority areas with an annual programming resulting in a streamlined and compact set of actions. In addition, under this programming approach, the beneficiary is involved at an early stage which includes the submission of 1-page project outlines and a series of direct exchanges. Continued efforts are being made to instil more ownership in the process from the beneficiary coordinating body, the EU Coordination Centre, that takes a more active role in prioritisation and self-assessment of projects.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 provided a multi-annual perspective to the programme with a provision for stable, funding amounting to EUR 236 million.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	32.0	241.0	13%
Payments	3.9		2%

The MFF 2021-2027 sets the funding to EUR 241 million. The 2021 Annual Action Programme was adopted on 16 December 2021 with implementation of the first projects in 2022.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	235.5	235.5	100%
Payments	211.5		90%

The Aid Programme is implemented in a unique diplomatic, legal and political context. Major difficulties encountered in the implementation of the programme arise from the unrecognised status of the beneficiary as well as from disputes with contractors, notably when it comes to works contracts. Those challenges are further exacerbated by the lack of absorption capacity and resources on the beneficiaries' side as well as by the deficiencies in available data and statistics. This often results in serious delays in the preparation of projects and in bringing them to maturity, which – over the years – has led to a substantial amount of uncommitted funds. This 'backlog' was successfully addressed in the recent period through better programming, more efficient handling of tendering procedures, and smoother internal procedures and coordination within DG REFORM. The situation is now fully under control.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

- Section 2.2 highlights the specificities in which the Aid Programme is implemented.
- Since the Aid Regulation has been adopted, the Turkish Cypriot community has benefited from a financial assistance amounting to EUR 623 million. The Aid Programme is implemented in a territory whose existence is not recognised internationally (with the exception of Turkey) and whose 'institutions' should therefore not be strengthened. This means that the Commission is operating with perennially weak partners and this negatively affects the efficiency and effectiveness of our intervention. The paradox is of course that such bodies often have an important role to play in implementing the policies required for closer integration with the EU acquis, particularly in areas such as animal health and food safety. This unique situation has a certain number of consequences when it comes to programme implementation:
 - Property rights have to be respected when it comes to works contracts. This limits, in terms of geographical areas, the scope of our intervention. In addition, the procedure for property clearance (via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus) is long and cumbersome and is delaying the implementation of our works contracts.
 - Development of IT systems is an area where we have encountered difficulties and inefficiency. As a recent example, in our support to the eradication of animal disease, we have financed the development of an Animal Identification Registration database. The database is not yet functional. As a consequence, it was decided to refrain from supporting development of IT systems except in very well justified circumstances.
 - For almost 10 years, the EU has supported the Turkish Cypriot community with a number of projects related to improving solid waste management, with an overall investment exceeding EUR 30 million. Despite all the efforts to engage and support the beneficiaries, several challenges are still present, and the sector is poorly managed, coordinated and still not socially, financially and environmentally sustainable. This is notably shown by the situation of the landfill in Koutsoventis/Güngör. The Commission is accordingly in the process of conducting an overall independent and critical assessment of the past performance of the all EU-funded interventions in the waste sector in the Turkish Cypriot community, paying particular attention to its results measured against its expected objectives. The outcomes of this project are essential for the Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of all previous interventions in the field of waste. It will also identify barriers and obstacles, as well as structural weaknesses in the beneficiary that will need to be corrected if future investments in the area of waste are required. Depending on the results of this evaluation, the Commission may decide on a more conservative approach with regard to financing future interventions in the field of waste.
 - In animal health and food safety policy area, the progress in practical implementation of EU standards relies on prior enforcement of relevant legal text, which demonstrated to be an obstacle due to lengthiness of the process, as the aforementioned text are not prioritised in the Turkish Cypriot community legal texts adoption plan.
- In an attempt to overcome those challenges, the programme choices reflect a renewed approach towards programming of the financial assistance with a view to bringing more tangible and visible impact in the priority areas. The overarching aim is that the presented proposals follow a strategic approach based on the key programming principles as follows:
 - Political priority and ownership: projects proposed for financing should be in line with political priorities and provide assurance of ownership and local support in order to ensure their successful implementation and sustainability.
 - Project maturity: the principle of maturity should become the sine qua non for any EU funding under the Aid Programme. Lack of project maturity is one of the major reasons for the existing backlog and considerable procurement delays; therefore, all not-yet-mature and/or adequately advanced projects at the time of programming will not be accepted.
 - Implementation record: programming of assistance should be based on a positive track record of past project implementation.
 - Logical sequencing: any multi-phase/recurring projects should be planned in a sequenced manner. A multi-annual sector-planning framework needs to be developed on the beneficiary side so as to ensure that funding is allocated only when projects are mature.
 - Streamlining: taking into account the different types of constraints, including our respective capacities in terms of implementation, and the need for prioritisation, the focus should be on programming better targeted (fewer but larger) actions, which will also limit the number of related tendering procedures

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The Annual Action Programme for 2021 has been adopted on 16 December 2021, with the first projects expected to be implemented in 2022. Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 will have started.

The Key monitoring indicators have nevertheless been amended for the period 2021-2027 in order to better target the achievements of the Aid Programme, notably in order to render them as tangible and concrete as possible.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The main policy objective under the legal base (Regulation (EC) No 389/2006) is to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community (TCc). The Aid Programme has supported this with a distribution of resources among the six objectives specified in the Regulation. The below provides some illustrations of what has been achieved for each of the objective:

An independent evaluation of the Aid Programme for the period 2013-2018 concludes as follows “EU-funded interventions were generally well-aligned with local needs and EU priorities. Overall, the EU programme was mostly able to achieve the intended results (although often with significant delays) and beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the assistance received. The support provided to bi-communal initiatives played an important role in keeping the reunification option open, whereas the impact on economic development was more modest, mainly due to the scarce assistance to more dynamic sectors. Sustainability is affected by Turkish Cypriot community's limited capabilities and financial resources, and in certain areas (e.g. EU acquis) progress would likely stall without continuing EU support.”

The programme is on track. Nevertheless it has to be said that ultimate success will depend upon the will of both sides in the Cyprus dispute to arrive at a settlement. This is a sine qua non for success. The programme assumes that such a willingness to arrive at a solution exists and is building the capacity of the Turkish Cypriot side to integrate in a bi-communal bi-zonal federation, with adoption of the EU acquis. This can be shown in terms of hard support – i.e. physical infrastructure notably in the environmental field, bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to European norms and standards, but also with technical assistance in important sectors. One such sector is animal health and food safety. The Commission will financially support the implementation of the Halloumi/Hellim package, adopted in April 2021 (see section 1.5) in the Turkish Cypriot community, with the stated intention of allocating up to EUR 40 million to this end over the next four financial years, with EUR 7.5 million already allocated under the AAP 2021 and an indicative envelope of EUR 7.8 million provisionally earmarked for the Halloumi/Hellim package in the AAP 2022. This comes on top of the more than EUR 30 million for Halloumi/Hellim PDO relevant projects under the aid programme in previous years. This assistance will target traceability of the animals concerned, the eradication of animal diseases and hygienic production methods with the aim to secure compliance with the EU food safety standards, health and phytosanitary requirements and thereby enhancing the public's everyday life, health and well-being.

The EU continued to implement EUR 15.2 million worth of support to the Turkish Cypriot Community, allocated in 2020, to combat COVID-19 (EUR 5 million) and to assist businesses in weathering the negative socio-economic impact of the pandemic (EUR 10.2 million). In 2021, TAIEX experts continued to provide advice, including on elaborating a vaccination strategy, and the Commission continued to implement economic support packages providing emergency relief and encouraging economic stability. Overall, around 2 300 small businesses and industries have received grants of an average EUR 1,500 each, while 86 larger SMEs are in the process of receiving up to EUR 60 000 based on growth plans to safeguard and create employment, innovate and for green/digital transition.

When it comes to project implementation and the consequences of COVID 19, the situation reached in 2021 a certain level of normality allowing implementation of the projects, notably when it comes to supply and works. For technical assistance project (service contracts) and grant agreements, the impact of the COVID 19 on project implementation has been limited since the beginning thanks to the remote alternatives available.

1. Objective 1: Developing and restructuring of infrastructure.

Major infrastructure investments, with a strong environmental and bi-communal focus, have been funded and will continue to be programmed through the Local Infrastructure Facility and/or through targeted direct interventions. In total, 260 kilometres of water supply networks and some 100 kilometres of sewerage pipes have been financed through the Aid Programme.

Since 2014, some EUR 80 million have been invested in projects mainstreaming climate actions and contributing to the Europe 2020 priorities, notably through the following:

- The large wastewater treatment plant in Nicosia was inaugurated in 2014. This is the largest such plant on the island and serves 300,000 ‘population equivalent’ in both communities.
- Actions to set up a sustainable integrated waste management plan have been funded allowing for the collection and transport of solid waste to the central landfill to be optimised and the recycling of valuable resources).

The EU remains committed to providing the citizens of Famagusta with a functional and hygienic sewerage system. An initial work contracts, for an approximate value of EUR 10 million has been concluded in 2009. The Contractor has built a sewer

network and pumping stations that both Parties agree are riddled with defects (such as reverse slopes and defects joints). As a consequence of the importance of the defects and the impossibility to fix them, the EU has decided to launch a tender aiming at repairing the existing one by constructing a network in parallel with the defective one. A contract has been awarded for an approximate value of EUR 20 million. The implementation started in 2021 following the clearance from the Republic of Cyprus on the use of the land, and the validation of the “design visa” by the Turkish Cypriot chamber of civil engineers.

The European Commission has since 2018 concluded a "Local Infrastructure Facility" contribution agreement – totalling EUR 28.2 million - with the United Nations Development Programme to continue supporting the well-established mechanism for EU-funded infrastructure investments. The facility aims to provide support for the identification, screening, development, procurement, and physical implementation of relevant local infrastructure investments. With fifteen significant ongoing projects, 2021 saw an additional three important infrastructure projects being added to the LIF pipeline.

2. Objective 2: Promoting social and economic development.

The main achievements are the following:

- EU actions support the development of rural areas, human resources and regions. In total, since 2006, more than 3,000 grants have been awarded to farmers, local communities, schools, and SMEs.

More specifically, 286 rural development grants have been concluded for an approximate value of EUR 32.3 million and 200 farmers received training in husbandry practices to improve water use efficiency and farm hygiene. The targeted support to farmers through facilitating investments and purchase of equipment enables them to upgrade their material and to secure their survival in a difficult and closed economic environment. Concrete measures have been put in place, aimed at eradicating animal disease and improving food safety standards.

- Access to credit has been and remains a major problem in the Turkish Cypriot community. The Aid Programme has supported the promotion of innovation, growth and job creation through more than 2,700 grants to SMEs and start-ups, complemented capacity building. The SME grant scheme permitted companies to benefit from EU support enabling them to improve their competitiveness and thereby ensuring their survival in a difficult economic environment.
- Capacity of veterinary services to design and implement EU aligned animal diseases surveillance, control and eradication programmes has been strengthened. EU intervention helped reduce the prevalence of brucellosis in the northern part of Cyprus. For example, the prevalence of the disease dropped (in the period 2016 to 2021) from 10.4% to 5.82% among cattle herds, and from 10.4% to 5.09% among sheep and goats herds. This is a significant decrease of animal diseases prevalence and the positive trend is expected to continue in the future through EU targeted interventions. This is of significant importance for local farmers and consumers as brucellosis causes economic losses in animal production and presents a risk to human health. In addition, zero prevalence was achieved for the bovine tuberculosis and the enzootic bovine leucosis. Over 800 farmers were informed on animal diseases risks and prevention and long term benefits of elimination of diseases in food producing animals.
- The ongoing annual work programmes for the Aid Programme (AAPs) have been arranged to ensure a timely contribution for emergency SME support following the COVID-19 pandemic. Since it was not possible to mobilise additional Aid Programme funding for emergency economic measures, the support had to come through the existing envelopes. The Commission reassessed priorities, aiming to ensure the most efficient and optimal use of available resources. Part of these came from cancelling a number of actions which had not yet been financially committed where either beneficiaries had lost interest or more preparatory work was needed and thus projects could be postponed for future years. The rest was covered by savings and reserve funds under the support and settlement facility. Overall, the proposed changes involved a global reshuffling within and between the Annual Action Programme whose end dates for contracting were not expired, while keeping the respective annual budgetary envelopes unchanged. An economic emergency package (EUR 10.2 million) was established to help address the broader socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Turkish Cypriot community. It included grants allowing self-employed and micro and small businesses to restock their supplies and cover other ad-hoc costs necessary to restart their operations, as well as emergency economic support including grants to small and medium businesses.

3. Objective 3: Fostering reconciliation, confidence building measures, and support to civil society.

The main achievements are the following:

- A high level of output was achieved by the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP), which has exhumed 1,183 sets of remains, of which 1,023 were genetically identified (January 2022 figures). The CMP’s objective is a humanitarian one, bringing closure to thousands of affected families through the recovery, identification, and return to their families the remains of 2,002 persons that went missing as a consequence of the tragic events of 1963-64 and 1974.
- The bi-communal Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage (TCCH) was established in 2008 for the promotion and protection of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the island. The work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage provides technical support and helps building trust between the two communities. The work of the Committee is

supported by archaeologists, architects, art historians and town planners from both communities. The Technical Committee works to provide a mutually acceptable mechanism for the implementation of practical measures for the proper preservation, physical protection and conservation of the cultural heritage of Cyprus. The protection of cultural heritage is an integral part of the ongoing process of broadening areas of cooperation between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The protection of cultural heritage in the specific context of Cyprus instils the desire for social coexistence, mutual understanding and reunification. The conservations include religious sites (Orthodox, Muslim, Latin, Armenian and Maronite), but also mills, fountains and hamams. Local communities not only attend completion of works events, but are also increasingly involved in the rehabilitation, preservation and maintenance of these sites.

Since 2011 the EU contributions under the Aid Regulation reached an amount of approximately EUR 22.4 million. More than 107 cultural heritage sites have been conserved, structurally supported, physically protected or restored island-wide with funding from the EU. The aid programme supports strengthening civil society as a key factor in the development of a culture of dialogue, participation in the community life and the promotion of values of tolerance, peace and active citizenship and the promotion of reconciliation, closer relationship and trust between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities. 71 projects and more than 80 civil society organisations have been supported since the inception of the Aid Programme with a total support of EUR 11 million. These grants fund a variety of actions in the fields of environment, human rights, art and sport and encourage citizens’ engagement and cross-community exchanges. A seventh *Cypriot civil society in action* call for proposals has been launched in July 2020 for EUR 2 million and raised a very high interest, leading to the conclusion of 11 grant agreements in 2021. In 2021 the Aid programme further awarded a direct grant to the Human Rights Platform for EUR 700,000. The Platform is bringing together very active human rights-based Civil Society Organisations and is open for more CSOs to join. It will address in particular: anti-trafficking, refugee rights, LGBTI+ rights, democratic participation in the decision making process – including freedom of association and freedom of expression, and detention conditions and freedom from torture. The active citizenship mechanism is a component of the technical assistance (TA) that supports Civil Society Organisations in the Turkish Cypriot community (Civic Space). It has proven to be particularly successful from the perspective of the final beneficiaries. Also called **Grow Civic**, it is an ‘in-kind’ support for the rights-based actions or projects of activists, citizen’s initiatives, platforms, networks, and civil society organizations (CSOs). The maximum amount that an activist/CSO can request at one time is EUR 5 000 (and up to EUR 15 000 over the TA’s duration). Greek Cypriots can apply in collaboration with a Turkish Cypriot partner. This mechanism has supported 92 actions since 2016 in very different areas (e.g. peace and reconciliation, human rights, health, wild life protection, art, youth, environment, sports). Out of the 92 actions, 44 (48%) were either bi-communal or involving peace and reconciliation. This programme is continuing under the new TA, which started in December 2020 with Civil Society Organisations and activists applying and starting implementing their rights-based ideas and projects.

4. Objective 4: Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU.

The Aid Programme provides scholarships for Turkish Cypriot students and professionals, with the aim of bringing the community closer to the EU values and way of living. Since 2007, more than 1,800 grants have been awarded, involving more than 100 universities, covering 23 EU countries of destination and securing training in 20 different professions. In addition, in 2021, the EU Scholarship Programme offers up to three scholarships to exceptional Turkish Cypriot individuals to study at the College of Europe during the academic year 2022-2023. Scholars will have the opportunity to complete a one-year Master programme in one of six academic fields. After the successful implementation of a pilot bi-communal scholarship scheme by the United World Colleges (UWC), in 2020, a new agreement was signed allowing 10 more students from both communities to undertake in 2021 the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme in different countries. The actions implemented by UWC also includes cross-community youth engagement activities and short courses aiming at empowering the youth.

5. Objectives 5 and 6: Preparing the Turkish Cypriot community to introduce and implement the acquis, in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession.

Preparation for the acquis takes place mainly through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument and is provided through expert missions, training courses, workshops and study visits. With around 4,000 TAIEX events since 2006, TAIEX allowed for the drafting of more than 240 legal texts covering 23 areas of the EU acquis. TAIEX remains an important element of the Aid Programme, providing continuous support for trade across the Green Line and regular assistance by the health experts in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.2. Key achievements

Summary of key achievements since the inception of the Aid Programme starting in 2006.

Developing and restructuring infrastructure	Promoting social and economic development	Encouraging reconciliation, building confidence, supporting civil society and bringing the Turkish Cypriot community
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<p>263 km of water supply distribution networks renewed</p> <p>3 waste water treatment plants constructed</p> <p>99 km of sewage networks constructed</p> <p>23 refuse collection vehicle supplied</p> <p>2 incinerators for animal by-products supplied</p>	<p>286 rural development and local community development projects supported</p> <p>138 projects for schools, lifelong learning organisations and the labour market supported</p> <p>More than 2,700 grants to SMEs / start-ups</p> <p>Consultancy services and training provided for more than 1 000 businesses and entrepreneurs</p> <p>Training provided for almost 200 farmers to improve water use efficiency and farm hygiene</p> <p>Over 800 farmers informed about disease-related risks, disease prevention and the long-term benefits of disease elimination among livestock</p> <p>COVID 19 urgency measures : PPE and medical equipment, support to preparing vaccination and testing and more than 800 business assisted</p>	<p>closer to the EU:</p> <p>1 EU Infopoint established to proactively inform the Turkish Cypriot community about EU policies and the Aid Programme, via events, social media and web-based information activities</p> <p>60 projects for civil society organisations supported</p> <p>More than 80 training sessions carried out to strengthen the work of civil society organisations</p> <p>1,023 missing persons identified and their remains returned to their families</p> <p>More than 1 800 Turkish Cypriots given educational opportunities in EU Member States through EU scholarships</p> <p>107 cultural heritage sites supported island-wide</p> <p>5 new Green Line crossing points opened</p> <p>All bi-communal committees helped to better operate</p> <p>Around 4,000TAIEX events allowing the drafting of more than 240 legal texts covering 23 areas of the EU acquis.</p>
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The Commission reports annually on implementation of the Regulation¹. Some examples and more details of the recent programme achievements are:

- The contract for the construction of the New Nicosia Trunk Sewer was signed in 2018 and the works are under implementation since summer 2019. The Nicosia branch includes the construction of approximately 13 km of sewers and force mains and four pumping stations. The works include odour treatment systems to avoid odour nuisance for the citizens and have been completed early 2022. A contract for the irrigation works in Morphou was also awarded in 2018 and the implementation of the works has been finalised in 2020.
- The contract for the remedial works of the Famagusta sewerage network, amounting to EUR 20.5 million, was signed in April 2019. The remedial works at the sewerage network include parallel replacement of 31 kilometres of existing sewers in corrugated polyethylene, renewal of 2 347 existing house connections, and replacement of approximately 326 "blind" tee pieces. It also includes the remedial works at the pumping stations. The contract entered into force in 2021 following clearance from the Republic of Cyprus on the use of the land and validation of the "design visa" by the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Civil Engineers.
- The works for the construction of an irrigation system for the reuse of the Morphou/Guzelyurt waste water treatment plant (WWTP) treated wastewaters was completed in March 2020. In addition, the detailed design and associated tender dossier were finalised for the project 'reuse of treated wastewater and sludge generated from the new Nicosia WWTP'.
- The two works contracts concerning the projects "Extension to the Koutsoventis/Güngör landfill" and "Landfill Degassing Plant" were amended, now representing an investment of over EUR 4.5 million in solid waste management, progressed well despite the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The amendments are to result in renewable energy being produced, ensuring the continued sustainable operation of the landfill and treatment of the wastewaters (leachate). Despite the significant EU investment, the operation of the landfill are at risk in the absence of proper initiatives from the Turkish Cypriot community on correcting and remediating the long-standing poor operation conditions of the landfill in Koutsoventis/Güngör. This naturally includes the lack of strategic decisions to establish competent administrative bodies that ensure the technical appropriateness of such operation practices, absence of training of competent staff to manage the leachate treatment plan as well as absence of financial capabilities to finance the operating costs and appoint a proper operator for the management of the landfill.
- The European Commission has since 2018 concluded a "Local Infrastructure Facility" contribution agreement with the United Nations Development Programme to continue supporting the well-established mechanism for EU-funded infrastructure investments. The initial contribution agreement, for EUR 17.7 million over a four year period (December

¹ The 15th annual report, covering 2020, was published on 02/06/2021 (COM(2021) 272 final).

2018 – December 2023), was revised and amended in 2020 increasing the overall budget to EUR 23.4 million over five years; complemented by a further replenishment of EUR 4.7 million in 2021. The facility aims to provide support for the identification, screening, development, procurement, and physical implementation of relevant local infrastructure investments. With fifteen significant ongoing projects, 2021 also saw the completion of a third ‘Local Infrastructure Facility’ call for proposals directed at the local communities resulting in the identification of four projects potentially to be added to the LIF pipeline.

- Around 500 grants have been given to diverse beneficiaries including farmers, schools, small businesses and business and community development and other civil society organisations. These helped farms and businesses to modernise and improve competitiveness, and schools along with other educational establishments to improve teaching methods and meet the labour market needs. Work in the communities and with civil society organisations helped develop advocacy, improve community services and civic engagement and bi-communal relations. In particular a number of Non Governmental Organisations worked in combatting human trafficking, resulting in the practice being recognised as a criminal offence. Major efforts have continued to improve animal health and food safety requirements in order to bring these into line with the standards prevailing in the EU.
- In 2018/2019, EU further contributed strengthening capacities of veterinary specialists to prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases. EU project enabled sampling of around 300 000 animals and implementation of 380,000 diagnostic tests to detect and eliminate priority diseases (such as brucellosis). As a result brucellosis prevalence in the northern part of Cyprus is in decline. In addition, a number of serological surveys, implemented by EU technical assistance in 2019, demonstrated absence of economically important animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease and “*peste des petites ruminants*”. In 2021, animal disease eradication related activities resulted in further decrease in prevalence of brucellosis. In the period 2019-2021, the EU also contributed to long-term engagement of private veterinarians to implement sampling and testing of animals and other veterinary measures to protect animal and public health.
- In 2020 and 2021 EU supplied range of field and laboratory tests and consumables to help continued implementation of animal health programmes in the northern part of Cyprus. It also supplied range of equipment for food and health laboratories. This increases scope of the laboratory testing and helps better reliability of test results produced in these laboratories.
- It should be noted that in 2020 the Aid Programme has been substantially mobilised to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis on the Turkish Cypriot community. In March 2020, EUR 3 million were provided (through an existing contribution agreement with the UNDP) to cover the needs identified by the health sector and the local communities in terms of equipment and supplies for the health sector including Personal Protective Equipment, laboratory devices, testing kits and ventilators.
- An Economic emergency package (EUR 10.2 million) was established to help address the broader socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Turkish Cypriot community. The ongoing annual work programmes for the Aid Programme (AAPs) have been arranged to ensure a timely contribution for emergency SME support following the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes grants allowing self-employed and micro and small businesses to restock their supplies and cover other ad-hoc costs necessary to restart their operations, as well as emergency economic support including grants to small and medium businesses and a new instrument to create jobs through innovation and green/digital transition.
- With respect to confidence-building measures, the interoperability of mobile phones across the island was established on 11 July 2019, with the aim of improving communication between the communities and bringing all Cypriots closer together. The Commission played an active role in facilitating the discussion between actors of the two communities and acted as catalyser and facilitator to secure a solution that could be implemented technically.
- With respect to confidence-building measure, both Cypriot leaders confirmed in November 2021 an agreement that will make way for the introduction of 5G across the island. TV broadcasting systems was removed from the 700 MHz frequency band, transitioning from analogue to digital broadcasting, with the support of the EU, allowing the allocation of the 700 MHz frequency band to 5G mobile services. The Commission played an active role in facilitating the discussion between actors of the two communities and acted as catalyser and facilitator to secure a solution that could be implemented technically.
- A high level of output was achieved by the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP), which has exhumed 1 183 sets of remains, of which 1 023 were genetically identified (January 2022 figures). The CMP’s objective is to recover, identify, and return to their families, the remains of 2 002 persons. The CMP establishes the fate of those persons declared missing by both communities as a consequence of the tragic events of 1963-64 and 1974. The Aid Programme has financed more than 75% of the CMP costs since 2006.
- The bi-communal Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage (TCCH) was established in 2008 with the goal of preserving, promoting and protecting the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the island. EU contributions under the Aid Regulation started in 2011 reaching an amount of nearly EUR 22.4 million to date. By the end of 2021, a total of 107 cultural heritage sites have benefitted from this assistance.

- In 2019, a support facility to the bi-communal Technical Committees was created with a budget of 1 million to support projects of all bi-communal Technical Committees assisting them in overcoming structural and practical obstacles, which they face in their daily operations. Since then, six projects were completed, while other four are ongoing for a total of seven committees supported. The facility has been widely acknowledged as revitalising their work.
- The Commission, through its EU Infopoint and other projects, has carried out a range of communication and visibility actions (2,100) providing information about EU policies, priorities and actions in support of the Turkish Cypriot community (TCc), and promoting European culture. This has considerably enhanced the visibility of the EU in the northern part of Cyprus.
- The Aid Programme provides scholarships for Turkish Cypriot students and professionals, with the aim of bringing the community closer to the EU values and way of living. Since 2007, more than 1 800 grants have been awarded. In the year 2019 a new scholarship programme was established as a pilot programme, giving the opportunity to three Greek Cypriots and three Turkish Cypriots to go for two academic years to attend the United World College (UWC) for the International Baccalaureate diploma. After the successful implementation of this pilot scholarship scheme, a new agreement was signed with UWC and a call launched in 2021 is allowing 10 students from both communities to undertake the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme in different countries. The actions implemented by UWC also includes cross-community youth engagement activities and short courses aiming at empowering the youth.
- With the aim of highlighting that a settlement of the Cyprus problem could bring economic benefits, the PRIO Cyprus Centre was funded to update their 2014 reports, quantifying and helping to deliver the sizeable "peace dividend" that is achieved with a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus Problem and the reunification of the island. The new study highlighted that a solution will be good for business, addressing the concerns of ordinary Cypriots about the economic impact of a settlement. The study was published in three languages (Greek, Turkish and English) and was presented to the public and to the international community in February 2020.
- In March 2020, thanks to the EU funded grants working on fighting trafficking in human beings, the support of a Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) expert and of the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (Civic Space), the local legal text has been amended and now includes trafficking in human beings and hate speech as crimes that can be prosecuted. This important step paves the way for a full-fledged legal text addressing all four 'Ps' of anti-trafficking (prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership). In 2021, the EU funded grant beneficiaries continued their advocacy towards this aim.
- Intensive efforts continue on the preparation for the implementation of the acquis in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus where the government does not exercise effective control upon the entry into force of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. Preparation for the acquis takes place mainly through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) instrument and is provided through expert missions, training courses, workshops and study visits. In total, TAIEX allowed for the drafting of 241 legal texts covering 23 areas of the EU acquis. In 2021, TAIEX organised nearly 150 events for the benefit of the Turkish Cypriot community. Thanks to the TAIEX support, the beneficiary made good progress in a number of areas and acquired a firmer understanding of the challenges linked with the implementation of legal texts aligned with EU standards.

Contribution to policy achievements

The main policy objective under the legal base (Regulation (EC) No 389/2006) is the reunification of Cyprus and the Aid Programme has supported this with a distribution of resources among the objectives specified in the Regulation.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

In 2018, DG REFORM concluded a contract for the implementation of the first Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) exercise aiming at reviewing a minimum of 16 actions in terms of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. The goal was to assist DG REFORM with respect to the monitoring of and reporting on EU funded projects under the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

The ROM reviews and support missions to be carried out are the following:

- a) ROM reviews of strategic projects for which such ROM reviews may have a particular usefulness or for innovative projects.
- b) ROM reviews of projects signalled as having implementation problems and where EC services or DG REFORM have identified a need for an outside expert review to assist in addressing the problems, identifying causes and options for solution and making recommendations.
- c) Support to improve the current monitoring systems of projects and, where relevant, to help operational Programme Managers to set-up a ROM-compliant monitoring system.

The ROM reviews focussed on service contracts and grants schemes and covered a significant number of contracts, both recently closed and ongoing. The implementation of the Results Oriented Monitoring contract has started in end 2018 and was due to be finalised by end 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the contract was prolonged up to 20/03/2022 so that the final project management trainings for the EC programme managers can be delivered.

All the 16 projects have now been reviewed and assessed. The first project management training took place in November 2019 and was delivered to more than 30 participants.

The recommendations issued by the ROM experts have been very useful for the project managers to improve the implementation of the projects. A few illustrations:

- Further EU support is needed to ensure the capacity increase of Turkish Cypriot civil society organisations (CSOs). The current project provides a comprehensive ‘toolbox’ that largely responds to the needs of the Turkish Cypriot CSO community. As recommended, the project design has been improved in the new project.
- For the EU Info Point contract, it was considered that the scope could be expanded in terms of the support it provides to other EU funded projects with communication and visibility rather than just sharing visibility products developed by projects. The content of the actions should reflect better the Turkish Cypriot community (please spell out the abbreviation) context e.g. by ensuring more input from local partners. These issues are being dealt with in the inception phase under the new EU Info Point contract.
- For the assistance to grant beneficiaries and the Contracting Authority regarding grant agreements, monitoring and evaluation experts have been mobilised, procedures have been simplified and workshops for experts have been organised.

The project management training combined theoretical and practical knowledge which was tailored to the need of the participants. Project managers from EU Coordination Centre, EUPSO and grants implementing partners benefited from this hands-on training. Another final project management training is planned to take place in February 2022 for the new programme managers. Following this, four targeted workshops will be organised for all programme manager on four different projects in implementation. These will be the final activities under the ROM contract.

A contract for the evaluation of the Aid Programme provided during the period 2013-2018 was concluded in December 2019. The purpose of the evaluation was to provide an overall independent assessment and to gather evidence on progress made towards the objectives set in the Aid Regulation during the 2013-2018 period. The evaluation concluded that the Aid Programme remains highly relevant and, given the particular circumstances of the Turkish Cypriot community context, is a successful initiative. It has been a generally coherent and efficient programme, through which the EU has added substantial value. However, prospects for sustainability in most areas primarily rely on continued EU support. The final report was published on 22 February 2022².

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Promotion of social and economic development including restructuring, in particular concerning rural development, human resources development and regional development

Indicator 1: Number of enterprises having received EU support in the form of a grant

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
1 913	2 700	2 790	2 940	3 000	3 500	3 600	3 700	3 750	3 800	3 800
	Actual Progress									Final
2 704										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of farmers, SMEs, entities awarded - Cumulative
Cut-Off Date	13/12/2021
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	Reducing the gaps in the socio-economic conditions of the Turkish Cypriot community is an objective of the Aid Programme with a view to facilitate the reunification of the island
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Unchanged
Other methodological comments	The Aid Programme aims at supporting the economic development of the TCc and under normal circumstances, the annual programme will continue supporting private sector developments. The estimates will be based on what has been achieved so far under the MFF 2014-2020, taking into consideration the portion of the future programmes to be allocated to support enterprises.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Positive trend and a high number of small and micro business has been supported under the Aid Programme. The 2020 pandemic required a prompt response to support businesses. An Economic emergency package (EUR 11 million) was established to help address the broader socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Turkish Cypriot community (see more details in section

² [Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en)

	3.1.3). EUR 3.5 million has already been disbursed in favour of some 2,300 micro and small business to keep them open while enabling them to restock and pay bills which they would otherwise have been unable to do. In the Turkish Cypriot community, the EU financial assistance package was the sole source of help provided to the business in the absence of any support provided by the local administration. Without this EU economic emergency package, many micro and small businesses would have been unable to survive. A similar exercise was implemented with medium-sized businesses in a number of key sectors. This short-term, “emergency” support has been followed up by bespoke support to 84 specific businesses on a strategic basis.
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Indicator 2: Cross-green-line trade volume in process of progressive increase

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
4 693 898	5 000 000	5 500 000	6 000 000	6 500 000	7 000 000	7 500 000	8 000 000	8 500 000	9 000 000	9 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
6 151 022										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Volume of trade expressed in EUR
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	RoC statistics
Link to the objective	Increasing trade across the Green Line is one of the key driver of economic growth of TCc.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Unchanged
Other methodological comments	Mostly based on past volume, taking into consideration a marginal yearly increase
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	A number of obstacles to trade remain, notably the prohibition of crossings for commercial vehicles above 7.5 tonnes, the Republic of Cyprus does not allow the crossing of processed food products and materials for contact with food due to concerns raised by health services. More details are available in the report issued by the Commission on the implementation of the Green Line Regulation.

Specific Objective 3: Reconciliation, confidence building measures, and support to civil society

Indicator 1: To increase EU visibility in northern Cyprus: Communication actions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
429	250	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	Actual Progress									Final
394										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of actions carried out per year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Internal
Link to the objective	Increasing EU visibility of the interventions operated by the Aid Programme in northern Cyprus and therefore increasing level of understanding of how the EU works among the TCc
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Unchanged
Other methodological comments	Based on our past experience which can be considered as a benchmark for the future targets
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The expected number of actions is due to a highly active "Infopoint" project, and various EU-funded projects incorporating comprehensive communication and visibility activities with the aim to improve the EU visibility of EU-funded projects in the Turkish Cypriot community. We expect this trend to be continued in 2022 with approximately 300 actions on a yearly basis.

Indicator 2: Number of Civil Society Organisations having received EU support in the form of a grant

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2029
0	12	12	27	27	32	32	47	47	52	52
	Actual Progress									Final
12										

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Civil Society Organisations awarded/supported (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Internal
Link to the objective	Support to civil society is one of the objective of the Aid Programme
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Based on our past experience which can be considered as a benchmark for the future targets
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The targets set have been achieved through proper internal monitoring

Specific Objective 4: Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the Union, through inter alia information on the European Union’s political and legal order, promotion of people to people contacts and Community scholarships

Indicator 1: Number of individuals having benefited from a scholarship

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									209
95	131	135	137	137	140	140	145	145	145	145
	Actual Progress									Final
	136									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of individuals awarded (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Internal
Link to the objective	Support scholarships for Turkish Cypriot students and professionals, which both provide experience and a route to qualifications abroad and contribute to the image of the EU among Turkish Cypriots. It also brings the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU, which is one of the objective of the Aid Programme
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Based on our past experience which can be considered as a benchmark for the future targets
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The targets set have been achieved through proper internal monitoring

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1 : Instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 on the European Agency for Reconstruction

Specific Objective 1: To facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the *acquis communautaire*.

Indicator 1: Reconciliation and confidence building: "Tendency to trust the EU as an institution"

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
57%	Actual Progress									Final
	66%	51%	52%	52%	53%	47%	43%	38%		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage based on polling

Cut-Off Date	01/05/2021
Data source	Eurobarometer
Narrative	Pooling of the TCc in the trust of EU Institution
Methodology	Independent polling of opinion
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Same indicator
Other methodological comments	The 2014 figure may have been the result of re-starting the settlement talks and high optimism.
Full metadata available at this address	https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2355
Justification of the trend	The continued decreasing trend since 2019 can be explained by the absence of concrete progress in the resolution of the Cyprus problem and to the perception from the Turkish Cypriot community of the EU siding with the Republic of Cyprus on many issues, including hydrocarbons. The situation has even further deteriorated since then due to the COVID 19 pandemic, which has further exacerbated this trend due to the deteriorating economic and overall health situation, despite our assistance package to support local businesses. This has further enhanced the perception of isolation from the Turkish Cypriot community and the impression that the EU has not been active enough in keeping its long-term promises, specifically with respect to the Direct Trade Regulation. This impression has been further enhanced by the local rhetoric in favor of a two-state solution, with the political scene largely dominated by a Turkish Cypriot leadership whose public stance is much more closely aligned to that of Turkey than the EU. The fact that the vaccines were not delivered directly from the EU but from the Republic of Cyprus through the Green Line did not contribute locally to an enhanced image of the EU. We are doing our best in order to improve the overall image and perception of the EU in the eyes of the TCc by boosting the visibility of the interventions made within the scope of the Aid Programme.

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises having received EU support in the form of a grant

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
290		330		370	370	420	420	3 000	2 790	2 790
	Actual Progress									Final
		330	330	330	380	407	1 913	2 704		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises/businesses
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	Number of enterprises having benefited from EU support
Methodology	In addition to the previous SME grant schemes and the proactive development of an entrepreneurial ecosystem, the 2020 pandemic required a prompt response to support businesses by providing emergency working capital to specific sectors/SMEs, safeguard and/or create jobs, and support business development (more recently with focus on innovation, green economy and digital transition).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Unchanged
Other methodological comments	The actual results for the period 2015-2017 have been adjusted to reflect the effective number of enterprises having received EU funding. The recently launched “Safeguarding & Creating Employment Grant Scheme for SMEs in the TCc” has the objective to safeguard and/or create jobs in 770 SMEs in Phase 1. Phase 2 will support business development of 86 SMEs.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/2021-2027_indicator_metadata_set.xlsx
Justification of the trend	The 2020 pandemic required a prompt response to support businesses. An Economic emergency package (EUR 11 million) was established to help address the broader socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Turkish Cypriot community (see more details in section 3.1.3). EUR 3.5 million has already been disbursed in favor of micro-business to keep them open while enabling them to restock and pay bills which they would otherwise have been unable to do. A similar exercise was implemented with medium-sized businesses in a number of key sectors. This short-term, “emergency” support has been followed up by bespoke support to 84 specific businesses on a strategic basis.

Indicator 3: Cross-green-line trade volume in process of progressive increase

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
3 411 593				6 500 000	5 270 000	5 500 000	8 500 000	5 000 000	5 500 000	8 500 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	3 520 045	3 613 989	4 374 968	4 790 964	4 856 892	5 423 076	4 693 898	6 151 022		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Volume of trade expressed in EUR
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Republic of Cyprus
Narrative	Volume of trade over the Green Line
Methodology	Mostly based on past volume, taking into consideration a marginal yearly increase
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Same indicator
Other methodological comments	Trade across the Green Line has developed more slowly than anticipated as a number of obstacles to trade, identified in the annual reports on the implementation of the Green Line Regulation, remain in place. To take one example, the Republic of Cyprus still does not allow the crossing of processed food products and materials for contact with food. The Commission is engaged in contacts with the Republic of Cyprus to address this issue. Trade across the Green Line increased by 1.4 % last year. The 2017 targets were set too high and the targets for the years 2020 are most probably too ambitious as we expect a roughly similar increase in the years to come. All Green Line trade has to be carried out with cash.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	A number of obstacles to trade remain, notably the prohibition of crossings for commercial vehicles above 7.5 tonnes, the Republic of Cyprus does not allow the crossing of processed food products and materials for contact with food due to concerns raised by health services. More details are available in the report issued by the Commission on the implementation of the Green Line Regulation. In 2020 the trade was negatively affected by the COVID19 pandemic as a consequence of the closure of the crossing points.

Indicator 4: To increase EU visibility in northern Cyprus: Communication actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
49			50	90	90	90	90	250	300	90
	Actual Progress									Final
	53	188	138	120	330	343	429	394		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Actions/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	Number of communication activities
Methodology	Based on our past experience which can be considered as a benchmark for the future targets
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Same indicator
Other methodological comments	The high results obtained as of 2015 is due to a very active, "Infopoint" project, and various EU-funded projects incorporating comprehensive communication and visibility activities. The COVID-19 challenge for physical events was transformed into opportunities of engagement for online activities and campaigning for the EU's work in the TCc, under various EU funded projects as well as the EU Infopoint project which extensively carried out communication and visibility actions in various online platforms. We expect this trend to be continued in 2022 with approximately 300 actions on a yearly basis. This is the consequence of the increased level of activity with the aim to improve the EU visibility of EU funded projects in the Turkish Cypriot community.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/2021-2027_indicator_metadata_set.xlsx
Justification of the trend	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the EU funded projects continued communication and visibility actions extensively in online platforms, with online events and campaigns, throughout 2020 as well with physical events in 2021, as the relevant COVID-19 restrictions permit.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution		5.00						5.00	2%

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The installation of solar panels in SMEs, farms and solid-waste management facilities is part of wider support actions, whose total combined value is EUR 5.7 million. This contribution is split in 26% for the SME actions, 6% for the rural development support grants, and 68% for the solid-waste management facilities.

6.1.3. Key achievements

“The programme contributed EUR 70,5 million in the 2014-2020 period”. As previously mentioned, achievements in climate mainstreaming focused on setting the ground for wider-scope energy efficiency measures, as well as increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the local energy mix by supporting small operators and farmers.

6.1.4. Performance

Efforts to support renewable energy and reduced dependence on fuel for producing electricity.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %					0.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The contribution of the European Commission was EUR 0.15 million and was funded through the annual action plan of 2014.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

The main achievements of this project involved the construction of walking trails, bird watching observatories, screening points for vegetation, information boards and points.

6.2.4. Performance

Limited assistance provided

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
0.40	0.00	0.00					0.40

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The total financial contribution to Clean Air related projects equals EUR 1.9 million. Of this contribution, 55% corresponds to the renovation of the existing air quality stations, 11% to the procurement of a mobile air monitoring station, 26% to the procurement of analytic instruments for the reference laboratory and 8% to the installation of the laboratory infrastructure.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 1: 0,5							
Score 0*: 31,5							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

In March 2020, thanks to the EU funded grants working on fighting trafficking in human beings, the support of a TAIEX expert and of the TA for CSOs (Civic Space), the local legal text has been amended and now includes trafficking in human beings and

hate speech as crimes that can be legally prosecuted. This important step paves the way for a full-fledged legal text addressing all four 4 'Ps' of anti-trafficking (prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership). In 2021, the EU funded grant beneficiaries will continue their advocacy towards this aim.

The Aid Programme has provided grants to associations fighting domestic violence to support survivors of domestic violence, prepare draft legal text on domestic violence, raise awareness about domestic violence and gender violence and promote sex education in the community and among youth.

The Aid programme has contributed to the building of a shelter for victims of domestic violence in the northern part of Nicosia (in collaboration with the Nicosia local community).

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Through objective 2 of the Aid Programme, special support has been provided through the form of grants for farmers, aimed at increasing productivity of agricultural and dairy produce, as well as the competitiveness of farms. In addition, the European Commission has invested approximately EUR 4.9 million between 2014 and 2020 in supporting the testing and eradication of animal diseases such as brucellosis in local sheep, goat and cattle herds, as well as the training of local veterinarians.

In addition, the Commission has played a crucial role in facilitating trade of Cyprus potatoes between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, through Green Line trade.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Aid Programme has funded grants that promoted patients' rights in the medical system and managed to secure the creation of a patients' rights unit in the local hospital.

The Aid Programme is funding grants that promote elderly rights and support the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The aid programme has provided training for teachers in curriculum development, invested in vocational education and training as well as providing equipment for schools, including science laboratories. In addition, the Aid Programme provides every year scholarships to study and work in EU countries, with two programmes: the EU Scholarship programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, addressed to students and professionals from universities, and the UWC scholarship programme, that provides scholarships for high school students

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Aid Programme has provided grants to associations fighting domestic violence to support survivors of domestic violence, prepare draft legal text on domestic violence, raise awareness about domestic violence and gender violence and promote sex education in the community and among youth.

It has contributed to the building of a shelter for victims of domestic violence in the northern part of Nicosia (in collaboration with the Nicosia local community).

All the actions that the technical assistance for civil society (Civic Space) supports, including via its active citizenship component promote gender equality and encourage gender mainstreaming.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Through objective 1 of the Aid Programme, the upgrade of water treatment, distribution and sanitation infrastructure is a priority. Between 2014 and 2020, the European Commission has allocated approximately EUR 38.6 million for water-related project, accounting for approximately 19% of the total investment of the Aid Programme in that period. The most relevant projects in this field are the construction of the North Nicosia Trunk Sewerage pipe and the Famagusta Sewerage Remedial Works.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Between 2014 and 2020, the European Commission focused in introducing energy efficiency measures for buildings by conducting an energy audit on 10 schools. The objective of this project was to identify the scope for possible interventions aimed at improving the schools' envelopes and heating/cooling systems. In addition, the Aid Programme has supported an increased uptake of renewable energies by local businesses, farmers and solid-waste facilities for up to 1.6 MW of installed solar power.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The Aid Programme has assisted through objective 1 in providing solid waste disposal sites compliant with EU standards as well as tackling the problem of disposal of animal by-products. This involved the construction of seven waste transfer stations for both, domestic/municipal waste and animal by-products between 2017 and 2020. In addition, the European Commission has supported local communities with the provision of up to 23 waste collection trucks and increased the capacity of the landfill in Koutsoventis/Güngör to 2.3 million cubic metres.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The Aid Programme has supported projects to monitor, check and control environmental quality in urban environments with the objective to improve living conditions. Through the annual activity programmes of 2017 and 2018, the air quality monitoring network has been expanded and strengthened. In addition, further monitoring capabilities have been provided to the relevant control bodies to check on the quality of fuels being sold for residential combustion and transport, as well as to better manage the quality of water.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The SME grant scheme permitted companies to benefit from EU support enabling them to improve their competitiveness and to upgrade and improve their production patterns.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The actions described in SDG 7 are of immediate application to combat climate change and its impacts. A reduced primary energy consumption produced by an energy-efficient building, as well as an increased use of renewable energy all result in less CO₂ emissions from combustion. This in turn contributes less to climate change.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

In line with the interventions described under SDG 11, the Commission has supported in 2020 a project intended to procure water sampling and monitoring equipment for the relevant control body in the Turkish Cypriot community. The equipment will allow the control body to gauge the quality parameters of waters of coastal waters with the objective to take corrective action in the presence of pollution.

The Aid Programme has supported grants that bi-communally address the issue of marine litter, raise awareness among youth and work with fishers and coastal businesses to encourage litter collection and lower-waste, environmentally friendly practices

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The Commission financed a grant in 2014 aimed at strengthening conservation of bird species nesting in the Kouklia/Köprülü water reservoir, increasing awareness amongst locals, and registering relevant environmental conditions.

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

The programme has specifically targeted the problem of human trafficking and awarded grants to organisations working on both awareness-raising and legal changes. Thanks to the support, human trafficking has become a crime in the local legal text, and potential victims have received assistance

The Aid Programme has supported grants that help address discrimination against LGBTIQ, combat hate crime, hate speech, violence and harmful practices against LGBTIQ people.

The Aid programme, in addition, provides support to a series of Confidence Building Measures that support intercommunal dialogue: the support to the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, the support to the Committee on Missing Persons and the facility to support the bicomunal Technical Committees. In the 2020 the Aid programme funded a study to promote and disseminated the peace dividend of a settlement of the Cyprus problem.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Recovery and Resilience Facility**

Lead DG: ECFIN

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The Recovery and Resilience Facility, as the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU, will jointly with the regular MFF programmes support the Union's recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and strengthen resilience against future shocks. It provides a mid-term response to the damage caused by the crisis, and is intended to support the recovery in the mid- to long-term by enabling Member States to implement reforms and investments responding to their country's specific challenges. In a context of a global climate emergency and the fast-paced digital transition, the Facility is further intended to support both the green and digital transitions, helping to foster sustainable and forward-looking implementation economic and social structures across the EU.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (the 'Facility') offers large-scale financial support for public investments and reforms that make Member States economies more resilient, and better prepared for the future. Each Member State puts forward a national Recovery and Resilience Plan to access this financial support, which is assessed by the Commission. Payments are made against the achievement of agreed milestones and targets set out in a Council Implementing Decision. The Facility can support recovery and resilience within the scope of the following policy areas of European relevance ('six pillars'): (1) green transition; (2) digital transformation; (3) smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, and a well-functioning internal market with strong small and medium enterprises (SMEs); (4) social and territorial cohesion; (5) health, and economic, social and institutional resilience with the aim of, inter alia, increasing

crisis preparedness and crisis response capacity; and (6) policies for the next generation, children and the youth, such as education and skills.

In line with the six pillars, the general objective of the Facility is to promote the Union's economic, social and territorial cohesion by improving the resilience, crisis preparedness, adjustment capacity and growth potential of the Member States, by mitigating the social and economic impact of that crisis, in particular on women, by contributing to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, by supporting the green transition, by contributing to the achievement of the Union's 2030 climate targets set out in point (11) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and by complying with the objective of EU climate neutrality by 2050 and of the digital transition, thereby contributing to the upward economic and social convergence, restoring and promoting sustainable growth and the integration of the economies of the Union, fostering high quality employment creation, and contributing to the strategic autonomy of the Union alongside an open economy and generating European added value.

1.3. Specific objectives

The specific objective of the Recovery and Resilience Facility is to provide Member States with financial support with a view to achieving milestones and targets of reforms and investments as set out in their recovery and resilience plans

1.4. Public intervention context

The Recovery and Resilience Facility supports Member States to implement reforms and investments in a broad range of policy areas ("six pillars"). Specifically, it provides both non-repayable and repayable (loans) financial support to Member States, to implement reforms and investments set out in their Recovery and Resilience Plans. The Facility is the EU's main instrument for the mid-term response to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Past experiences have shown that investment is often drastically cut during crises. However, it is essential to support investment in this particular situation to speed up the recovery and strengthen long-term growth potential. A well-functioning internal market and investing in green and digital technologies, in innovation and research including in a knowledge-based economy, in the clean energy transition, and in boosting energy efficiency in housing and other key sectors of the economy are important to achieve fair, inclusive and sustainable growth, help create jobs, and reach EU climate neutrality by 2050.

The Facility is intended to work in conjunction with the other programmes under NextGenerationEU, other shorter-term repair actions such as the European instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) and the wider set of MFF programmes. It also comes in a framework of other measures taken to alleviate the damage and enable countries to respond to the crisis, such as a temporary state aid framework and the activation of the general escape clause under the stability and growth pact.

1.5. Actions

The Facility provides non-repayable financial support under direct management and repayable financial support (loans) to Member States to support public investments and reforms, as set out in recovery and resilience plans prepared by the Member States. Repayable financial support (loans) will complement the non-repayable support and will be provided to Member States that demonstrate additional financial needs and commit to implement suitable reforms and investments beyond those that already benefit from the non-repayable financial support.

The envelope is financed from the borrowing operations of the Union as set out in Regulation (EU) 2020/2094 (EURI regulation). Given the temporary nature of the financing provided by the Facility in relation to support the Covid-19 crisis linked economic recovery of the Member States, the availability period of these resources is limited. 70% of non-repayable support is available for commitments until 31 December 2022, the remaining 30% of the non-repayable financial support will be calculated by June 2022 and available until 31 December 2023. The allocation per country is determined through allocation keys foreseen in Annex II (for the 70%) and Annex III (for the 30%) of the Regulation. Annex IV of the Regulation provides a table with the indicative allocation of the non-repayable financial support per Member State.

If necessary and justified by the cost of additional reforms and investments included in the Plan, Member States may in addition to the grant also request the additional repayable financial support (loan). Each Member State may request up to 6,8% of its 2019 GNI in current prices. Subject to the availability of resources, in exceptional circumstances the amount of the loan support may be increased. All the same rules and requirements of the Regulation apply as to non-repayable financial support, and Member States may request this additional loan support either at the time of submission of their Plan or, with a revised Plan, at a different moment in time until at the latest 31 August 2023.

The ultimate implementation and decision on which measures to include in the national Recovery and Resilience Plan and when to submit this Plan, within the requirements of the Regulation, lies with the relevant Member State. The ultimate decision on when to request payment also lies with the Member State. The Commission will monitor implementation and disburse funds when the relevant Member State submits a duly justified payment request that demonstrates that an agreed set of milestones and targets has been achieved.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Recovery and Resilience Facility will be implemented by the Commission in direct management in accordance with the Financial Regulation (Article 6). The specific objective of the Facility will be pursued in close cooperation with the Member States concerned.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).	2021 - 2027	

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming								
NextGenerationEU grants	116 069.6	118 391.4	103 463.3	11.4	11.5	11.5	10.4	337 969.0
NextGenerationEU loans*	153 876.2							153 876.2
Decommitments made available again**								
Contributions from other countries and entities								
Total ***	269 945.8	118 391.4	103 463.3	11.4	11.5	11.5	10.4	491 845.2

(*) Loans committed in 2021 for adopted plans. The available budget for 2021-27 for loans is EUR 385 855.2

(**) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

(***) The total available budget for 2021-27 includes loans committed in 2021 for adopted plans. This total will be updated yearly if loans are committed in subsequent years

The 22 RRFs approved by the Council in 2021 account for a total allocation of EUR 291 billion in non-repayable financing and EUR 154 billion in loans. Six Member States have an adopted plan including a loan (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, and Slovenia).

Payments under the RRF are bound to the approval of the plan and signature of the necessary agreements (for pre-financing), as well as the submission and positive assessment of payment requests (for other payments).

1.9. Relevant websites providing more information

Main RRF website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en
Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard: https://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/recovery-and-resilience-scoreboard/index.html

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate (excluding loans) at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	98 034.0	337 969.0	29%
Payments	46 374.6		14%

The Regulation establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility has come into force on 19 February 2021. Since April 2021, 26 Member States have formally submitted their plans, 22 of which have already been positively assessed by the Commission and endorsed by the Council. The Netherlands is the only Member State not to have submitted a plan yet, as the timeline of the submission of the Dutch RRF was affected by the March 2021 election and the subsequent government formation process.

The Commission's assessment is still ongoing for four plans (submitted by Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Sweden). For these four plans, the Commission is continuing its assessment, as expected and foreseen in Article 19(1) of the RRF Regulation.

The formal submission of national Recovery and Resilience Plans and related adoption of implementing decisions by the Council allows the Commission to make pre-financing payments of an amount of up to 13 % of the financial contribution and, where applicable, of up to 13 % of the loan (Article 18). In 2021, the Commission disbursed EUR 54.3 billion as pre-financing to 20 Member States upon the adoption of a Council Implementing Decision approving the assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the signature of the necessary financing agreement and where relevant a loan agreement: EUR 36.4 billion in the form of grants, EUR 18 billion in the form of loans. In addition, EUR 10 billion of non-repayable support were disbursed to Spain following the positive assessment of its first payment request (December 2021). Four payment requests were submitted in total in 2021 and one was already assessed positively and the relevant payment made in December 2021. As the RRF is a performance-based programme, any subsequent disbursement is conditional to fulfilling the relevant milestones and targets.

The RRF has now entered in the implementation phase and Member States have started to report on the implementation of their RRFs. Delegated Act 2021/2106, entered into force on 2 December 2021, sets out the way Member States shall report on the overall performance of the RRF and the state of progress towards the achievement of its objectives and sets out common reporting indicators and the details of the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard. It specifies that Member States will report biannually, by April and mid-October each year, on the progress made in the achievement of their recovery and resilience plans. This bi-annual reporting consists in providing summary information on the achievement of regarding the milestones and targets due by the quarter preceding the reporting, as well as those due in the four quarters following the reporting period. Member States also have to report on the common performance indicators defined by the delegated act twice a year (by February and August). The first reporting will take place in February 2022.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The Recovery and Resilience Facility is performance based. Disbursements by the Commission to a Member State are made only when that Member State fulfils a pre-defined set of agreed milestones and targets, which represents progress towards achieving the reforms and investments in the Member State's Recovery and Resilience Plans.

The performance reporting system of the Facility is the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard, a public online platform, which presents available information on the implementation and performance of the RRF. More precisely, it displays the progress of the implementation of the recovery and resilience plans in relation to the common indicators (Delegated Regulation 2021/2106), the impact of the Facility across the six policy pillars (Article 3 RRF Regulation), and information on social expenditure (Delegated Regulation 2021/2105).

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In 2021, the Commission proceeded with a pre-financing payment of up to 13% of the financial contribution to 21 Member States which requested it. Payments of the pre-financing were executed within 5 business days after the signature of a financing agreement and where relevant a loan agreement between the Commission and the Member State. All payments were made well ahead of the 2-month deadline foreseen in the RRF Regulation.

As required under the RRF Regulation (Art 20(6)), the Commission will agree with each of the Member States operational arrangements setting out the modalities for monitoring and cooperation and covering essential aspects of the implementation. The operational arrangements provide for regular exchanges between the Commission and Member States, with at least quarterly exchanges to take stock of progress on the implementation of the RRP. They also clarify the verification mechanism for each milestone and target and, and when necessary, additional monitoring steps on which Member States will report to allow the Commission to monitor the implementation of the plan. Four operational arrangements were signed in 2021 and published on the Commission’s RRF website. To date, [xxx] operational arrangements have been concluded. The signature of the operational arrangements is a key step, as it is required before the Member State may submit its first payment request.

In 2021 the Commission disbursed a first payment of EUR 10 billion to Spain following the fulfilment of 52 milestones and targets. Three other Member States submitted their first payment requests by end of 2021 (EL, FR, IT), and 11 more are expected in the first half of 2022 (CY, HR, PT, EE, FI, LU, LV, MT, RO, SK, SI), along with three second payment requests (ES, IT, EL). . Updated information on the adoption of RRFs, achievement of milestones and targets and disbursements are available in the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard.

The Commission’s review of the first set of bi-annual reporting information reveals a positive picture regarding the implementation of milestones and targets. This reporting exercise concerned all Member States with for which the necessary Council Implementing Decision had been adopted. These Member States reported on progress regarding all milestones and targets with an indicative date of completion up to Q3 2022 and closed, exceptionally, by end November. Overall, of the milestones and targets with an indicative date of completion up to Q3 2021, 91% (266) were reported as “completed” and only 9% (25) were not completed. Of the forward-looking milestones and targets with an indicative date of completion up to Q3 2022, 4.4% (41) were reported as delayed, 79.7% (741) as “on track” and 14.9% (139) were already reported as “completed”. The next bi-annual reporting exercise on the progress of milestones and targets will take place in April 2022. Data related to the bi-annual reporting is self-reported by Member States and does not prejudice the assessment of the Commission in the context of payment requests. Thus, it does not provide any indication regarding the Commission assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets.

3.2. Key achievements

22	40%	26%
Number of RRFs adopted as of 31/12/2021	Climate target achieved by 22 adopted RRFs compared to overall target of 37%	Digital target achieved by 22 adopted RRFS compared to overall target of 20%

In the framework of the RRF, key achievements consist in the satisfactory fulfilment of agreed milestones and targets as set out in the respective Council Implementing Decisions. The Member States report the completion of milestones and targets in the context of payment requests. The Commission then assesses whether the milestones and targets are satisfactorily fulfilled.

As of 31 December 2021, the Commission has received four requests for payments, of which one was assessed and the corresponding disbursement made by the end of the year. All 52 milestones included in this first payment request have been assessed as ‘satisfactorily fulfilled’. The assessment for the remaining payment requests continued beyond this date. Latest information on fulfilled milestones and targets and payments made is available on the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

As required by Article 31 of the RRF Regulation, the Commission has on XXX XXX 2022 published the first annual report on the implementation of the RRF

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To provide Member States with financial support with a view to achieving milestones and targets of reforms and investments as set out in their recovery and resilience plans.

Indicator 1: Savings in annual primary energy consumption

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	MWh/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 2: Additional operational capacity installed for renewable energy

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	MW
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 3: Alternative fuels infrastructure (refuelling/recharging points)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Refuelling/recharging points
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 4: Population benefiting from protection measures against floods, wildfires, and other climate related natural disasters

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 5: Additional dwellings with internet access provided via very high capacity networks

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Dwellings
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 6: Enterprises supported to develop or adopt digital products, services and application processes

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 7: Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Users/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 8: Researchers working in supported research facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Annual Full Time Equivalent
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 9: Enterprises supported (of which small – including micro, medium, large)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 10: Number of participants in education or training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 11: Number of people in employment or engaged in job searching activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 12: Capacity of new or modernised health care facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A

Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 13: Classroom capacity of new or modernised childcare and education facilities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)

Indicator 14: Number of young people aged 15-29 years receiving support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data collection by Member States
Link to the objective	N/A
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The RRF is a performance-based programme. Common indicators aim to reflect the progress of specific actions common to all or most of the recovery and resilience plans towards the general objectives of the Facility and do not envisage a specific milestone or target to be achieved. They are meant to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RRF. Progress on the implementation of the RRF is therefore best measured by the completion of milestones and targets. To allow showing an overall impact of the RRF, the co-legislators established that the Commission sets out a set of common indicators, intended to show overall programme performance. All Member State with a plan assessed positively by the Commission and adopted by the Council will report twice a year on the common indicators.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	N/A (first reporting in February 2022)
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5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate	99133.08	54251.80	42183.90					195568.78	40%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The RRF Regulation requires that at least 37% of the cost of each RRP contributes to climate objectives, based on a methodology for climate tracking set out in Annex VI of the Regulation. The RRFs adopted in 2021 exceeded this target as 40% of the total allocation supported the climate objectives.

According to the climate tracking methodology, for each investment and reform, Member States should select a single intervention field from Annex VI of the Regulation. The coefficient associated with the chosen intervention field expresses whether the measure contributes fully (100%), partly (40%) or has no impact (0%) to the climate objective. Consequently, the Commission will assess whether the chosen intervention field is in line with the nature of the measure (i.e., whether it is aligned with its focus, objective or expected outcome) and validate such choice. Combining the relevant coefficient for each measure with the associated cost estimates and summing these up allows assessing to which extent the plan contributes to the climate objectives.

The figures for the climate contribution are based on the yearly commitments. Consequently, the fixed climate share of each RRP is multiplied with the yearly commitments and then aggregated to obtain the total RRF figure. As by now (15 February 2022), only 22 RRFs have been adopted, a conservative assumption was taken for the five remaining RRFs by multiplying the yearly commitments with the minimum 37% climate target.

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	6 255.50	2 512.40	2 299.20					11 067.10
Share compared to total envelope	2.5 %	2.1 %	2.2 %					2.3%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Climate contribution – grants	40 177.65	162 826.89	79 519.12					282 523.66
Climate contribution – loans	58 955.4							
Share compared to total envelope								

The figures for the biodiversity contribution are based on the yearly commitments. Consequently, the fixed biodiversity share of each RRF is multiplied with the yearly commitments and then aggregated to obtain the total RRF figure. As by now (15 February 2022), only 22 RRFs have been adopted, a conservative assumption was taken for the five remaining RRFs by not including any estimates, as there is no minimum biodiversity target.

5.3. Contribution to clean air financing

5.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
45 062.20	18 863.90	17 665.00					81 591.10

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The figures for the clean air contribution are based on the yearly commitments. Consequently, the fixed clean air share of each RRP is multiplied with the yearly commitments and then aggregated to obtain the total RRF figure. As by now (15 February 2022), only 22 RRPs have been adopted, a conservative assumption was taken for the five remaining RRPs by not including any estimates, as there is no minimum clean air target.

5.4. Contribution to gender equality

5.4.1. Key achievements and performance

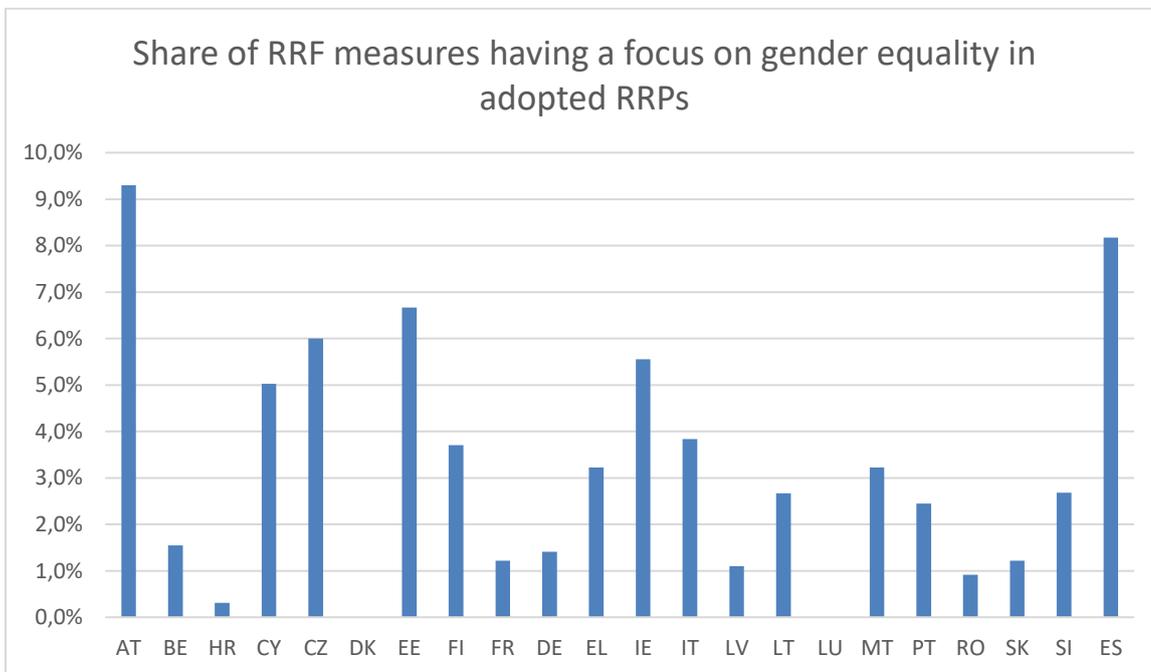
2021 estimates		2022-2027 programming					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
251 910							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented, including loans (total per score by programme in EUR Million)
 The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Mitigating the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women is a clear objective of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility, as set out in Article 4 of its founding Regulation (RRF Regulation). The RRF Regulation requires Member States to explain how the measures in their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) contribute to gender equality and equal opportunities for all and the mainstreaming of these objectives.

For the purposes of Draft Budget 2023, the potential contribution to gender equality reported under score 0* for 2021, includes all grants and loans committed in 2021, as all RRF measures may have an impact on gender equality. That said, the evaluation of the impact of RRF measures on gender equality is not envisaged by the RRF Regulation.

However, in order to track the number of measures with a focus on gender equality and the share of such measures out of all measures included in each RRP, the Commission, in consultation with Member States, has assigned a flag to relevant measures, based on the methodology set out in the Delegated Act on social expenditure reporting under the RRF (Delegated Regulation 2021/2105). As a result, 115 measures are considered to have a focus on gender equality, as shown in the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard. It is worth stressing that this estimate might change in case of amendments of plans by Member States and/or following the update of the maximum financial contribution for each Member to be performed by the Commission by 30 June 2022.



Flagged measures include reforms to reduce the gender pay gap, combat inequality between women and men, support upskilling of women and encourage flexible working arrangements. As regards investments, the RRF will contribute to a wide range of interventions. For instance, it will help Member States in improving social and early childcare infrastructures, introducing gender-equality certificate for companies, delivering trainings to boost women’s entrepreneurial skills, establishing a support line for women in rural and urban areas and improving the regulation of professions being traditionally taken up by women (domestic

works, social care etc.). It is now crucial that the Member States follow through with these plans and the Commission will monitor progress on the commitments made by the Member States, as legally set out in the Council Implementing Decisions on each adopted plan.

5.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

5.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Several recovery and resilience plans include measures to introduce National strategies to tackle poverty and improve the equal distribution of income throughout the population.

Example: the Lithuanian plan envisages an assessment of the effectiveness of the tax and social insurance contributions in preventing poverty and reducing income inequality. The aim of this measure is to adjust the personal income tax and social insurance contributions in order to better prevent poverty and reduce income inequality. Based on this study, the Ministry of Finance will assess possible adjustments to the personal income tax and social insurance contributions and propose amendments to the current legislation to be adopted by the Parliament by December 2022 with a view to coming into effect in 2024.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The RRF provides support to a number of measures, which aim to improve food security and nutrition, and to foster the development and management of rural areas.

Example: Portugal aims to strengthen its agricultural sector, and to ensure food and nutrition security, contribute to health and well-being, to improve the management of rural areas, to further the conservation of biodiversity, to tackle the effects of climate change, with the necessary adaptations and contributions to mitigate its effects and to boost other economic activities, such as, among others, agricultural services and even catering and tourism. To that end, one of the reforms included in its RRP supports the implementation of the Innovation Agenda for Agriculture 20|30, and will consist of providing the necessary means for updating and preparing existing infrastructure as well as promoting functional alliances along the agro-food chain, businesses and research, in order to promote the development and integration of R&I targeted to the needs of the agricultural sector with a view to green and digital transition

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The measures included in the plans contribute to a variety of health objectives, such as the improvement of primary healthcare, the reorganisation of hospital networks, the upscaling of prevention, the increase in the quality of diagnosing and treating patients, the strengthening of the healthcare workforce and the modernisation of healthcare facilities.

Example: The Greek plan includes a measure aimed at public health and prevention. An ambitious set of measures focusing on public aims to improve access to high-quality health services for all citizens. This includes the implementation of a system of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention as envisaged in the National Public Health Prevention Program “Spiros Doxiadis”. These are expected to support the resilience of the health care system by reducing morbidity, for instance through the promotion of physical exercise and healthy eating, by supporting the early detection of diseases, for instance through screening programmes, and by interventions aimed at preventing disability and supporting individuals with long-term conditions, with a view to improving their autonomy, quality of life and life-expectancy. Lastly, these measures envisage the modernization of the public health system to improve its capacity to emergencies and threats

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Member States have chosen to use the Facility primarily to improve the resilience of their education systems with a strong focus on digital education. Some Member States will also use the Facility for targeted measures to compensate for the learning loss resulting from the pandemic. The investments and reforms address all levels of education and training (i.e. pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary, adult education and training) with country-specific variations linked to national priorities and challenges.

Example: the Slovak recovery and resilience plan includes a component dedicated to curricular reform in primary and lower secondary education. The aim is to create new learning content, including textbooks, to develop pupils’ key competences, cognitive and soft skills, and to improve teachers’ skills. The implementation of the reform will be supported by the creation of 40 regional centres for mentoring and counselling for schools, as well as by setting up a favourable digital ecosystem. This will include a network of digital methodological coordinators in schools, to improve digitalisation in education and to enable the upper secondary school leaving exam (‘baccalaureate’) to move online. To complete the curricular reform, changes in initial teacher education and continuous professional development are planned. By the end of 2023, at least 60% of teachers in primary and lower secondary education are expected to receive training. At the same time, complementary investments are planned to increase the percentage of schools with highly equipped and connected classrooms from 30% to at least 90% and to improve school infrastructure, including establishing or renovating school libraries. Slovakia also plans to improve the inclusiveness of education, including via relevant

legislative changes, a catalogue of mainstream and targeted inclusive measures in education, training of teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as making school buildings barrier-free

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Gender equality considerations feature prominently in the Regulation establishing the RRF. Many plans include measures to support women's labour market participation, by promoting better access to childcare and long-term care facilities or reducing the female employment, pay or pension gap.

Example: The Italian RRP puts forward an investment to increase the integration of women in the labour market and, in particular, to support women's participation in entrepreneurial and business activities. The investment shall support the creation of women's enterprises by supporting the implementation of innovative business projects, including mentoring schemes, technical-managerial support, and measures to improve work-life balance in the private sector and communication actions to promote a women's entrepreneurship culture.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

On the sustainable use and protection of water, a significant part of measures focuses on water management, also by including metering devices for water abstraction, thereby combining both climate and digital objectives. Other types of water management include measures to target the supply of safe, clean and abundant drinking water as well as the treatment of wastewater collection. Some measures have also related to the enhancing irrigation efficiency. Pollution prevention and control measures relate to the implementation of low emission zones or the reduction of pollution in ports.

Example: The Romanian RRP includes a measure, which aims at strengthening the regulatory framework for the sustainable management of the water and wastewater sector and accelerating public access to quality services. The objective of this reform is to improve the capacity of regional water infrastructure operators, and to improve the quality and efficiency of cooperation between them and local authorities/inter-community development associations (IDAs), water and channel infrastructure owners, by implementing a number of legislative and regulatory changes

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Energy efficiency accounts for 29% of the total expenditures under the green transition pillar. Most investments concern the energy efficiency of private buildings, typically targeting a reduction in primary energy demand of 30% or more. These investments also include measure aimed at addressing energy poverty, by targeting vulnerable groups for whom the significant upfront costs make it almost impossible to invest in the energy efficiency of their homes. Renovations of public buildings are also well represented across the plans, such as in schools, sport halls and historical buildings. Lastly, there are also investments for the construction of new highly energy efficient public and private buildings.

Example: Spain will support more than half a million energy renovation actions in residential buildings by 2026. These energy renovations will achieve on average a primary energy demand reduction of at least 30%. The investments are complemented by a coherent package of reforms, including tax incentives and renovation offices ("one-stop-shops") to facilitate renovations.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The plans include in particular measures to support job creation and the transition to new sectors and job types, boost employment and improve labour market performance and resilience, focusing in particular on improving the efficiency of their public employment services, activation support for jobseekers, and increasing participation of women, young people, and vulnerable groups in the labour market.

For example, the Slovenian plan includes financial incentives for employers to hire young people up to 25 years of age on open-ended contracts. Employers should also commit to provide an appropriate mentor, to assist and train young people in a specific job. During the 18-month subsidy period, young people are expected to acquire additional competences to exercise the profession and enhance their theoretical knowledge with work experience. During this period, the new employee and their mentor should be involved in training of at least 30 hours with a focus on improving digital competences.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

As one of the pillars of the RRF, Member States have put forward measures to support smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, incl. promoting innovation, industrialisation, and productivity, to make their economies more resilient, competitive and enable a sustainable and inclusive recovery.

Example: Spain aims to promote industrial development with the adoption of the "Strategy to boost Industry 2030", which foresees to adapt the regulatory framework to help industry face the challenges of digitisation, environmental sustainability and the circular economy. The objective of the reform included in their RRP is improve the coordination mechanisms between the different levels of government in industrial policy, and to improve industrial quality and safety through a strengthened market surveillance system

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed and exacerbated inequalities in the EU. The RRF will support measures to strengthen resilience and reduce inequalities and divergences between and within Member States.

For example, Belgium aims to tackle discrimination in the labour market by strengthening the social and labour market integration of vulnerable groups, including people with a migrant background, women, people with disabilities, prisoners and people at risk of digital exclusion. The corresponding reform consists of improving the regulatory framework of discrimination tests, improving the available tools and data for targeted checks, and training and strengthening social law monitoring services of the Federal Public Service for Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue in order to improve the effectiveness of discriminatory tests.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Example: Croatia has included in its RRP a reform which aims to develop a framework for the design and implementation of green urban renewal strategies. The new framework will provide the foundation for the development of sustainable space with a focus on developing green infrastructure and integrating nature-based solutions, models for circular management of space and buildings, strengthening resilience against risks and climate change, and supporting the overall sustainable development. The reform will be available to all local government units in Croatia, but priority will be given to those in earthquake-stricken areas

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Example: To reach the targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030 and to reach climate neutrality in 2050, the Danish plan includes a number of investments in research and development to complement existing climate policies, create long-term growth potential, frontload the green transition by investing in new green technologies and diversify research by encouraging private and public entities to collaborate. One of these investments is dedicated to climate- and environment friendly agriculture and food production to accelerate the development of climate-friendly technology solutions. The aim of this specific investment is to increase investments in new technology to further reduce emissions in the agriculture and food sectors, while maintaining a sustainable production and earnings. The type of activities that will be funded include research and innovation in new breeding techniques, development of precision agriculture and the establishment of new, more efficient cultivation and fertilisation systems.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Reflecting the European Green Deal as Europe's sustainable growth strategy and the importance of tackling climate change, the RRF contributes to the mainstreaming of climate action and environmental sustainability.

Example: Cyprus included in its RRP a measure to reduce CO₂ emissions in industries, businesses and organisations, with the objective to encourage industries, businesses and organisations to engage in transformations targeting decarbonisation and to implement action plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their operations and/or supply chains. The investment entails setting up a support scheme, which will provide financing, equivalent to the cost for the purchase of greenhouse gas emission allowances to be avoided due to the reduction in emissions resulting from the beneficiaries' actions. Cyprus aims to reduce at least 354.566 tons of CO₂eq as a result of the support received from the RRF.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Example: The Spanish recovery and resilience plans includes reforms and investments, which aim at the conservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity. One reform will update the biodiversity and natural heritage legislation to support meeting commitments stemming from the Convention on Biological Diversity and the recently adopted EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. It will also include the adoption of the Royal Decree approving the Plan for the Marine Protected Areas Network that shall promote an ecologically coherent network contributing to the conservation of areas of natural heritage and marine biodiversity, fostering a planned, effective and coherent management of marine protected areas. Investments are moreover contributing to the conservation of marine biodiversity, by establishing a system to digitalise the management, control and monitoring of natural heritage, covering both the terrestrial and marine fields, and putting forward a conservation plan for 30 % of the sea area by 2030, which shall protect at least 18 % of the Spanish marine territory by 2025.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Example: As one measure of the component "Nature protection and adaptation to climate change", which aims at addressing the challenges arising from climate change in several priority areas (among which are forest management, agriculture, water management and biodiversity), Czechia will invest in building forests resilient to climate change. The investment aims at restoring a stable forest by planting native and heterogeneous species, while aiming for multigenerational and spatial composition of the forest to be resilient to climate change. In addition, Czechia will implement an amendment to the ministerial decree on forest management planning, which will pave the way for multigenerational, multispecies and resilient forests.

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

A number of Member States have included in their recovery and resilience plans measures to improve the effectiveness of their judicial systems, including the quality of services as well as access to justice.

Example: Romania will invest in improving judicial infrastructure, the efficiency of the judicial system and access to justice through the construction of 3 new court buildings. Access to the buildings will be adapted to persons with disabilities, and priority will be given to the locations of judicial authorities in economically less developed parts of Romania. This adaptation will in addition be accompanied by compliance with fire and technical protection standards, including seismic resilience.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Technical Support Instrument****Lead DG: REFORM**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the economic outlook for the years to come in the EU and in the world. The medium and long-term effects of the crisis will depend on the resilience of Member States' economies. There is a need to plan strategically the recovery, revitalise our economies and getting back on a path of sustainable and inclusive growth, geared towards the green and digital transition objectives.

Smart, sustainable and socially responsible reforms help **to strengthen the resilience of our economies and societies**. They contribute to keeping our economies flexible and competitive and help to improve the quality of public services. Given that the economies of Member States are strongly intertwined, the successful implementation of well-designed reforms benefits is a matter of common concern and helps to strengthen the EU's social, economic and territorial cohesion.

However, **the process of designing, developing and implementing reforms is complex**. Member States have different levels of technical expertise and administrative capacity to address the reform challenges that lie ahead. Therefore, strengthening Member States' capacity to implement reforms is crucial.

In line with the subsidiarity and proportionality principles, the EU's intervention brings added value by offering Member States technical expertise to enhance their capacity to carry out reforms and to foster the exchange of good practices across the EU.

Building on the success of the Structural Reform Support Programme (2017-2020), with the Technical Support Instrument (TSI), the European Commission will continue accompanying Member States' efforts to tackle reform challenges.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Technical Support Instrument is the main EU funding programme providing technical support to EU Member States to support them in their reform agendas. The TSI provides **tailor-made technical expertise** to Member States for the design and implementation of institutional, administrative and resilience-enhancing reforms. The support is **on-demand** and does not require co-financing from Member States.

Member States can request technical support under the TSI for implementing growth-sustaining and resilience-enhancing reforms in the context of EU economic governance, such as European Semester country-specific recommendations and the implementation of EU law. In addition, Member States can also request technical support to prepare, amend, implement and revise national recovery and resilience plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Lastly, support can be requested for implementing economic adjustment programmes or reforms undertaken at Member States' own initiative.

The TSI covers a wide range of policy areas, which include revenue administration and public financial management, governance and public administration, sustainable growth and business environment, education and skills, labour market, migration, healthcare and social security systems, financial sector, and preparation for euro-area membership. In addition to this, there is specific focus on the actions that foster the green and digital transitions. These include actions in the area of climate change mitigation, environmental protection, energy transition, e-governance and artificial intelligence.

The general objective of the TSI is to promote the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion by supporting Member States' efforts to implement reforms. This is necessary to encourage investment, to increase competitiveness and to achieve sustainable economic and social convergence, resilience and recovery. This is also necessary to support Member States' efforts to strengthen their institutional and administrative capacity, including at regional and local level, to facilitate socially inclusive, green and digital transitions, to effectively address the challenges identified in the country-specific recommendations and to implement EU law.

1.3. Specific objectives

To achieve its general objective, the TSI shall have the specific objectives of assisting national authorities in improving their capacity to:

- (a) design, develop and implement reforms
- (b) prepare, amend, implement and revise recovery and resilience plans pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

The specific objectives shall refer to policy areas related to cohesion, competitiveness, education, productivity, research and innovation, smart, fair, sustainable and inclusive growth, jobs and investment, with specific emphasis on actions that foster the digital and just green transitions, and in particular focus on one or more of the following:

- **public financial and asset management**, budget process, including green and gender budgeting, macro-fiscal framework, debt and cash management, expenditure and tax policy, tax compliance, revenue administration and customs union, as well as fighting aggressive tax planning, tax fraud, tax evasion and tax avoidance;
- institutional reform and efficient and service-oriented functioning of **public administration and e-government**, simplification of rules and procedures, auditing, enhancing capacity to absorb Union funds, promotion of administrative cooperation, effective rule of law, reform of the justice systems, capacity building of competition and antitrust authorities, strengthening of financial supervision and reinforcement of the fight against fraud, corruption and money laundering;
- **business environment**, including for small and medium-sized enterprises, the self-employed, entrepreneurs and social economy enterprises, the re-industrialisation and relocation of production to the Union, private sector development, product and service markets, public and private investments including into physical and virtual infrastructure, project promoters and nurseries, public participation in enterprises, privatisation processes, trade and foreign direct investment, competition, efficient and transparent public procurement, sustainable sectoral development, and support for research, innovation and digitisation;
- **education**, life-long learning and training, vocational education and training, youth policies, labour market policies, including social dialogue, for the creation of jobs, increased labour market participation of under-represented groups, up- and re-skilling in particular digital skills, media literacy, active citizenship, active ageing, gender equality, civil protection, border and migration policies, the promotion of social inclusion and the fight against poverty, income inequality and all forms of discrimination;
- accessible, affordable and resilient **public healthcare, social security systems**, care and welfare, and childcare;
- policies for the **mitigation of climate change**, the digital and just green transitions, e-government solutions, e-procurement, connectivity, data access and governance, data protection solutions, e-learning, use of Artificial Intelligence based solutions, the environmental pillar of sustainable development and environmental protection, climate action, transport and mobility, promoting the circular economy, energy and resource efficiency and renewable energy sources, achieving energy diversification, tackling energy poverty and ensuring energy security, and for the agricultural sector, soil and biodiversity protection, fisheries and the sustainable development of rural, remote and insular areas;
- **financial sector policies and regulation**, including financial literacy, financial stability, access to finance and lending to the real economy, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises, the self-employed and entrepreneurs;
- the production, provision and quality monitoring of **data and statistics**;

- preparation for **membership of the euro area**; and
- early detection of and a coordinated response to substantial **public health or security risks**, as well as ensuring business and service continuity for essential public and private institutions and sectors.

1.4. Public intervention context

The Regulation establishing a Technical Support Instrument (Regulation (EU) 2021/240) is adopted on the basis of the third paragraph of Article 175 and Article 197(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Article 197(2) TFEU provides that the Union may support the efforts of Member States to improve their administrative capacity to implement Union law, inter alia, through facilitating the exchange of information and supporting training schemes. Article 175, third paragraph, TFEU provides that, if specific actions prove necessary outside the Funds and without prejudice to the measure decided upon within the framework of the other Union policies, such actions may be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. The Technical Support Instrument aims at enhancing cohesion, through measures that allow recovery, resilience and convergence in/of the Member States concerned.

1.5. Actions

The specific objectives are pursued in close cooperation with the Member States concerned, including through exchange of good practices, processes and methodologies, stakeholder involvement, where appropriate, and a more effective and efficient human resources management.

The type of actions eligible for financing under the TSI include, among others:

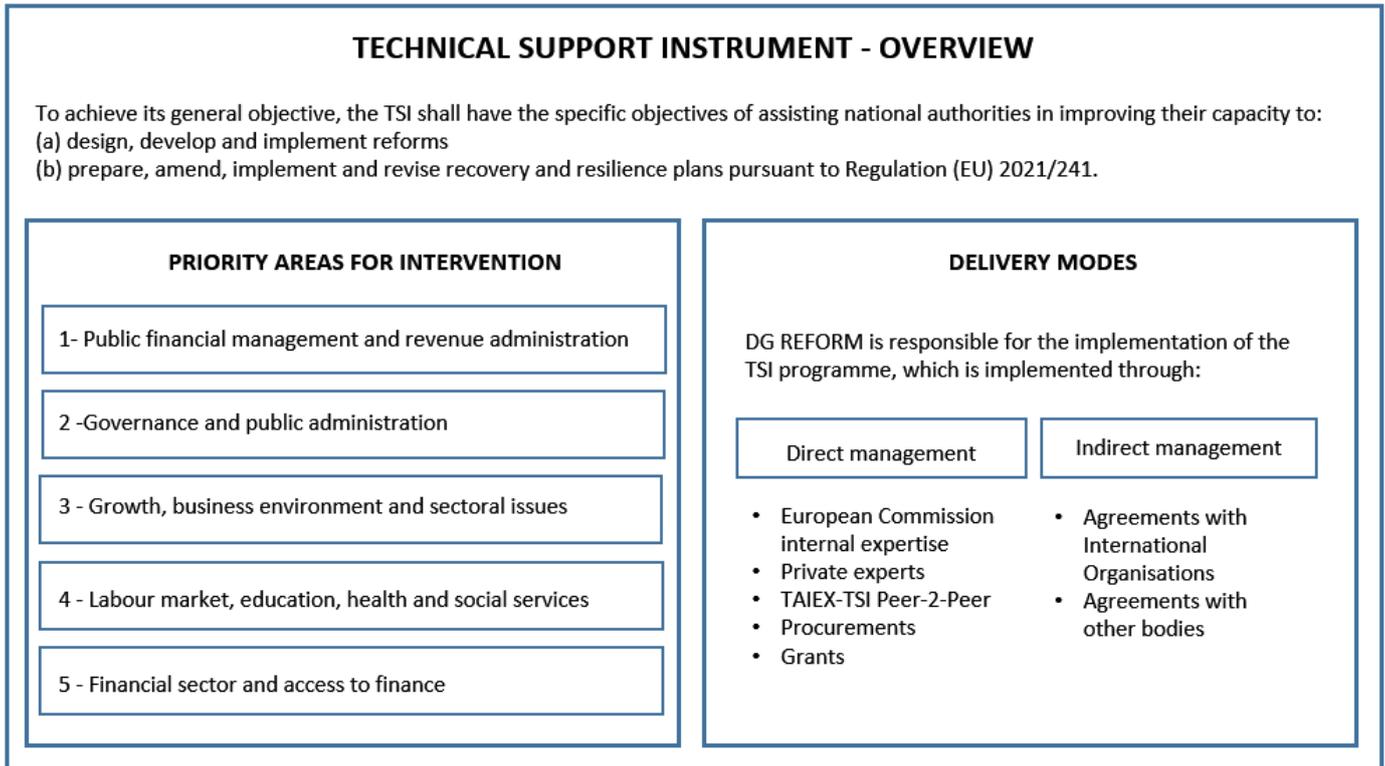
- Expertise related to policy advice, policy change, formulation of strategies and reform roadmaps, as well as to legislative, institutional, structural and administrative reforms;
- Provision of experts, from national administrations, international organisations, private firms and consultancies, or expertise directly from the European Commission;
- Institutional, administrative or sectoral capacity building (including workshops, exchange of best practices, and training) at all governance levels.
- Carrying out studies, including feasibility studies, research, analyses and surveys, evaluations and impact assessments.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Technical Support Instrument is mainly implemented by DG REFORM under direct management, i.e. through grants and procurements, but also through internal Commission-wide expertise.

In some cases, it is also implemented by DG REFORM through indirect management, entrusting tasks to international organisations or other bodies in accordance with the Financial Regulation.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 February 2021 establishing a Technical Support Instrument (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	864.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The Technical Support Instrument is managed in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2021/240.

One of the specific objectives of the Technical Support Instrument is assisting national authorities in improving their capacity to prepare, amend, implement and revise recovery and resilience plans pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

In addition, resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, and in accordance with the conditions and the procedure set out in the Common Provisions Regulation for 2021-2027, be transferred to the Technical Support Instrument for the purpose of financing clearly identified technical support requests, and transferred back if not committed.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

The Technical Support Instrument is responding to an increasing interest from Member States, reflected in the numbers of requests submitted, as well as the number of Member States submitting requests. The financial programming corresponds to this trend and follows a constant increase from 2021 to 2027.

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	116.4	118.7	121.1	123.5	126.0	128.5	130.4	864.4
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Technical Support Instrument is the successor of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) set for the period 2017-2020 and is part of the initiatives taken by the Commission in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, to help Member States mitigate the huge economic and social consequences.

The Technical Support Instrument builds on the success of the SRSP, which has funded since 2015 more than 1000 projects in 27 Member States, and has constantly experienced positive feedback from beneficiary Member States and excess demand in respect of the budgets available in the past selection rounds.

For the MFF 2021-2027, the Technical Support Instrument is scaled-up with a higher budget over the whole period of the MFF and a larger scope, including the support for preparing and implementing the recovery and resilience plans at national level. The Technical Support Instrument is consistent, coherent and complementary to the existing resources for capacity building and technical assistance, which are available within other Union financing programmes.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Additional information about the programme can be found on the dedicated website – url below, which also provide links to projects examples and other relevant information sources.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	116.1	864.4	13%
Payments	26.4		3%

2021 being the first year of implementation, 13% of the total envelope for the period 2021-2027 have been committed which is in line with the financial programming.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

In 2021, DG REFORM continued to build on its **unique position and expertise** developed so far, and ensured that the Technical Support Instrument continues delivering high-quality support to address Member States' demands to settle long-standing bottlenecks and undertake key reforms for their economic, social and territorial resilience. The results of the latest annual round of technical support requests (TSI 2022) is promising with 176 projects to satisfy 225 Member States' requests.

The Technical Support Instrument is an important pillar of the Recovery Plan for Europe, the EU's initiative to help Member States mitigate the economic and social consequences of the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis. The TSI supports directly Member States for the implementation of their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). DG REFORM organised a call in 2021 specifically dedicated to this purpose.

Beyond the RRP, DG REFORM has continued supporting Member States in the **implementation of key EU priorities** such as the **green and digital transitions**. In addition to the traditional technical support under the TSI, some Member States have asked for further support through the transfer of national funds. The high satisfaction feedback provided by Member States' coordinating authorities is a recognition of DG REFORM work, which motivates to do more and always better.

In 2021, DG REFORM launched the **second round of Member States' requests for technical support (TSI 2022)**. Member States were asked to submit requests for technical support and to opt for one or more '**flagship technical support projects**'¹. Flagship projects were designed in a way to support resilience and growth enhancing reforms, which are largely needed across Member States and linked to top EU priorities. The selected projects will **contribute to key policy development and reforms** for – inter alia – advancing gender equality and the green transition, advancing digital finance and the integration of capital markets. The Member States particularly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic will also get support for revitalizing the tourism industry, modernizing their public administration or improving their tax system. DG REFORM stands ready to provide support for integrating migrants, contribute to the Year of Youth and advance digital finance and the integration of capital markets. All these reforms set the scene for European citizens' better life standards.

Member States were also given the opportunity to submit any "**multi-country requests**", which Member States had discussed or developed in collaboration with one or more authorities of (an)other Member State(s). Multi-country requests are not limited to neighbouring Member States, but could also concern entire regions of the Union as well as Member States in different regions. Such projects bring a **bigger EU 'added value', synergies and promote mutual learning** across several authorities/Member States with know-how and good practice exchanges.

As a result to the TSI 2022 round, **27 Member States submitted 512 requests for support**, for a total estimated value of EUR 230 million. DG REFORM identified **176 projects for funding satisfying 225 requests of technical support**. The selection followed a thorough prioritisation exercise carried out in line with the criteria set in the TSI Regulation and a wide consultation of 24 Commission's departments to find synergies and complementarities and avoid overlaps with other programmes.

In 2021, DG REFORM also managed to develop a **robust set of communication initiatives** to put the TSI under the spotlight, such as the organisation of a high-level conference for the launch of the TSI 2022 call or the creation of a new [Reform Support Website](#). For the first time DG REFORM also involved the Portuguese, Slovenian and French presidencies in its main annual events, demonstrating the relevance of DG REFORM and the TSI activities for the European political agenda.

In 2021 DG REFORM further enhanced its communication activities by developing and maintaining its [Reform Support Website](#) and ensuring daily social media dissemination of TSI projects via the official DG REFORM Twitter profile [@EU_reforms](#). DG REFORM produced [videos related to technical support projects² in the Member States and organised conferences to promote its activities \(2021 TSI Press Conference and 2021 TSI Annual Conference\)](#). In 2021, DG REFORM brochures were downloaded around 350 times; the Reform Support website recorded 35 000 visits; this shows good visibility by the end of 2021, considering that this was available for only six months. Since 2021 DG REFORM also publishes on the Europa website [Projects in the spotlight](#) (europa.eu) which are practical examples of the achievements made in the context of its technical support provided to Member States.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

DG REFORM's technical support projects aim to make a significant contribution to Member States' national authorities in their efforts to make reforms. Each reform project may be provided either directly by the Commission staff or by experts from EU Member States' national administrations, international organisations, private entities or individual experts from the private sector. The technical support provided by DG REFORM in 2021 included: expert and fact-finding reviews; diagnostic analyses and provision of recommendations on how to address problematic issues in Member States, sharing of best practices through (online) seminars, conferences and workshops, and development and implementation of targeted solutions for Member States.

Notwithstanding the provision of the Commission's support, it must be noted that the overall ownership and responsibility for the policies and reforms developed and implemented remain with the Member States themselves.

In 2021 DG REFORM continued to implement the technical support under the Structural Reform Support Programme and started the implementation of the 2021 work programme linked to the newly established Technical Support Instrument. The TSI has an increased budgetary envelope (EUR 864 million) spanning over the period of the multiannual financial framework (MFF 2021-2027).

Despite the persistent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, to some extent, continued to impact the Member States/providers ability to follow up on the implementation of some technical support projects as originally conceived, DG REFORM managed to reach the targets of technical support projects planned under the relevant work programmes.

¹ [Technical Support Instrument: Flagships support projects | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

² [Deploying artificial intelligence at Flanders investments and trade in Belgium](#)
[Reforming the Greek reception system for Asylum Seekers](#)
[Modernising the Civil Procedure Rules in Cyprus](#)

DG REFORM continued to strengthen its **collaboration with international organisations**, such as OECD, EBRD and the Council of Europe by signing ‘umbrella agreements’ which capture several technical support projects for. The Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX³) was also available for implementing technical support projects. 59 TAIEX technical support activities were organised in 2021. These included 23 expert missions, 20 workshops, 9 study visits and 7 “*work from home*” activities. A new hybrid arrangement was adopted to facilitate technical exchanges between peers from public administrations in the Member States during the pandemic; this approach offered further flexibility for the organisation of events and contributed to more environmentally friendly solutions. Most of the events were organised *online* with some face-to face events resuming in September 2021. The feedback from experts and participants on the quality of the events organised is positive overall. This confirms that TAIEX exchanges remain an efficient and effective instrument for sharing best practices among Member States’ public administrations.

Achievements and technical support activities by policy area.

In the field of **migration**, DG REFORM helped public administrations in several Member States build their institutional and operational capacity to integrate migrants and refugees, with a view to boosting their inclusion in the labour market or helping their integration into society. In particular, it supported the Brussels’ Capital Region Employment Agency in setting up a coordination platform for all actors that facilitate new incoming migrants’ inclusion in the labour market. In Lithuania, Czechia and Slovakia, DG REFORM provided technical recommendations for strategies and schemes that could enhance labour mobility and the country’s ability to attract international talent in sectors lacking adequately skilled workers.

In Greece, DG REFORM helped the Ministry of Migration and Asylum to successfully transition the accommodation network for vulnerable asylum seekers to a state-managed scheme. It also helped the Ministry’s Reception and Identification Service to enhance its emergency preparedness capacity.

In the field of **public financial management**, DG REFORM continued to support Member States in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their public expenditure policies. This was achieved mainly through support for the design, conduct and institutionalisation of spending reviews. For example, thanks to this support, the Belgian federal government integrated the use of spending reviews in its annual budget preparation process. Moreover, DG REFORM continued to support Member States to improve the quality of their national accounts and modernise their public accounting systems. This allowed, for example, Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg to take steps to design and plan a transition to an accrual-based accounting framework, in line with European Public Sector Accounting Standards. In 2021, DG REFORM continued to build the institutional and analytical capacity of independent fiscal institutions (IFIs) to enable them to carry out their mandate of independent public finance oversight more effectively. Such support enabled, for instance, the Latvian IFI to improve the quality of its independent fiscal forecasts.

Furthermore, DG REFORM supported several Member States through actions to develop fiscal risk management frameworks, upgrade macroeconomic and fiscal modelling capacities, and improve practices in subnational government finances. Finally, DG REFORM helped most Member States build capacity to use tools and methods to integrate green budgeting⁴ practices into national budget processes in line with the EU Green Deal.

In the field of **revenue administration**, DG REFORM continued to support Member States to boost the capacity of their tax and customs administrations. This support addressed a broad range of activities including but not limited to the administrations’ core IT and business processes, taxpayer services, customs control activities, and strategic and managerial functions. This support led, for example, to Belgian customs integrating new technologies that improve customs control, while Finnish customs acquired a new tool enabling better project portfolio management and cooperation.

Moreover, support was provided to improve Member States’ strategies for enhancing voluntary tax compliance, for instance introducing behavioural approaches to boost revenue collection and administrative cooperation in direct tax matters, and tackling tax fraud and evasion. This included strengthening capacity to curb aggressive tax planning structures or the design and application of anti-fraud strategies in some countries. Finally, DG REFORM provided support for assessing the socio-economic impact of alternative tax policies. Such support led, for instance, to upgraded modelling capacity to support the design of the tax, social security contributions and social benefits system in Lithuania, and to support the design of environmental tax policies in Italy.

³ TAIEX is available for implementing SRSP projects since 2017 and TSI projects since 2021. TSI Peer 2 Peer is an instrument managed in cooperation with DG European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) to facilitate peer to peer exchanges between public sector experts of Member States’ administrations to build more effective institutions, stronger governance frameworks and efficient public administrations.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/reform-support/revenue-administration-and-public-financial-management/supporting-implementation-green-budgeting-practices-among-eu-member-states_en

DG REFORM supported Member States' efforts to improve their internal organisation and processes and strengthen the coordination and capacity of (local) **public administrations**. For example, in Bulgaria the legal framework and the working processes for certain 'life events' were reviewed and optimised to allow for better service delivery, their digitalisation and better management of resources.

In Greece, modernisation of civil service management was supported through the development of an action plan to implement modernised recruitment procedures for civil servants, the development of a new performance assessment framework for civil servants and the drafting of technical specifications for an IT tool for central and local authorities to best utilise the Common Assessment Framework.

In Lithuania, support was provided to STRATA, the Government Strategy Analysis Centre, to promote better evidence-based policy-making and policy evaluation. This should help reduce the administrative burden and costs, and improve public policies' effectiveness. In Cyprus, the coordination of EU affairs was enhanced with capacity building of the newly established General Secretariat for European Affairs, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project facilitated the development of a national strategy on EU affairs and a mechanism to improve Cyprus' input into EU processes. In Greece, Lithuania and Slovakia, DG REFORM supported local administration through analysis, peer reviews, training and specific advice on issues such as optimisation of structure and competences, participation of citizens, financing, inter-municipal cooperation and coordination with the regional and central government.

In 2021 there was a substantial increase in Member States' demand for support in the area of e-Government and **digital public administration**, particularly following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples include projects on digital-ready legislation in Austria, streamlining employment services in Hungary, strategies on ICT development for the public sector in Czechia, Spain and Romania, sustainable digitalisation of the judiciary in Finland and improving public sector data exchange in Italy.

In the area of **judicial reforms**, DG REFORM supported several Member States to strengthen their justice systems, including by mediation, and to modernise their proceedings via digitalisation. In Malta, the support provided led to the adoption in December 2021 of the Digital Justice Strategy⁵. In Cyprus, DG REFORM concluded its multiannual support leading to the approval of the new Civil Procedure Rules by the Supreme Court of Cyprus in May 2021⁶. Their implementation will contribute to a fairer and more efficient justice system, strengthening the rule of law by speeding up justice and ensuring favourable investment conditions and the sustainability of growth.

In Slovenia, DG REFORM supported the design and development of a (physical) structure, providing better support by the criminal and justice system to child victims of crime, while also assisting the authorities in the reform of the juvenile justice system and the penitentiary system. In Bulgaria, DG REFORM concluded a project on the reform of the payment order procedure and support continues for the review of the legal framework of administrative penalty proceedings.

DG REFORM supported some Member States in the area of **anti-corruption and integrity**. To this end, it facilitated the review of procedures for the selection and appraisal of judges and prosecutors and the enforcement of anti-corruption measures in education, environment and sports. Some national authorities received support to establish monitoring mechanisms for their anti-corruption national plan; to revise their rules to manage conflicts of interest; to ensure supervision of public expenditure or to demonstrate preparedness to access the OECD Anti-Bribery convention⁷.

In the area of **public procurement**, DG REFORM continued to assist Member States in streamlining public procurement rules and applying innovative methodologies, such as agile procurement for IT products in Slovakia.

DG REFORM provided support to strengthen **innovation** capacity and performance in several Member States. For example, in Slovakia, DG REFORM supported the development of the national Smart Specialisation Strategy, while in Lithuania technical support focussed on improving the effectiveness of innovation policy. In the area of **state assets management**, for example, Croatia received support to improve the governance of its state-owned enterprises (SOEs) by revising and aligning national legislation with the OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of SOEs. DG REFORM implemented projects to promote Member States' **investments**, for instance, by reviewing the regulatory framework in Finland to reduce barriers to foreign direct investment. These Member States have also introduced relevant measures in their respective national recovery and resilience plans following the recommendations received under DG REFORM technical support. In the area of **competitiveness and productivity**, DG REFORM provided support to Cyprus in developing strategies and action plans including institutional changes to sustain robust, sustainable and inclusive growth in the long term. DG REFORM helped the Portuguese authorities to better evaluate the potential

⁵ <https://www.gov.mt/en/Government/DOI/Press%20Releases/Pages/2021/December/03/pr212167en.aspx>

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbrwq8ajLAU> https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_21_6681

⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/corruption/oecdantibriberyconvention.htm>

effects of the structural reforms included in their National Reform Programme and forecast investments. These Member States also introduced relevant measures in their respective national recovery and resilience plans following the recommendations received under DG REFORM technical support.

In Greece, DG REFORM supported the improvement of the business environment and regulatory framework in seven thematic areas, covered by the World Bank Doing Business Report. National legislation incorporated several of the recommendations stemming from the project, while others are included in the national Recovery and Resilience Plan. DG REFORM provided support to the Spanish competition authority to enhance its capacity to assess the degree of compliance of its advocacy acts and develop a methodology for the ex-post evaluation of better regulation with the objective of improving the business environment

In the area of sustainable **transport and mobility**, DG REFORM supported a number of Member States in developing their national mobility systems, including through the implementation of mobility master plans and the promotion of innovative mobility solutions. In Belgium, DG REFORM supported the Brussels Capital Region in developing an efficient and resilient regulatory framework for mobility⁸.

DG REFORM assisted several Member States in the area of **energy**. For instance, in the area of building renovation, DG REFORM supported the setting up of a national decarbonisation fund to improve access to financing for the energy renovation of buildings. DG REFORM support led to the adoption of a national long-term renovation strategy in one Member State. In Estonia, DG REFORM supported the authorities in defining the pathway towards climate-neutral electricity production. In Slovenia, DG REFORM supported the reform of the energy legislative framework and the transposition of the ‘Clean energy for all Europeans’ package.

DG REFORM provided support to Member States in the area of **climate change mitigation and adaptation**, including for the preparation of long-term climate mitigation strategies, such as in Romania. The support extended to disaster risk management, such as prevention of floods and wildfires.

DG REFORM also supported Spain and Estonia in their efforts towards sustainable development and better economic opportunities, by addressing the twin challenge of **depopulation and demographic changes**.

In the area of **health**, DG REFORM provided support, for instance, to assess the performance of the health systems in several Member States and to support the digital transformation of healthcare systems. Support measures also aimed at improving the accessibility and quality of health and long-term care services, and at improving the efficiency of health systems through more effective clinical governance, costing and payment models. Furthermore, DG REFORM supported several health care reforms relating to national RRP. Close collaboration between DG REFORM, DG SANTE (Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety) and the Slovenian Presidency is reflected in the EPSCO Council’s conclusions, which invite Member States to make use of the TSI to increase the resilience of their health systems.

DG REFORM supported Member States in reviewing the operational structure and strengthening the administrative capacity of national and regional Public Employment Services. Support was further provided to design and pilot-test innovative active **labour market policies** and to strengthen the in-house analytical capacity of labour market and social security administrations.

In the area of **social protection**, DG REFORM intervened, for instance, to support the assessment and reform of national pension systems and to review the provision of social services at different levels of government. Furthermore, DG REFORM supported the reform of disability policy and assessment systems and contributed to the review of national frameworks for family support policies. DG REFORM’s contribution towards building a stronger social Europe is acknowledged in a series of initiatives adopted by the European Commission in March 2021 such as, the Action Plan on the Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Strategy on the rights of persons with disabilities, and the Council Recommendation on the European Child Guarantee.

In the field of **education and training**, DG REFORM supported Member States on reforms introducing new curricula and making education more inclusive. Member States also benefited from support for higher education strategies, the (digital) modernisation of vocational education and training, the quality and integration of non-formal education and the engagement of local communities in education policy-making.

Throughout the year, DG REFORM continued to respond to Member States’ needs of support for reforms in the **financial sector**: banking, insurance and pensions, and capital markets. DG REFORM technical support covers several horizontal policy areas, of which the most important ones include: insolvency and debt restructuring, anti-money laundering, sustainable finance, supervision, financial literacy, digitalisation and access to finance.

A key example of an effective DG REFORM technical support project in this area is the national strategy for **financial literacy**, which is linked to a European Commission priority, in particular in the context of the Capital Markets Union and to the Sustainable

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/reform-support/developing-innovative-mobility-solutions-brussels-capital-region_en

Development Goals. This project aimed to adopt and implement a national strategy to tackle the low rates of financial literacy in Austria. Evolving lifestyle, consumer behaviour, financial markets sophistication, innovation in financial services and even the COVID-19 pandemic crisis make financial literacy increasingly important because low levels have negative consequences for both individuals (irrational consumer behaviour, over-indebtedness, negative impact on investing and saving for retirement) and the entire society and economy.

Funded by the European Commission through the TSI, this project was implemented with the support of the OECD, which has substantial experience in financial literacy. In 16 months, the current financial literacy activities in Austria were analysed through a specific mapping and an assessment against international good practices; a written consultation with the relevant stakeholders, desk research and a workshop. Then, a high-level document and a roadmap with a proposed methodology and activities were designed, so that the national strategy could be launched. This national financial literacy strategy will increase financial literacy (i.e. financial awareness, knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours) in Austria. This will allow citizens and SMEs to take more informed decisions on purchasing financial products and services and to make sustainable financial choices.

In this same thematic area, DG REFORM also supported a project in Italy to empower people when managing personal finances. The project delivered a wide range of innovative and interactive digital ‘edutainment’ and ‘infotainment’ products ([Web TV series](#)) and approaches to foster curiosity and make fundamental financial concepts more accessible for citizens who are not necessarily knowledgeable on these topics, allowing them to make better financial decisions. This initiative was covered in the national press, included in the national website dedicated to financial education, and it is therefore available to a large audience ([link to the Video Corriere.it](#)).

Contribution to Recovery and Resilience Plans

In 2021, DG REFORM substantially **stepped up its support for the preparation and implementation of Member States’ Resilience and Recovery Plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility**. Following the Commission’s endorsement of 22 RRP in 2021, DG REFORM estimated that around 60% of the projects selected in the first round of the TSI have been contributing to either to the preparation or implementation of the RRP. In particular, 120 projects related to the implementation of thematic reforms and investments in the RRP, while 11 additional projects concerned general support for the overall preparation or implementation of the RRP funded under programme or through the transfer of national funds.

DG REFORM has provided general support for the preparation of the RRP to Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Slovenia and Slovakia. The technical support provided depended on the specific request and needs of each Member State, and it took the form of: (i) administrative capacity building actions aimed for example at defining methodologies (e.g. for costing), (ii) harmonising the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ assessment, or (iii) coordinating stakeholders’ input into the drafting of the RRP.

In addition, between May and June 2021, DG REFORM organised an additional **dedicated call within the TSI 2021** for the implementation of the RRP. The objective of the dedicated call was to (i) provide general support to Member States in the implementation of their national Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRP) under the RRF and/or for the implementation of their (ii) green, (iii) digital and (iv) public administration measures. DG REFORM selected 25 projects. Through this dedicated call, DG REFORM notably scaled up general support for the overall implementation of the RRP, with 13 projects targeting a number of areas. These include: (i) monitoring and project management, (ii) reporting mechanisms, (iii) audit and control, (iv) overall governance structure for the RRP implementation, (v) data management, (vi) IT aspects or (vii) the application of the “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) principle. As such, the number of Member States benefitting from general technical support for the preparation or implementation of the RRP rose to 17. The remaining 12 projects selected through the dedicated call concerned capacity building support for green, digital and public administration RRP measures (e.g. support for the execution of a national artificial intelligence strategy, a coherent policy development for high-quality and sustainable living environment, measures to support the efficiency of the public procurement system, etc.).

Furthermore, in 2021, Cyprus, Greece, Croatia, and Romania decided to embed in their RRP additional technical support for the implementation of reforms or investments linked to their RRP, using Article 7 of the TSI Regulation in combination with Article 7(2) of the RRF Regulation. **Under TSI 2022, 57% of the requests selected⁹ will contribute to the implementation of the RRP.**

Support for green and digital transitions

In 2021, DG REFORM also continued to step up its support for the green transition in the Member States. **Under TSI 2021, 1 in 3 projects, or over 100 projects in total, contributed to the European Green Deal objectives.** In particular, DG REFORM supported Member States to help them unlock funding from the Just Transition Mechanism. To this end, DG REFORM continued its **support to 18 Member States in preparing of their territorial just transition plans.** With its in-house expertise DG

⁹ The final selection of the requests is confirmed by the adoption of the Financing Decision in the 1st quarter of 2022.

REFORM also supported the Greek authorities in shaping the Just Transition Fund Programme and underlying Just Transition Territorial Plans, while creating and building capacity in the relevant structures.

In line with the 2030-2035 EU waste management targets, the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy and the Zero Pollution Action Plan, DG REFORM supported some Member States with draft plans or strategies for improving **waste management** and transitioning towards a **circular economy**. DG REFORM was also active in supporting Member States in water-related reforms to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive, the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. For instance, Lithuania, received support to ensure the financial sustainability of water suppliers and water treatment, and the appropriate monitoring of water quality.

For the **digital transition**, DG REFORM provided support to Member States in a number of projects in line with the Europe Fit for the Digital Age Action Plan and the Digital Compass communication. In particular, DG REFORM provided expert advice to the Luxembourgish authorities on how to enhance their capacity to develop a national infrastructure strategy supporting the successful roll-out of 5G. DG REFORM also contributed to the digital transformation of Greek industry by supporting the shaping of a comprehensive Industry 4.0 strategy, including an operational plan with detailed measures and actions, which is now available to the Greek government for implementation.

3.2. Key achievements

512	27	176	18	57%
Requests received under TSI 2022	Members States requested support under TSI 2022	TSI reform projects to respond to 225 request selected under TSI 2022	Multi-country projects selected under TSI 2022	of the projects selected under TSI 2022 will contribute to the preparation or the implementation of the RRP.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

While the Technical Support Instrument is a new programme designed for the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework, it is the successor programme of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) 2017-2020. As such, the TSI is also building on the lessons learned from the SRSP evaluations.

The [Structural Reform Support Programme mid-term evaluation](#) was published in September 2020. The mid-term evaluation covered the programme’s 2017 and 2018 budgetary cycles, and analysed over 300 technical support projects in 24 Member States. The evaluation findings show that the SRSP addresses the needs of Member States to a large extent and the programme is perceived as a significant tool for improving the Member States’ capacity to define more efficient processes and methodologies. Member States especially appreciated the high degree of flexibility, the simplicity of the contracting and implementing procedures managed by the Commission and the absence of co-financing requirements. The evaluation also highlights the programme’s clear EU added value. The technical support provided under the SRSP is intended to target those reform challenges that Member States cannot address at national level but for which they need to seek support at EU level due to capacity or knowledge constraints. In addition, the technical support projects very often provide a platform for sharing good practices and lessons learned among Member States.

In fall 2021, the ex-post evaluation of the Structural Reform Support Programme started, having been postponed by one year to increase the number of closed projects to be reviewed. The SRSP ex post evaluation findings, to be available end 2022, will feed into the TSI to improve further its efficiency and impact.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To assist national authorities in improving their capacity to design, develop and implement reforms, including through exchange of good practices, appropriate processes and methodologies, and a more effective and efficient human resources management

Indicator 1: Cooperation and support plans concluded

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027

	20	20	20	20	20	20	20			20
	Actual Progress									Final
	27									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units – yearly measurement
Cut-Off Date	25/01/2022
Data source	DG REFORM internal monitoring system
Link to the objective	To assist national authorities in improving their capacity to design, develop and implement reforms, DG REFORM signs cooperation and support plans with the supported Member States. This output indicator measures the number of Member States that benefit from the TSI support measure each year.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data is presented aggregated by funding year Data for year N is available the same year
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The TSI support is a demand-driven instrument, so it is up to the Member States to introduce requests for support, depending on their needs and priorities. Following a competitive procedure, requests for support are selected on the basis of their potential impact on the ground, as well as the strongest link to strategic Union priorities, therefore forcing the quality of the request over the number of Member States to be supported. With regards to the elements above, the target of CSPs per year has been set at 20.

Indicator 2: Number of support measures

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
		170	162	154	147	147	147			147
	Actual Progress									Final
	262	176								
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units – yearly measurement
Cut-Off Date	25/01/2022
Data source	DG REFORM internal monitoring system
Link to the objective	The TSI aims at designing, developing, and implementing reforms in the Member States. The number of support measures aims at measuring the number of support projects selected in a given funding year.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data is presented aggregated by funding year Data for year N is available the same year
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	DG REFORM implements the TSI support projects under direct management. Therefore, the number of projects selected is depending on the internal capacity of the DGs to manage and deliver quality support on the ground. As of 2022, and the introduction of the flagships and multi-country projects, DG REFORM aims at focusing on projects that have high replicability across Member States and/or can be implemented in several Member States in parallel.

Indicator 3: Technical support activities carried out

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
	600	600	600	600	600	600	600			600
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units
Cut-Off Date	25/01/2022
Data source	DG REFORM internal monitoring system
Link to the objective	In order to achieve the Technical Support Instrument specific objective, DG REFORM designs and carries out technical support activities under direct or indirect management. By measuring the number of technical support activities carried out financing in a given year, this output indicator measures the

	efficiency of TSI in improving Member States' capacity to design, develop and implement reforms.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data will be presented aggregated by funding year Data first estimates for year N will only be available by the end of year N+2.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available yet

Indicator 4: Deliverables provided by the technical support activities such as action plans, roadmaps, guidelines, handbooks, and recommendations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
	300	300	300	300	300	300	300			300
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Units
Cut-Off Date	25/01/2022
Data source	DG REFORM internal monitoring system
Link to the objective	In order to achieve the Technical Support Instrument specific objective, DG REFORM designs and carries out technical support activities under direct management. By measuring the number of deliverables provided by technical support activities carried out per year, this output indicator measures the effectiveness of TSI in improving Member States' capacity to design, develop and implement reforms.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data will be presented aggregated by funding year Data first estimates for year N will only be available by the end of year N+2
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available yet

Indicator 5: Outcomes of the technical support activities provided, such as adoption of a strategy, adoption of a new law /act or modification of an existing one, adoption of (new) procedures and actions to enhance the implementation of reforms

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
	300	300	300	300	300	300	300			300
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Units
Cut-Off Date	25/01/2022
Data source	DG REFORM internal monitoring system
Link to the objective	In order to achieve the Technical Support Instrument specific objective, DG REFORM designs and carries out technical support activities under direct or indirect management. By measuring the number of outcomes of the technical support activities provided per year, this outcome indicator measures the level of implementation of the technical support in the Member States.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data will be presented aggregated by funding year Data first estimates for year N will only be available by the end of year N+2
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available yet

Indicator 6: The objectives set in the cooperation and support plans, which have been achieved due, inter alia, to the technical support received.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%			70%
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Units
Cut-Off Date	25/01/2020
Data source	DG REFORM internal monitoring system
Link to the objective	In order to achieve the Technical Support Instrument specific objective, DG REFORM designs and carries out technical support activities under direct or indirect management. By measuring the number of objectives set in the cooperation and support plans, which have been achieved due, inter alia, to the technical support received, this impact indicator measures the Technical Support Instrument contribution to member States structural reforms.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data will be presented aggregated by funding year Data first estimates for year N will only be available by the end of year N+3 Data is gathered via DG REFORM internal feedback mechanism, which gathers feedback from the Beneficiary Authority on the level of achievement of the outcomes +/- 18 months after the closure of the project, capturing quantitative assessment on a scale of 1-10 and supporting qualitative comments for each outcome.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data available yet

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	28.29							28.29	3%

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 116.1							

(*Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender perspectives and impact could be mainstreamed into all relevant policy areas and reflected in budgeting. More information will become available during the runtime of the programme.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.3.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The support measures for **social protection and social welfare** should increase the competent authorities' capacity to prepare, monitor, and evaluate reforms of social policies and programmes. They should contribute to more integrated data collection, stronger analytical capacities and a more integrated administration and provision of benefits and services across various levels of government. The support measures are also expected to strengthen the capacity of the competent authorities to deliver social protection benefits and services, especially to the most vulnerable populations such as, for example, children, the unemployed, the elderly, ethnic minorities, people with a migrant background, people living in informal settlements, as well as people with disabilities and long-term care needs. By developing digital skills and the digital mindset of the providers of social services, the support measures should enable a swifter and better access of citizens to social services.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

In the area of **health**, the measures are expected to contribute to: (i) the provision of strategic and operational tools for the governance, planning, monitoring and evaluation of health system resources in the areas of eHealth, emergency medicine, health system performance assessment, health technology assessment, cancer prevention and long-term care; (ii) the development and implementation of tools for improving the skills and expertise of the health workforce; (iii) recommendations and tools for improving the accessibility of healthcare and public health, and the effectiveness of payment models; (iv) the design and implementation of effective and efficient care Delivery models, including recommendation on the reorganisation of primary health care; (v) the development and implementation of tools for improving the skills and expertise of the health workforce; and (vi) the design of a concept for an EU Health Resources Hub, which would be a one-stop-shop for linking all available EU resources and expertise to foster innovative large-scale health system transformation.

The flagship technical support project “[Digital Skills For Digital Transformation of Health and Care System](#)” has the aim to provide support for the design of a National/Regional Roadmap for Digital Skills of the health workforce to support the digital transformation of health and care systems. The road map seeks to provide a basis for understanding the digital capability requirements of the health and care workforce, design and implementation of digital competencies of the health workforce through education and training including through relevant EU and MS initiatives.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The support measures in the areas of **skills, education and training** are expected to contribute to increasing the quality, relevance and inclusiveness of education and training in the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the green and digital transition.

Support measures should contribute to: (i) enhanced effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of education and lifelong learning systems for the labour market, including validation systems of non-formal and informal learning for adult education; (ii) improved design and implementation of education and skills strategies and action plans, including governance and funding arrangements; (iii) improved legal frameworks and more effective measures on inclusive education and continuous training for teachers; (iv) efficient forecasting tools for teachers recruitment; (v) enhanced cooperation on digital and cybersecurity education, a widespread use of digital tools to support children with disabilities, and enhanced digital capabilities of elderly; (vi) design and implementation of individual learning accounts.

The flagship project “[Implementation of the European Child Guarantee](#)” aims at supporting Member States to implement the Council Recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee. It offers technical support to implement actions and policies, which prevent and combat child poverty and social exclusion. Technical support can be used to complement other funding instruments such as the ESF+ or the ERDF. The target group are children at risk of poverty or social exclusion, with special attention paid to those experiencing specific disadvantages: homeless children or children experiencing severe housing deprivation, children with a migrant background or minority ethnic origin, children with disabilities, children with mental health issues, children in alternative, especially institutional, care, and children in precarious family situations.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The flagship project “[Gender mainstreaming in public policy and budget processes](#)” targets the Member States wishing to understand ways of taking into account the gender impacts of policies and budgeting, or to address related gaps. It offers technical support to analyse policies and budgeting from the point of view of gender mainstreaming, helping to make sure that all citizens, regardless of gender, are able to fully participate and contribute to a fair society. Gender perspective/impact can be mainstreamed in all relevant policy areas and reflected in budgeting. The flagship technical support project will provide capacity development on latest trends/methodologies/tools for mainstreaming. The project will also help Member States for peer learning/exchanges per country and while improving their targeted approaches in chosen sectors, policy fields or regions.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The support measures for **energy and climate** are expected to contribute to greater energy efficiency, in particular in buildings, promote and deploy of renewable energy and hydrogen, set up a national decarbonisation fund, update energy and climate policies, implement and monitor energy and climate plans, and decarbonise specific sectors such as airports or energy sources such as gas. Furthermore, the support measures are expected to help authorities to implement territorial just transition plans, reduce energy poverty, enable citizen driven energy transition, improve the energy system integration, and reform the regulatory framework for network industries.

The flagship technical support “[Support to the implementation of the Just Transition](#)” is targeted at Member States wishing to address gaps in the implementation of the Just Transition in their regions. The implementation of the Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) on the ground will be key to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind. To this end, the flagship offers activity packages to help Member States address specific challenges in the regions and sectors affected by the transition.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The different measures supporting **labour market policies** are expected to help improve the quality of and better target ALMP measures, including through innovative, digital solutions. The support measures should help increase the competent authorities' administrative and analytical capacity in this area, including through: (i) the systematic collection of data needed for policy design purposes; (ii) new IT systems and platforms; and (iii) analytical tools to assess and anticipate labour market developments and profiling of job seekers.

The flagship technical support project "[Integration of Third Country Nationals in EU Member States](#)" is targeted at Member States wishing to benefit from the social and economic gains of migrant integration, also in light of the twin digital and green transitions. Successful integration of third country nationals (TCNs) will promote fairness and social cohesion while benefitting the economy and the society at large. To this end, the flagship offers activity packages targeted at different areas and functions of national administrations to enable Member States to engage in effective and sustainable reforms in the area of migrant integration.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The different support measures for **public assets**, are expected, among other things, to contribute to better strategic planning and improved capacity for preparing and managing public investments, in particular infrastructure investments and guidance on the introduction of public private partnerships, better governance of spatial planning, more effective State aid, a stronger policy on the management of state-owned enterprises and improved management of state assets, including ports

The flagship technical support request "[EU Supervisory Digital Finance Academy: Strengthening Supervisory Capacity in innovative Digital Finance](#)" is targeted at Member States wishing to strengthen supervisory capacity in the area of innovative digital finance, taking into account the objectives of the EU Digital Finance Strategy and the need to foster supervisory convergence across financial sector activities. Understanding the risks and opportunities posed by the latest application of technology to finance is key to enhance the supervisory framework on an EU-wide scale, and to ultimately maintain financial stability in a forward-looking manner while promoting business initiatives. To this end, the flagship will create a dedicated on-line platform which will facilitate the provision of a systematic training programme, aimed at enabling supervisory authorities and financial intelligence units to deepen their understanding of the complex FinTech world, and to establish advanced supervisory technologies and best practices

The flagship technical support request "[Support to the tourism ecosystem: towards a more sustainable, resilient and digital tourism](#)" is targeted at EU Member States wishing to build a more sustainable, resilient and digital tourism ecosystem. The flagship seeks to promote the digital and green transitions, strengthen regional cohesion and support the post COVID-19 recovery of tourism in Europe to make it fit for the future challenges in the global market. The flagship offers activity packages to enable Member States to engage in effective reforms in the area of the tourism ecosystem.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The flagship project "[Regional and local authorities: Enhancing cooperation & Quality of public administration](#)" offers support to Member States on enhancing central coordination of the State with regional and local authorities and capacity building to reinforce their coordination structures. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of quality of public administration through State capacity in terms of policy coordination, cooperation, responsiveness, and resource mobilisation. Yet weak coordination across different levels of government and the imbalanced allocation of competencies are still challenges that limit the impact of State policies. As such, the support provided with this flagship is highly relevant in the current context of recovery where coordinated planning and strategic foresight will be key for the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plans

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The flagship technical support "[Support to the Renovation Wave](#)" is targeted at Member States wishing to design and implement reforms supporting building renovation and the EU Renovation Wave. A refurbished and improved building stock in the EU will help pave the way for a decarbonised and clean energy system. To this end, the flagship offers activity packages to help Member States address some of the key barriers to building renovation.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The flagship technical support request "[Recharge and Refuel - Clean, smart and fair urban mobility](#)" is targeted at Member States, regions and cities wishing to promote future proof clean, smart and fair urban mobility. Sustainable accessible and smart transport and zero- and low-emission vehicles, supported by shared mobility services and recharging and refuelling infrastructure, will contribute to making cities and regions cleaner and reaching climate neutrality by 2050. To this end, the flagship offers activity packages for different areas to enable Member States to engage in effective and sustainable reforms and investments for cleaner, smarter and more integrated urban mobility

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The support measures for **energy and climate** are expected to contribute to greater energy efficiency, in particular in buildings, promote and deploy of renewable energy and hydrogen, set up a national decarbonisation fund, update energy and climate policies, implement and monitor energy and climate plans, and decarbonise specific sectors such as airports or energy sources such as gas. Furthermore, the support measures are expected to help authorities to implement territorial just transition plans, reduce energy

poverty, enable citizen driven energy transition, improve the energy system integration, and reform the regulatory framework for network industries.

The flagship project “[Bridging the climate financing gap with public policy instruments](#)” aims at supporting Member States in optimising public spending, unlocking and redirecting public and private investment, as well as reviewing regulatory policies to channel financing towards climate mitigation and adaptation, in line with the goals of the European Green Deal. The EU increased the spending target for climate action to 30% in its multi-annual budgetary framework for 2021-2027 and earmarked 37% in the Recovery and Resilience Facility. The level of climate resilient public and private investments will therefore need to be scaled up over the next years. The Technical Support Instrument (TSI) can help Member States assess the effectiveness of current spending (including a “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) screening), identify investment gaps, analyse options and identify the right policy instruments to bridge those gaps.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The flagship technical support request “[Greening taxes – applying polluter pays principle in practice](#)” is targeted at Member States wishing to embark on greening the revenue side of their budgets. This flagship will help to build capacity to design and implement green structural fiscal reforms that generate revenues and support implementation of environmental objectives. It will operationalise implementation of the of ‘the polluter pays principle’ through a development of pricing instruments. The objective is to eliminate/reduce polluting behaviour or, if that is not fully achievable, to make sure that polluters pay for the damage they cause.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Support measures for **natural resources**, are expected, for example, to help to advance the green transition as part of the resilience and recovery plans, develop and implement strategies for sustainable development and policy instruments to accelerate the circular economy, improve water monitoring and waste management, improve the efficiency of environmental permits and inspections, and develop green infrastructure for transport. In addition, support measures will help to (i) increase the capacity to manage coastal and marine areas, (ii) be better prepared for forest pest risk, and (iii) improve wildfire management. Furthermore, it is expected that support measures will help develop capacity, governance and methodologies to encourage sustainable and smart mobility, improved transport and offer a better public transport service, which includes better coordination of transport hubs.

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

In the **fight against corruption**, the support measures are expected to raise awareness among public and private sector organisations and increase the capacity to prevent, investigate and prosecute corruption. The measures are also expected to support the development of strategic frameworks, rules, methodologies and systems to instil greater integrity, detect and limit cases of corruption and fraud and improve the quality²⁴ of cooperation between the relevant entities at national and European levels.

The support measures for **justice systems** are expected to help improve the functioning of justice systems, e.g. through measures that make justice systems more efficient and transparent, in particular by helping to build the capacity of judicial institutions and better implement e-justice systems and services. The support is also expected to help improve the quality of the work of the judges and court staff and strengthen the independence of justice systems. Finally, support should also help in achieving specific goals, in particular the protection of victims, and of vulnerable individuals and populations.

The support measures for **e-Government/digital public administration** are expected to help improve the ICT maturity of Member States, enabling them to deliver better digital public services to citizens and businesses²⁶ and to deploy suitable back-office solutions supporting a transformed and efficient public service. The support measures will also contribute to Member States' readiness to provide services on the EU Single Digital Gateway and prepare the implementation of the Once-Only Principle. The support measures for eID/trust services will contribute to timely implementation of the Wallet and its integration with existing Identity means, schemes and trust frameworks. This will support the adoption of citizen- centric identity schemes that put citizen in control of their data through privacy-by-design (promoting European values). Furthermore, the measures will help achieve the Digital Decade target of 80% of European citizens using a digital identity by 2030, allowing the public and private sector take advantage of the exchange of digital identity attributes across borders, such as proof of age and ushering in a new wave of digital services

The flagship project “[Development of resilient, innovative, and human-centric digital government services](#)” focuses on the development of strategies and action plans in specific areas, that will help achieve the digital transition of the EU public sector and, a, contribute to deliver a “Europe fit for the digital age”. The coordination of these strategies will foster exchange of best practices and help identify sustainable ways to further enhance services. The support will help Member States lead an in-depth analysis of their current systems, capabilities and gaps. It will then support the development of mechanisms to improve central digital functions, making them more user-centric, resilient and innovative.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Protection of the Euro Against Counterfeiting**

Lead DG: ECFIN

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Specific Objective 1 :To protect euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop among themselves and with the Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practice, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations	420
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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The use of the euro – Europe’s single currency – continues to grow, including as medium for international transactions and reserve currency. At the same time the euro continues to be exposed to the threat of increasingly sophisticated counterfeits.

The protection of the European single currency as a public good benefits all Member States, all EU citizens and all EU businesses. Given the cross-border circulation of the euro and the involvement of international organised crime in euro counterfeiting (production and distribution), the protection of the euro goes beyond the interests, means and responsibilities of individual Member States. Appropriately, Article 133 TFEU bestows the responsibility for the protection of the euro as the single currency to the EU. National protection frameworks are essential, but need to be complemented and coordinated by action at the EU level. Moreover, international cooperation is necessary to fend off emerging transnational risks.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The mission of the Pericles IV programme is to prevent and combat counterfeiting and related fraud, preserve the integrity of the euro banknotes and coins, thus strengthening the trust of citizens and business in the genuineness of these banknotes and coins and therefore enhancing the trust in the Union's economy, while securing the sustainability of public finances.

The programme will promote transnational and cross-border cooperation within the EU as well as internationally ensuring a global protection of the euro against counterfeiting, and will in particular, take responsibility for countering specific emerging threats and

the (challenging) relationship with certain countries (as it is difficult for individual MS to effectively address these threats on their own).

1.3. Specific objectives

The programme's specific objective is to protect euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop among themselves and with the Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practice, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations.

1.4. Public intervention context

The protection of the European single currency as a public good has a clear transnational dimension, and therefore euro protection goes beyond the interest and the responsibility of individual EU Member States. Considering the cross-border circulation of the euro, the deep involvement of international organised crime in euro counterfeiting (production and distribution), national protection frameworks need to be complemented in order to ensure homogeneous national and international cooperation, and to face possible emerging transnational risks.

The Pericles programme for euro-area Member States (Regulation (EU) 2021/840) is based on Article 133 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), as it lays down measures necessary for the use of the euro as the single currency. The application of the Pericles programme is extended through Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1696.

The Treaty provides that the European Parliament and the Council shall lay down the measures necessary for the use of the euro as a single currency (Article 133 TFEU). These measures include inter alia the protection of the euro against counterfeiting. Based on that Article, the protection of the euro as the single currency is a responsibility of the EU. In parallel, the national authorities issue euro banknotes and coins, in line with Article 128 TFEU.

Member States have adopted national legislation and established internal rules for its protection. EU secondary legislation on counterfeiting contains provisions on multidisciplinary cooperation; the analysis, identification and withdrawal of counterfeit banknotes and coins; and authenticity checks for the protection of the euro. The Pericles IV programme complements, through its specific objectives, these regulatory tools and national frameworks for the protection of the euro.

The European framework of the protection of the euro also includes the following tools:

- [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 974/98 of 3 May 1998 on the introduction of the euro](#)
- [2005/37/EC: Commission Decision of 29 October 2004 establishing the European Technical and Scientific Centre \(ETSC\) and providing for coordination of technical actions to protect euro coins against counterfeiting amended by Commission Decision \(EU\) 2017/1507](#)
- [2005/511/JHA: Council Decision of 12 July 2005 on protecting the euro against counterfeiting, by designating Europol as the Central Office for combating euro counterfeiting](#)
- [Regulation 1338/2001 protecting the euro from counterfeiting in the euro area and Amending regulation 44/2009](#)
- [Regulation 1339/2001 protecting the euro from counterfeiting outside the euro area and Amending regulation 45/2009](#)
- [2010/597/EU: Decision of the European Central Bank of 16 September 2010 on the authenticity and fitness checking and recirculation of euro banknotes \(ECB/2010/14\)](#)
- [Authentication regulation 1210/2010 on euro-coin authentication & handling of coins unfit for circulation](#)
- [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2182/2004 concerning medals and tokens similar to euro coins \(6/12/2004\)](#)
- [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2183/2004 extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Regulation \(EC\) No 2182/2004 concerning medals and tokens similar to euro coins \(6/12/2004\)](#)
- [Directive 2014/62/EU on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by criminal law](#)

1.5. Actions

The programme provides, under the conditions set out in the annual work programmes referred to in Article 10 of the Pericles IV Regulation, financial support for the following eligible actions.

- a) exchange and dissemination of information, in particular through organising workshops, meetings and seminars, including training, targeted placements and exchanges of staff of competent national authorities and other similar actions. The exchange of information shall, among others, be targeted at:
- best practices in preventing counterfeiting and fraud relating to the euro;
 - methodologies for monitoring and analysing the economic and financial impact of counterfeiting;
 - operation of databases and early warning systems;

- use of detection tools, including with computer back-up;
- enquiry and investigation methods;
- scientific assistance, including monitoring of new developments;
- protection of the euro outside the Union;
- research actions;
- provision of specific operational expertise.

(b) technical, scientific and operational assistance, as appears necessary as part of the programme including in particular:

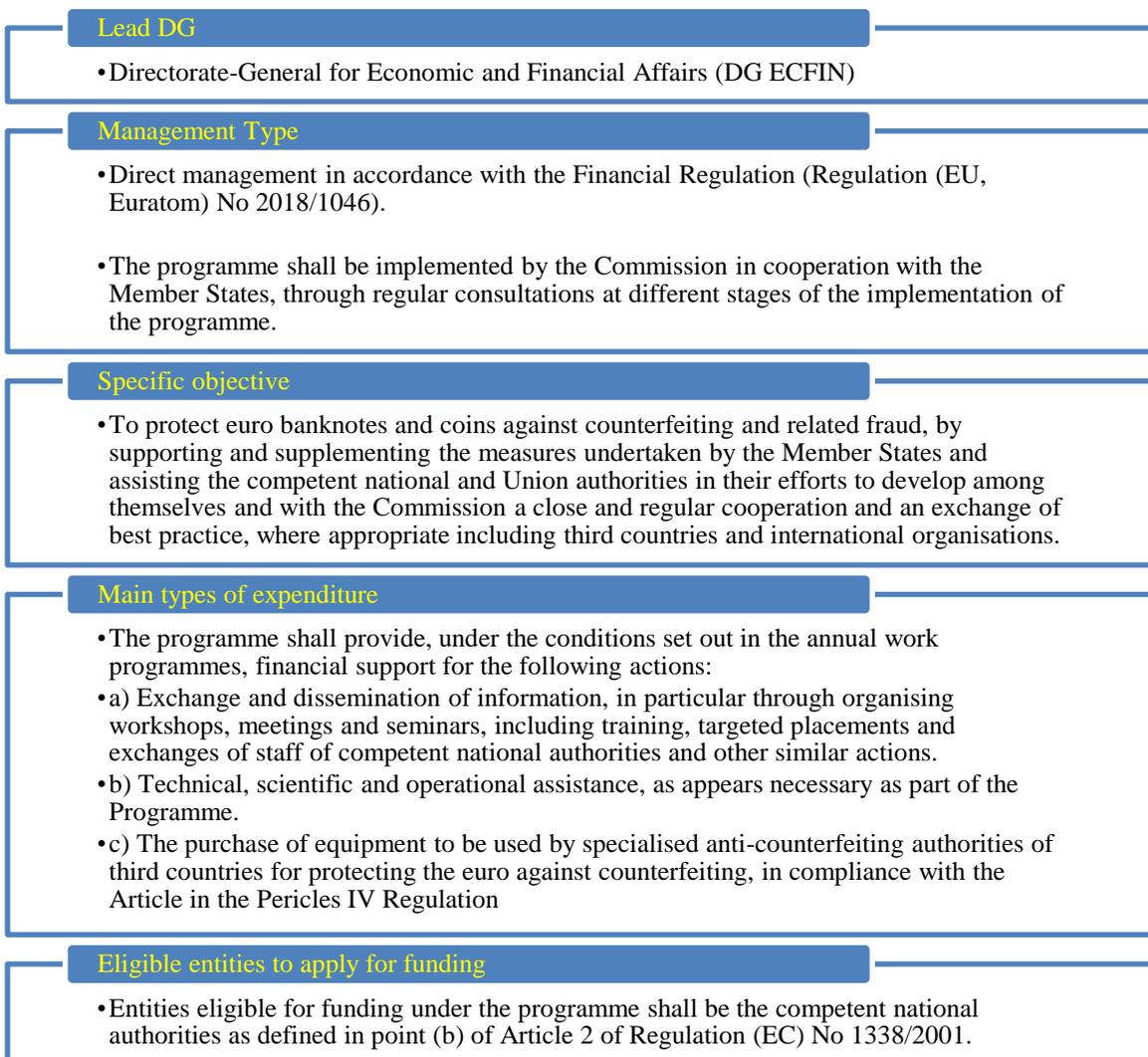
- any appropriate measure which establishes teaching resources at Union level, such as a handbook of Union legislation, information bulletins, practical manuals, glossaries and lexicons, databases, especially in the area of scientific assistance or technology watch or computer support applications, such as software;
- relevant studies with a multidisciplinary and transnational dimension, including research on innovative security features;
- development of technical support instruments and methods to facilitate detection actions at Union level;
- support for cooperation in operations involving at least two States when such support is cannot be made available from other programmes of European institutions and bodies.

(c) the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities of third countries for protecting the euro against counterfeiting, in compliance with Article 10(3)7 of the Pericles IV Regulation.

1.6. Delivery mode

The programme is implemented through direct management by the Commission. Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) is the lead DG for the programme implementation. Projects financed under the programme are implemented either directly by the Commission (DG ECFIN) or in the form of grants awarded to national competent authorities in the EU (both in the euro area and non-euro area Member States).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/840 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (the 'Pericles IV' programme), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 (OJ L 186, 27.5.2021, p. 1). Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1696 of 21 September 2021 extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Regulation (EU) 2021/840 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting for the period 2021-2027 (the 'Pericles IV programme') (OJ L 336, 23.9.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	6.19

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The [Pericles IV programme](#):

- is an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting;
- replaces the previous [Pericles 2020 programme](#), which ran during the period 2014-2020;
- was created by Regulation (EU) No 2021/840 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles IV' programme).
- was extended to the non-participating Member States by Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1696 of 21 September 2021.

Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/840 sets the financial envelope of Pericles IV within MFF 2021-2027 at EUR 6 193 284.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	6.2
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Pericles IV is a continuation of the Pericles 2020 programme. The main novelty is the simplification of the application process through the use of the eGrants system (fully electronic management system for grants) via the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#). Furthermore, the key performance indicators have been updated to more accurately measure the performance of the programme, thus strengthening the monitoring process.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Pericles IV programme:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/euro-area/anti-counterfeiting/pericles-iv-programme_en

Pericles 2020 programme

https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/euro-area/anti-counterfeiting/pericles-2020-programme-exchanges-assistance-training_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	0.8	6.2	13%
Payments	0.3		6%

2.1.1. Use of appropriations in 2021:

The **budgetary execution** was **100%** for **both commitments and payments** after return in payment appropriations:

Budget Line	Credit type	Management Centre	Commitments in EUR	%	Payments in EUR	%
06 03 01 00 Protection of the Euro against Counterfeiting	C1	ECFIN	813 650	100%	341 572	100%
	C1	DIGIT	20 432	100%		100%
	C4	ECFIN	219	100%	12 069	100%
Credit Type	C1	Appropriations for the year (initial budget + amending budget + transfers)				
	C4	Appropriations from internal assigned revenue of the year				
Management Centre DIGIT	Co-delegated appropriations for the year made available by DG ECFIN for other DG (DIGIT)					

The Pericles IV programme funded in 2021 through 2021 commitment appropriations the following actions:

a) Five grants to (co-financed) actions originating from the national competent authorities (NCA) in the Member States:

NCA - Country	Project Title
Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) Germany	COPE (counterfeit – OSINT – POST – enquiries) – Internet/darket investigation – protection of the euro 4 events (including workshops) will be organised, the main part of which will be a case study where participants go through the steps involved in a counterfeit money investigation. The events are envisaged to take place between April and September 2022. The results of the workshops will be summarised at the end of the event.
Banco de Portugal (BDP) Portugal	The protection of the euro - The fight against counterfeiting and fraud on euro banknotes (The euro knowledge) A three-day seminar from 26-28 October 2022 in Lisbon (PT) will be organised for experts from all euro area countries, Turkey and Croatia (in the process of adopting the euro).
CC AFM, II Comando Carabinieri Antifalsificazione Monetaria), Italy	Staff exchange on investigation techniques against currency counterfeiting (SEITA) The project is designed to strengthen the system for protecting the euro in Europe, particularly in the participating countries with which CC AFM already exchanges key operational information. The action, envisaged to take place in the second and third quarter of 2022, includes two phases: one national (training in Italy) and the other international (exchange visits).
Banco de España (BDE), Spain	Training activity on counterfeit coins analysis for technical experts (TA-coins) This project comprises a two-day technical training course on analysing counterfeit coins, to be held in 2022 in Madrid, Spain. The participants will come mainly from coin national analysis centres (NACs) and national centre offices (NCOs), which are responsible for analysing and classifying counterfeit euro coins, as well as undertaking relevant enquiries connected with ongoing investigations.
Brigada de Investigación del Banco de España (BIBE), Spain	2022 training course on currency counterfeiting for experts from Latin American countries A technical training course on combating currency counterfeiting will be held from 22 to 25 November 2022 in Lima, Peru. Participants will be specialists (police officers) involved in the prevention and prosecution of counterfeiting in Latin America. They will come from 16 Latin American countries and from the United States. BIBE will be assisted in running this event by police officers from France, Italy and Spain.

b) Three procured ‘Commission actions’, organised by DG ECFIN:

Action title

Final evaluation of the Pericles 2020 Programme	
Pursuant to Article 13(6) of the Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 11 March 2014, the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and to the Council, a final evaluation (hereinafter the ‘Evaluation’) report on the achievement of the objectives of the Programme. The evaluation will provide an assessment of the implementation of the programme.	
3rd Platform 1210 Meeting (virtual conference) 30 November 2021	
The ‘annual’ Platform 1210 gathers all parties involved in the authentication of euro coins. It also represents an example of successful and well-established cooperation with the partners belonging to private sector. Regulation (EU) No 1210/2010 aims at ensuring effective and uniform authentication of euro coins throughout the euro area by providing common authentication procedures and rules for the implementation of control mechanisms by the national authorities. In May 2017, the establishment of an annual platform was agreed by the participants in the ‘Workshop on the authentication of euro coins’. The first meeting of the 1210 Platform took place in Brussels on 16-17 May 2018. The second meeting of the 1210 Platform took place in Rome on 14-17 May 2019.	
Pristina-Tirana technical training on coin analysis and classification (webinar)	
The European Technical and Scientific Centre (ETSC) within unit ECFIN.C.5 provides coordination for technical actions of the competent national authorities to protect euro coins against counterfeiting. The ETSC organised the remote ‘Pristina-Tirana technical training on coin analysis and classification’. The action aimed to increase expertise (technical and operational) of the authorities taken part in the action with respect to counterfeit coin analysis and classification and dismantling of illegal mints.	

2.1.2. Planned use of appropriations for 2022:

The annual budget for implementing the Pericles IV programme in 2022 was set as follows:

2022 annual work programme C(2022)406 final of 28 January 2022: The annual work programme is a document that explains how the budget allocated for the Pericles IV programme will be spent in 2022.		Total appropriations in EUR
Commitments	Grants	500 000
	Commission actions	350 169
Total amount commitments (grants and Commission actions)		850 169
Payments		749 084

The Commission published the 2022 call for proposals on its [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) with two deadlines (21 April 2022 and 15 September 2021).

The call sets out the programme’s priorities for 2022 as listed in the update of the Pericles Strategy 2022 (Annex (Part 2/2) to the work programme). They have been endorsed by the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG), as provided for by [Regulation 1338/2001 protecting the euro from counterfeiting in the euro area](#).

The 2022 priorities are:

- conferences, seminars and workshops taking place in one of the following non-EU countries: China, Columbia, Peru or Turkey (see also [Pericles IV 2022 Strategy, priority action b and c](#)).
- actions specifically devoted to the distribution of counterfeits and high quality components on the darknet, and ‘movie money’ and ‘prop copy’ products online, including altered design notes (see also [Pericles IV 2022 Strategy, priority action d.I](#)).
- actions introduced by competent national authorities that did not apply for Pericles funding in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

2.1.3. Planned use of appropriations for the financial year 2023:

The appropriations requested as part of the 2023 DB (draft budget), for the financial year, 2023 are:

Budget heading 06 03 01: Protection of the euro against counterfeiting		
Commitments	EUR 667 060	The budgeted amount is in line with the financial programming for the ‘Pericles IV programme’ for the MFF (multiannual financial framework) 2021-2027
Payments	EUR 835 593	The budgeted amount covers: the pre-financing and possible interim payment of the 2023 actions (grants/commission actions) and the final payments of the outstanding 2021 and 2022 commitments
Budget heading 06 01 02: Support expenditure for the Protection of the euro against counterfeiting		
Commitments	EUR 200 000	ECFIN plans to commit a study to a framework contractor into 2023 to deliver the mid-term evaluation of the Pericles IV programme by the end of 2024 as requested by the legal basis (as Article 13.1 of the Pericles IV Regulation).
Payments	EUR 200 000	

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	6.9	7.1	97%
Payments	5.1		71%

In 2021, from the ongoing actions to be organised by the national competent authorities (NCAs) which were funded in 2019/2020 under the Pericles 2020 programme (Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020):

- 2 of them were partially implemented in 2021 in a hybrid format and are planned to be finalised in 2022.
- 4 of them were implemented and finalised in 2021.
- 6 of them are still ongoing and will be finalised in 2022/2023.

Actions partially implemented in 2021 in a hybrid format and planned to be finalised in 2022				
Year of funding	NCA Country	Type Event	Project Title	Location and Date
2019	Banco de Portugal (BDP)	Conference	The knowledge of the euro and the fight against counterfeiting	Lisbon (PT) 7 October 2021
2020	National Police of the Netherlands	Conference	Awareness of forgery of value documents, the euro and the fight against counterfeiting	Breda (NL) 28 October 2021
Actions implemented and finalised in 2021				
Year of funding	NCA Country	Type Event	Title	Location and Date
2019	Croatian National Bank (CNB)	Conference	Fourth conference of the Balkan Network for Euro Protection	Zadar (HR) 21-24 September 2021
2019	Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria	Conference	General supervision of legality in compliance with legislation in the state	Sofia (BG) 25-28 May 2021
2020	Brigada de Investigación del Banco de España (BIBE), ES	Technical training	Training course on combating currency counterfeiting for experts from Latin American countries	Montevideo (UY) 23-26 November 2021
2020	CC AFM, Il Comando Carabinieri Antifalsificazione Monetaria, Italy	Staff exchange	Staff exchange on investigation techniques against money counterfeiting	Rome (IT) June-November 2021
Actions still ongoing and to be finalised in 2022/2023				
Year of funding	NCA Country	Type Event	Title	Location and Date
2019	Guardia di Finanza (GDF), IT	Conference	Combating Euro counterfeiting through seminars and staff exchanges between law enforcement and national central banks	Rome/Naples (IT): 27-28 March 2023 and Staff exchanges: May-October 2023
2019	Italian Central Office for Currency Counterfeiting (UCIFM)	Conference	Legal and operational framework on counterfeit currency in Europe and China	Rome (IT): Date to be defined
2020	Banco de España (BDE), Spain	Training	Training activity on counterfeit coins analysis for technical experts	Madrid (ES): 25-26 May 2022
2020	Banco de España (BDE), Spain	Staff exchange	Staff exchange on procedures, knowledge and experiences in order to improve internal	Paris (FR): 21-25 March 2022

			working methods in the French and Spanish national analysis centres (NACs)	Madrid (ES): 16-20 May 2022
2020	General Inspectorate of Romanian Police (GIRP)	Conference/ and staff exchange	ASPASIA - The Seven Seas Conference and staff exchange between South-East European countries and non-euro E.U. Member States	Bucharest (RO) and participating countries : February-November 2022
2020	Monnaie de Paris, FR	Study	Nanoguard 3, development and industrialisation of high security coins	Study involving mints from Austria, France and Germany Jan 2021-Nov 2022

The global COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the implementation of the Pericles Programme in 2021. Pericles is an exchange, assistance and training programme that promotes transnational and cross-border cooperation within the EU, as well as internationally, in order to ensure a global protection of the euro against counterfeiting. The programme is implemented through actions with a wide intended range of participants from EU Member States and third countries, which therefore requires traveling and the conglomeration of groups. Due to the pandemic and the continued risks related to traveling and conglomeration, the safe implementation of these actions was no longer possible.

The ongoing epidemiological situation, which started in March 2020, has therefore resulted in the rescheduling of many actions to 2022 or later.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The Pericles IV programme is implemented through co-financed actions (grants) from the competent national authorities of the Member States (as defined in point (b) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001) and through Commission actions organised directly by the Commission, as adopted by Financing Decision C(2021) 2788 final of 28 April 2021.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The implementation of the programme reflects the commitment of Member States and the Commission to protect the euro against counterfeiting. The identification of a clear annual strategy of implementation and the continuous coordination within the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group made it possible to commit the overall allocated budget in 2021. The overall amount was as follows: three procured contracts for an amount of EUR 243,975.30, five grants for an amount of EUR 590,326.12 and the annual fee for e-grants (EUR 20,432).

Following calls for proposals inviting the competent national authorities of the Member States to submit proposals for actions that contribute to achieving the programme's objectives, grants were evaluated and awarded. Under the programme, grants may cover up to 75% of the eligible costs and up to 90% in exceptional and duly justified cases. The grant beneficiaries received 50% pre-financing for their projects and 70% pre-financing in exceptional and justified cases.

The 2021 call for proposals was published on the Commission's [funding & tender opportunities portal](#) on 27 May 2021 with two application deadlines (15 June 2021 and 21 September 2021). This portal is an IT tool for the electronic submission of applications for grants and for the management of grant contracts.

The call implemented the priorities of the Pericles IV programme for 2021:

- 1) Support activities aimed at improving cooperation among Member States that are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits.
- 2) Foster cooperation with authorities of non-EU countries where there is a suspicion or evidence of counterfeit euro production.
- 3) Maintain an efficient framework for the protection of the euro in south-eastern Europe.
- 4) Topical developments (security features of euro coins; distribution of counterfeits and high-quality components on the darknet, and 'movie money' and 'prop copy' products online (including altered design notes); implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1210/2010 concerning authentication of euro coins and handling of euro coins unfit for circulation; support for the establishment/reinforcement of national central offices.

Under the call, the Commission received five applications from four Member States (Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain). An evaluation committee assessed each application against four criteria as detailed in the call specifications: admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and award. The applications were scored and ranked based on the award criteria: Relevance (45 points), Quality (30 points) and Impact (25 points).

Altogether, the five applications submitted were awarded a grant. The projects consist of two conferences/seminars, two technical training courses and one staff exchange. The actions are set to take place both inside and outside the EU depending on the specific needs to protect the euro against counterfeiting. For example, a grant was awarded for an action (organised by Spain) in Peru with participants from a total of 16 Latin American countries.

Three procured Commission actions were committed using existing framework contracts (from other DGs), namely:

- 1) Final evaluation of the Pericles 2020 programme: ongoing;
- 2) 3rd Platform 1210 Meeting (virtual conference): 30 November 2021;
- 3) Pristina-Tirana technical training on coin analysis and classification (virtual training): 27-28 October 2021.

This number of grants (5) awarded is lower than the 9 actions in 2020 and 13 actions in 2019, as the number depends on the size of the actions and the budget available: the available budget in 2021 (EUR 834 083) is lower than that of 2020 (EUR 1 100 000) and that of 2019 (EUR 1 072 400).

The Pericles IV programme is on track to achieve its objective of protecting euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and fraud by:

- supporting the Member States
- assisting national and EU authorities.

The programme has helped substantially in further improving coordination and cooperation at international, European and Member State level. This is underlined by the results of three key indicators:

In 2021, the number of authorities that applied to the programme reached the expected value. In addition, the satisfaction rate and the percentage of positive feedback received exceeded the targets.

The number of counterfeit coins, is close to the reference band (+/- 5% representing the target). On the other hand, the number of counterfeit bank notes and the dismantled workshops is lower than expected. It needs to be kept in mind, however, that the link between the programme and these indicators is only indirect, as a variety of external factors play an important role in the development of these indicators. In addition, the fact that there is less detection could well mean that there is less counterfeiting—unfortunately it is difficult if not altogether impossible to determine what is happening in practice, due to the unobservable nature of (undetected) counterfeits.

While the global COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in events scheduled for 2021 being postponed, as mentioned above in Section 2.2, four of these actions were finalised in 2021, with two partially taking place in a hybrid format.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Pericles 2020 achieved its objective of protecting euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and fraud by supporting the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities. The programme made a substantial contribution to the further improvement of coordination and cooperation at international, European and Member States level, as well as the creation of more solid structures for the protection of the euro (e.g.: the establishment of a specialised investigation group in Chile in 2019, and the increased cooperation networks in the Balkans). The programme also contributed to the adoption of legislation aimed at improving euro protection and the establishment of national central offices (e.g.: the establishment of National Central Office in Argentina in 2018).

The mid-term evaluation of the programme concluded that all findings converge towards a positive overall assessment. In particular, it notes that in terms of effectiveness, Pericles 2020 actions were typically implemented as planned and achieved the intended outputs, and evidence suggested that the outputs delivered did translate into tangible outcomes. Participant feedback provided immediately after events shows a high degree of appreciation, with 97% expressing a positive or highly positive assessment. More importantly, survey results showed that a large share of participants claimed to have learned about best practices, acquired useful skills, and established contacts with colleagues in other countries. The quality of actions was also judged positively by the authorities involved.

Available evidence suggested that the outputs delivered did translate into tangible outcomes, although there were some variations across the various groups and the type of progress recorded. Improvements in operational capabilities and the adoption of improved methods were emphasised by third country authorities and by individual participants in the programme's initiatives. A different situation was found regarding the improvements in international cooperation. In this case, the most positive results were achieved by the competent national authorities (CNAs), ECB and Europol. Positive developments were also reported by third country authorities and by individual participants, but to a less extent. This dichotomy in results well illustrated the challenges faced by the programme, which is confronted with a widely diversified audience, with different agendas, levels of capabilities, and needs that are not always easy to reconcile.

One of the recommendations from the mid-term evaluation was to encourage more competent national authorities to apply to the programme. This could be achieved by a more intense marketing strategy and the establishment of contacts with high level

decision-makers to ensure the opportunities of the programme are well understood. In this respect, the advertising of the Programme and the increased co-financing rate for actions organised by new applicants led to several first time applicants.

Despite the fact that the phenomenon seems to be currently under control, counterfeiting continues to be a major threat to the euro. The increased number of counterfeit banknotes, the rise of ‘sophisticated’ counterfeits, the increasing availability of technology and the interest in counterfeiting of Organised Crime Groups requires a continuous attention.

The Pericles 2020 programme used a set of four specific quantitative performance indicators as laid down in the basic legal act: the number of (i) counterfeit banknotes detected, (ii) illegal workshops (print shops and mints) dismantled, (iii) individuals arrested, and (iv) penalties imposed.

Despite the fact that the performance indicators are linked to the protection of the euro and the results for these indicators are mainly on track to reach their targets, the primary challenge is that the link between the indicator results and Pericles 2020 actions is not direct as:

- other external factors can influence the indicators, and
- they primarily measure the repression (and not the prevention) aspect of the counterfeit phenomenon.

Quantifying the impact of a capacity building initiative in terms of operational results is an exercise fraught with difficulties due to the influence of a host of intervening factors (such as criminal intent of certain crime groups, priority set by Member States law enforcement, the length and scope of police investigations, etc.). This is particularly the case of initiatives intended to protect against criminal activities, the magnitude of which is almost by definition unknown.

Subject to this major caveat, there is evidence that, in selected situations, the programme has indeed exerted a direct tangible influence on euro protection operational activities (for example successful police operations in South America, following Pericles trainings as indicated in the mid-term evaluation of the programme). Moreover, for indicators (iii) and (iv) it has proved difficult to acquire the data and/or to adequately measure the indicator.

3.2. Key achievements

347 000	195 082	12	5	98.4%	95.83%
counterfeit euro banknotes were detected in 2021 ⁽¹⁾	counterfeit euro coins were detected in 2021 ⁽¹⁾	illegal workshops (mints and print shops) were dismantled in 2021 ⁽¹⁾	Competent Member State authorities applied to the Programme in 2021 ⁽¹⁾	of respondents across actions indicate being satisfied or highly satisfied	of respondents across actions indicate that the Programme has a moderate or high impact on their activities in protecting the euro against counterfeiting

(1) These indicators, while linked to the protection of the euro, are not directly related to the implementation of the programme.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Mid-term evaluation:

The key findings of the latest evaluation: Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the mid-term evaluation of the Programme for exchange, assistance and training for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (‘Pericles 2020’ Programme) COM/2017/0741 final, have been presented in the Programme Statements of the Draft Budget 2020.

Final evaluation:

Pursuant to Article 13(6) of the Council Regulation (EU) No 331/2014, the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and to the Council by 31 December 2021, a final evaluation report on the achievement of the objectives of the programme.

The evaluation will cover the different types of actions committed or implemented under the programme, also taking stock of the work carried out during the mid-term evaluation, published in 2017.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To protect euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop among themselves and with the Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practice, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations

Indicator 1: Number of counterfeit euros detected

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Number of counterfeit euros detected (banknotes)										
	Milestones									2027
0	Actual Progress									671 000
	347 000									Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Number of counterfeit euros detected (coins)										
	Milestones									2027
0	Actual Progress									174 112
	195 082									Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	28/01/2022
Data source	ECB - Counterfeit Monitoring System (CMS)
Link to the objective	The number of counterfeit euros detected indicates the success of the Member States actions to protect the euro. There is only an indirect link between the number of counterfeit euros detected and the programme’s training activities. It depends on external factors which can affect the figures in both directions (such as criminal intent of certain crime groups, priorities set by Member States’ law enforcement bodies, and length and scope of police investigations). Therefore, the target is set as a reference band within which the criminal phenomenon of counterfeiting is assessed as being under control.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Same indicator as in MFF 14-20.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The target for this indicator is to keep the number of counterfeit euros detected (banknotes and coins) under control within the range of +/- 5% compared to average 2014-2020 (671 000/174 112). While the number of coins is close to the reference band (+/- 5% representing the target), the number of counterfeit bank notes is lower than expected. The latter could be explained by other external factors such as the possible impact of restrictions due to the pandemic.

Indicator 2: Number of illegal workshops dismantled

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	Actual Progress									22
	11									Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number

Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	Feedback from the Member States' competent authorities.
Link to the objective	The number of illegal workshops dismantled indicates the success of the Member States actions to protect the euro. There is only an indirect link between the number of illegal workshops dismantled and the programme's training activities. Various external factors also play a role, which can affect the figures in both directions (e.g. aims of certain criminal groups, Member States' law enforcement priorities, length and scope of police investigations).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Same indicator as in MFF 14-20.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The target for the number of illegal workshops dismantled is to keep number under control in an average +/- 10% compared to 2019 (22).The number of illegal workshops dismantled is lower than expected. This could be explained by other external factors such as the possible impact of restrictions due to the pandemic.

Indicator 3: Number of competent authorities applying to the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				12						24
	Actual Progress									Final
	5									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	The Commission shall collect the data for the number of competent authorities applying to the programme. Number of submitted applications.
Link to the objective	The number of unique competent authorities applying to the programme reflects the success of and the demand for the programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No indicator of MFF 14-20.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The fact that the number of unique applicants reached in the first year almost 50% of the milestone for 2024 is in line with expectations and reflects the fact that this is the first year of a new programme.

Indicator 4: Satisfaction rate of participants in the actions financed by the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
	98,4%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	The Commission shall collect the results of the evaluation of the participants' event feedback form.
Link to the objective	The satisfaction rate of participants in the actions financed by the programme is an indicator of the success of the programme supporting the Member States in the protection of the euro currency.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator did not exist in MFF 14-20.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The percentage of positive feedback is higher than the target.

Indicator 5: Feedback of participants that have already taken part in previous Pericles actions on the impact of the Programme on their activities in protecting the euro against counterfeiting.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final

	95,8%								
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	01/01/2022
Data source	The Commission shall collect the results of the evaluation of the participants' event feedback form.
Link to the objective	The Feedback of participants that have already taken part in previous Pericles actions on the impact of the Programme on their activities in protecting the euro against counterfeiting is an indicator of the success of the programme supporting the Member States in the protection of the euro currency.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator did not exist in MFF 14-20.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The percentage of positive feedback is higher than the target.

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to gender equality

5.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0: 0,8							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The programme targets experts in protection of the euro against counterfeiting irrespective of gender.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values

Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU)

Lead DG: ECHO

Associated DGs: HERA

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The European Union ('the EU') plays a key role in coordinating the response to disasters in Europe and beyond. Disasters have affected every region of Europe in recent years, causing hundreds of casualties and billions in damage to infrastructure and the environment. Epidemics, flash floods, storms, forest fires, earthquakes, and human-induced disasters are continuously putting countries' response capabilities under pressure. Additionally, security concerns have become more complex and climate change is expected to worsen the impact of disasters in the future.

Large-scale and multi-sectorial crises, such as the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, have overwhelmed the ability of Member States and Participating States to help each other, revealing the vulnerabilities of the system and underlining the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination at EU level. This is particularly true when several countries are simultaneously confronted with the same type of emergency, and are therefore not able to assist each other. In those circumstances, action at EU level can ensure a faster and more comprehensive response.

The Covid-19 emergency has revealed once more that disasters know no borders, and the importance to continue strengthening and promoting consistency to the international dimension of civil protection, in particular with the countries in the immediate neighbourhood (IPA countries and countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy).

In 2021, the UCPM continued stepping up disaster preparedness in the Union via the adaptation and further improvement of existing emergency response capacities under the European Civil Protection Pool, or via the development of new additional response capacities under the rescEU strategic reserve. The partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean on Civil Protection matters was reinforced with a view to launch operational joint initiatives in 2022 and beyond.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Union Civil Protection Mechanism ('the UCPM') aims to strengthen the cooperation between the Union, the 27 Member States and the six Participating States currently taking part in the UCPM (North Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia and Iceland), as well as to facilitate coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters.

The UCPM promotes solidarity between the Member and Participating States through practical cooperation and coordination, without prejudice to the Member States' primary responsibility to protect people, the environment, and property, including cultural heritage, on their territory against disasters, and to provide their disaster-management systems with sufficient capabilities to enable them to cope adequately and in a consistent manner with disasters of a nature and magnitude that can reasonably be expected and prepared for.

Finally, the UCPM facilitates the cooperation in disaster response among the Member/Participating States, coordinating through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) the provision of assistance to disaster-stricken countries all over the world. The support provided through the UCPM can take the form of in-kind assistance, deployment of specially equipped teams, or assessment and coordination experts sent to the field.

1.3. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the UCPM are:

1. to achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their potential effects, by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services;
2. to enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters (European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU);
3. to facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters, including by taking measures to mitigate the immediate consequences of disasters;
4. to increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters;
5. to increase the availability and use of scientific knowledge on disasters; and
6. to step up cooperation and coordination activities at cross-border level and between Member States prone to the same types of disasters.

1.4. Public intervention context

Civil protection obtained Treaty recognition for the first time with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, with a specific legal base: Article 196 TFEU. The Union holds a supporting competence in this area, which is also indicated in Article 6 TFEU.

The UCPM was established in 2013 by Decision No1313/2013/EU. The Decision was subsequently amended in 2019 by Decision (EU) 2019/420 and in 2021 with Regulation 2021/836. In addition, there are four implementing acts, which lay down the rules for

the implementation of the UCPM, namely Implementing Decision 2014/762, Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/570 , Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/1310 and Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956

1.5. Actions

The UCPM is divided into three strands of activities: prevention, preparedness and response. For each activity, it lays out different types of actions.

Prevention and preparedness activities mitigate the effects of disasters. A training programme for civil protection experts from EU Member States and Participating States ensures compatibility and complementarity between intervention teams, while large-scale exercises each year train capacities for specific disasters. The EU supports and complements prevention and preparedness efforts of its Member States and Participating States by focusing on areas where a joint European approach is more effective than separate national actions. These include risk assessments to identify the disaster risks across the EU, encouraging research to promote disaster resilience and reinforcing early warning tools.

For capacities, the UCPM preparedness relies primarily on the European Civil Protection Pool (ECP), which consists of response capacities that EU Member States and Participating States make available for UCPM deployments for an agreed number of years and which are certified, mostly by DG ECHO, to ensure that these capacities can operate in international contexts. One of the key innovations of the 2019 legislative revision was the creation of a second reserve of civil protection capacities, the rescEU reserve, as part of preparedness actions under the UCPM. rescEU is a European reserve of capacities to be mobilised as a last resort and to provide a safety net in case national capacities and the ECP are overwhelmed. The initial focus of the rescEU reserve is set around three main areas: aerial firefighting capacities, including firefighting planes and helicopters; emergency medical capacities, including medical evacuation capacities; stockpiles of medical equipment, as well as emergency medical teams type 2 with specialised care teams; and Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)-related capacities, such as for instance decontamination. In 2021, in the context of better anticipation of future large-scale disasters and based on lessons learnt from disasters, multi-purpose transport and shelter capacities have been added to this priority list.

Another main innovation of the 2019 legislative revision was the establishment of the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network, bringing together civil protection and disaster management actors, centres of excellence, universities and researchers. Formally established through Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956, the Knowledge Network was officially launched on 7 December 2021. It aims to become a central hub within the UCPM for the exchange of expertise and good practices in disaster management and disaster risk management.

Following the 2019 legislative revision, a second reform with targeted amendments entered into force in 2021 following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The key rationale behind this reform focused on better prevention and preparedness for large-scale transboundary emergencies affecting several or all EU Member States at the same time. The corresponding targeted adaptations aim to improve anticipation, planning and response to these kind of emergencies.

The Mechanism will be better prepared, more flexible, respond faster and offer more comprehensive cross-sectoral support to Member States and their citizens, including through a significantly enhanced budget.

One of the novelties of the 2021 legislative revision is the development of Union Disaster Resilience Goals (DRGs) in the area of civil protection to support prevention and preparedness actions in the event of disasters, which cause or are capable of causing multi-country transboundary effects. These goals should be based on current and forward-looking scenarios, including the impacts of climate change on disaster risks, data on past events and cross-sectoral impact analysis, with particular attention given to vulnerable groups.

Under response, following a request for assistance by a Member State or third country through the UCPM, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) mobilises assistance or expertise. In addition, the ERCC monitors events around the globe 24/7 and ensures rapid deployment of emergency support through a direct link with national civil protection authorities. Specialised teams and equipment, such as forest firefighting planes, search and rescue, and medical teams can be mobilised at short notice for deployments inside and outside Europe.

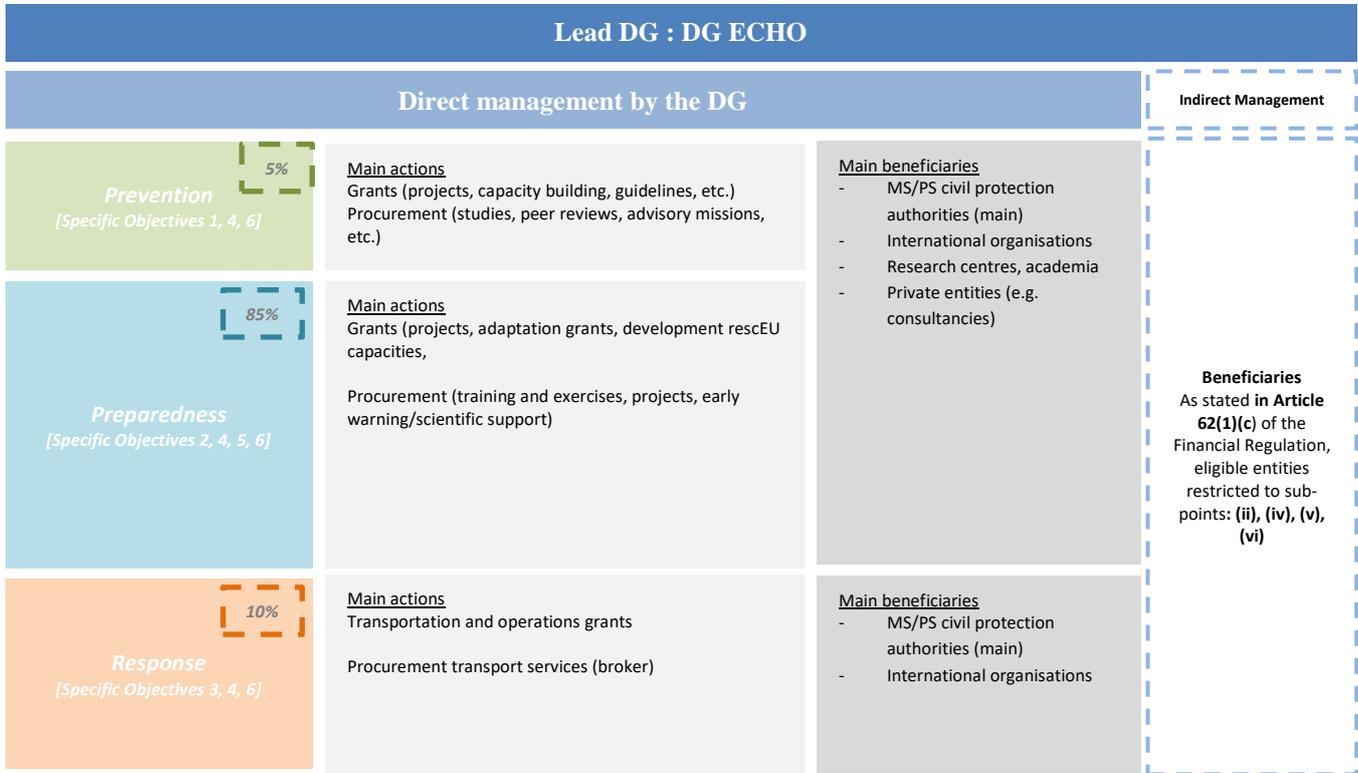
Under the NGEU UCPM budget transferred to HERA, two actions will be financed in 2022: the procurement and reservation contracts for the development of medical and CBRN stockpiles under rescEU (580,5 M); and the development of a stockpiling management system (49,4 M).

1.6. Delivery mode

The lead DG in the European Commission for the UCPM is DG ECHO. The management mode is direct management.

According to the provisions of the 2021 legislative revision, indirect management under the UCPM is also introduced as a possibility for certain cases foreseen in the Financial Regulation¹.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/836 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (OJ L 185, 26.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	1 263.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	182.6	101.3	101.6	233.3	233.3	234.4	240.3	1 326.7
NextGenerationEU	684.6	679.8	682.8	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2 056.5
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A

¹ Following the political agreement reached in early February 2021, indirect management is expected to be introduced as a mode for budget implementation, albeit with limitations with respect to eligible bodies. Notably, the provision refers to sub-points (ii), (iv), (v) and (vi) of point (c) of Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Contributions from other countries and entities	20.6	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	20.6
Grand Total	887.8	781.0	829.4	232.6	221.6	222.9	228.4	3 403.8

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The UCPM in the MFF 2021-2027 builds on the positive results achieved through MFF 2014-2020. While budget for the UCPM was split under two headings in the MFF 2014-2020 (internal – external), it is placed under one single heading in the MFF 2021-2027 ('Heading 2: Cohesion, Resilience and Values') to further improve an effective and efficient budget implementation.

Another significant difference compared to the previous MFF period is that the UCPM financial envelope is now composed by two funding sources: a) the MFF *classic* profile, and b) an allocation stemming from the 'Next Generation EU' (NGEU) funds. As part of the comprehensive recovery instrument adopted to face the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UCPM/rescEU was identified as a key instrument contributing to the rapid recovery from the crisis through the enhancement of its structures to be prepared for and respond to future crises. As such, an additional allocation of EUR 2 billion was proposed, which complemented the EUR 1.2 billion proposed under the MFF profile, bringing the overall financial envelope to EUR 3.3 billion for the 7-year period.

In order to translate this ambitious budget into reality, and building on the initial lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission tabled a new legislative proposal to further strengthen the UCPM in July 2020 [COM/2020/220]. Following intense negotiations throughout 2020 and in the beginning of 2021, the amended legislation entered into force in May 2021. The targeted amendments, which were introduced in the revised legislative framework, will strengthen European solidarity in particular in large-scale emergencies affecting several countries at the same time where voluntary and national assistance is not sufficient. The UCPM will be better prepared, more flexible, respond faster and offer more comprehensive cross-sectoral support to Member States and their citizens, including through the significantly enhanced budget. The main changes concern strengthened prevention and preparedness through Union-wide resilience goals and scenario plans together with Member States; more flexibility through enabling the Commission to directly procure rescEU capacities in duly justified cases of urgency; and additional possibilities to manage and implement the enlarged budget (e.g. through multi-annuality, indirect management, carry-over of budget reserves for response actions to the following year, etc.).

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

DG ECHO website: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en

As main interface with the external public, DG ECHO main website provides an overview of the different activities carried out by the DG, as well as funding opportunities. The website also contains all key strategic documents and relevant legislative texts guiding the work of the DG.

ERCC portal: <https://erccportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

The ERCC portal compiles all information products produced by DG ECHO and/or relevant partners supporting disaster management. Factsheets, daily maps, country-specific information and links to other relevant monitoring tools are found in the portal.

Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network online platform: <https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/>

This is the Knowledge Network's virtual interface that aims to bring together information, knowledge and news on capacity-development (including training, exercises and learning) activities as well as science and research activities and facilitate, exchanges, dissemination and networking among civil protection and disaster management stakeholders. The development of the Knowledge Network's online platform is in progress.

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	332.1	3 403.8	10%
Payments	45.4		1%

In 2021, the initial Civil Protection budget was EUR 768.8 million and the final budget stands at EUR 904.4 million (MFF strand: EUR 225.8 million / NGEU strand: EUR 678.6 million).

The crisis in Afghanistan and the forest fire events have triggered a reinforcement of EUR 57.8 million through an amending budget. The UCPM budget has also benefitted from a frontload within the MFF profile providing additional EUR 34.6 million. Additionally, EUR 18 million were received from DG NEAR as codelegated budget (Pre-accession Instrument and Southern Neighbourhood under NDICI). The budget was also complemented by EUR 20.45 million from EFTA countries contribution, and EUR 4.7 million of re-assigned revenue. This excludes the contribution of participating countries of approx. EUR 4.5 million.

The budget under the MFF strand has been implemented in full (EUR 224.5 million), except for some funds recovered late in 2021 (EUR 1.3 million), which are automatically carried over to 2022. Out of the EUR 224.5 million, EUR 57.6 million remain to be contracted (including EUR 33 million to cover Response transport and assistance, EUR 18 million co-delegated from DG NEAR (Pre-accession Instrument and Southern Neighbourhood under NDICI), and EUR 6.6 million to cover prevention and preparedness grants, UCPM exercises, and other smaller grants). All these credits will be committed as a priority in 2022.

On the NGEU strand, the budget execution presents a lower rate (EUR 128.5 million committed out of EUR 678.6 million) due to the funds being made available late (July) and the discussions on the scope requiring substantial adjustments by DG ECHO. The remaining NGEU funds (EUR 550.1 million) can be carried over to the following year as foreseen in the relevant (ERI) Regulation.

Payments: the MFF budget has been implemented in full, except for EUR 4.4 million composed from contributions of participating countries (EUR 4.1 million) and recovery orders (EUR 0.3 million) which are automatically carried over to 2022.

In 2021, the major part of appropriations were allocated to the rescEU medical stockpile to constitute an EU-level safety net aimed at combatting serious cross-border threats to health, and on the aerial forest firefighting capacities, including a grant agreement with Greece for the procurement of 2 airplanes (Canadair).

In addition, a number of other rescEU transition and other prevention and preparedness activities were funded, such as Prevention and Preparedness projects for Cross-Border risks and Marine Pollution, UCPM exercises, the renewal and reinforcement of early warning systems and scientific partnerships, the roll-out of the Knowledge Network, the organisation of the Civil protection Forum, etc.

On the response side, the UCPM was activated an unprecedented 114 times in 2021, for a wide range of disasters, facilitating the delivery of numerous items of critical personal protective and medical equipment, including almost 30 million of COVID-19 vaccine doses. 95 air operations were organised under the Mechanism to evacuate EU citizens and persons under EU duty of care from Afghanistan.

In 2022-2023, rescEU will continue to be the major spending field (Aerial Forest Fires, but also CBRN capacities, emergency shelter, stockpiling, emergency medical teams and multi-purpose transport and medevac).

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine since 24 February 2022, results in massive displacement, civilian deaths and suffering, large-scale humanitarian needs, and destruction of civilian infrastructure across the country. A massive amount of assistance is being channelled through the UCPM and delivered to Ukraine and to neighbouring countries affected by the unprecedented inflow of people fleeing the war. This has already triggered a reinforcement request of EUR 70 million in 2022, through a transfer of appropriations.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Union Civil Protection Mechanism – Heading 3

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	729.0	766.5	95%
Payments	429.5		56%

Union Civil Protection Mechanism – Heading 4

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	155.6	157.7	99%
Payments	123.9		79%

In a context in which the scope for action was widened considerably to foster the EU's capacity to respond to crises, with a substantially increased budget to fund new operations (the legal basis was amended in 2018), implementation under Heading 3 reached a level of 95%. The implementation under Heading 4 reached a level of 99%.

In 2020 the UCPM received several budgetary reinforcements (under both heading 3 and heading 4) totalling EUR 442 million. Such reinforcements funded the creation of the first-ever emergency stockpile of medical equipment (protective equipment, ventilators, etc.) and the repatriation of EU citizens stranded in non-EU countries. The increased budget largely explains the low implementation of payment appropriations in 2014-2020 (45%), as the majority of related payments weremade from 2021 onwards.

The unused amounts at the end of year 2020, corresponding to recovery orders cashed in 2020, were carried over in 2021 and fully used in 2021. In addition, the "Reste à Contracter" (RAC) amounted to EUR 7.2 million at the end of 2020 (already committed at level 1), and was fully contracted in 2021.

On the payment side, the "Reste à Liquidier" (RAL) amounted to EUR 282 million under heading 3 and EUR 22.4 million under heading 4.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The UCPM is not a regular programme funded by the Union, but rather a more complex policy instrument that supports Member States and Participating States in the area of civil protection, intervening in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle (prevention, preparedness, response). By its external dimension, the UCPM also supports the EU as a global actor, projecting EU solidarity in disasters beyond the EU borders.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In 2021, the UCPM continued to be at the frontline of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and its different waves using tools and capacities to respond both inside and outside the EU. From the 114 times the UCPM was activated (absolute record in the history of UCPM, even 12 activations more than in 2020), 36 were inside the EU. Out of 114 activations, 69 (61%) were Covid related. The UCPM had a 100% response rate inside Europe.

More concretely, in 2021, 69 requests have been received for in-kind assistance through the UCPM for personal protective or medical equipment, diagnostic tests, medicines, medical teams and vaccines (including from 6 EU Member States), 4 UCPM Participating States, 58 third countries and 1 International Organisation (UNICEF). Since then, most of the requests have been closed. 60 requests have been partially or fully met by offers of assistance from Member or Participating States or from the rescEU medical stockpile. In total, the UCPM facilitated the delivery of over 200 million items of medical equipment, including 6 million items from the rescEU stockpile.

Apart from Covid-19, assistance via the Mechanism was provided to Belgium (floods).

In general terms, the UCPM has shown a strong performance over recent years. Notably:

Performance in internal dimension:

- In the area of prevention, the UCPM has continued to be instrumental in fostering an EU-wide culture of prevention, supporting notably those Member States and neighbouring countries whose structures and policies were not sufficiently advanced. Through the compilation of national risk assessments, the dissemination of "EU Overview of Risks" and other advocacy/knowledge efforts spearheaded by the UCPM (e.g. the "Economics for Prevention and Preparedness" study, see section 3.2, Key Achievements), Member States have generally become more aware of the need to strengthen prevention policies and taken significant steps thereto. Over the past years, some Member States have undertaken bold reforms in their national civil protection structures to emphasise precisely the role of prevention. The UCPM has accompanied and supported such measures. The 2020 EuroBarometer survey (Q1 –What is the risk awareness level in your region?) reveals a positive trend between 2015 and 2020, with awareness level in 2020 at 64% – with an increase of 9 percentage points compared to 2015.

- Prevention strand of work has also included fostering cooperation and coordination of activities at cross-border level. One of the main tools for supporting cross-border cooperation in civil protection and risk management is UCPM prevention and preparedness grants. In 2021, over EUR 4,2 million were awarded to 9 projects implemented by partners from 16 Member States and Participating States and focusing on the development of cross-border risk assessments, improved regional and cross-sectoral coordination and preparation for marine pollution accidents. Attention to the cross-border cooperation issues has also been strengthened a result of the revision of the UCPM Decision in 2019: in line with the new reporting provisions, Member States are required to share regularly information on priority prevention and preparedness measures taken to address disaster risks with cross-border impacts. MS have identified in their summaries of risk assessments submitted some measures in case cross border risks are identified.
- In the area of preparedness, there is a clear trend that shows the growing importance the UCPM is having among Member States when it comes to being prepared for disasters. The number and diversity of registered capacities in the European Civil Protection Pool is the highest ever, reaching in certain areas the maximum required at EU level. Moreover, the concrete implementation of the revised UCPM legislation (amended in 2019 with Decision 2019/420 and in 2021 with Regulation 2021/836) has also strengthened the preparedness component of the UCPM through enhanced financing for the European Civil Protection Pool and the progressive development of rescEU capacities in different areas, complementing national capacities. A sophisticated training and exercises programme provides every year experts and capacities with the required competences to better respond to disaster through enhanced coordination, compatibility and complementarity. To support the coordination efforts of Member States/Participating states and the UCPM, the Knowledge Network was officially established in 2021 with Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956. It brings together civil protection and disaster management experts and organisations, encouraging them to work together to increase knowledge within the UCPM and support the Union's ability and capacity to deal with disasters. In addition to an extensive training and exercises offer, the Knowledge Network makes scientific knowledge and expertise more widely available and understandable to decision makers.
- Concerning the increase of **public awareness and preparedness for disasters**, the various UCPM deployments and operations offered unprecedented opportunities for media and social media communication. DG ECHO has been working very closely and provided necessary support to communication activities by EU Delegations and Commission Representations and by communication multipliers in the Member States and Participating States, to increase the level of awareness of the UCPM. DG ECHO also ran several awareness campaigns in 2021. Despite the fact that the UCPM is more often activated by third countries, efforts to raise awareness of the UCPM in third countries should be continued so that institutions and citizens in third countries are better aware and informed about the assistance provided in their countries through the UCPM in times of emergencies and disasters. In this regard, the role of EU Delegations and the DG ECHO regional and country offices is essential.

Key achievements in internal dimension:

The year 2021 was fundamentally shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had a great impact on all UCPM activities (prevention, preparedness and response), as well as other large-scale disasters and sudden crisis situations requiring an EU response (e.g. Afghanistan, Haiti). This resulted in a necessary adaptation of initially programmed activities, as well as the rapid realisation of new initiatives needed to respond to the large-scale consequences of the pandemic. This section outlines some of the key achievements of 2021:

General

- From a communication perspective, the Coronavirus outbreak put on hold many of the initially planned communication actions. A large share of the delivered work focused on showing and explaining the EU response to the pandemic (including rescEU preparedness measures and deployments). Large-scale emergency deployments, such as the response forest fires in the Mediterranean, the floods in Belgium or the repatriations during the Afghanistan crisis, also triggered considerable communication needs.
- An overarching key achievement of 2021 is the legislative revision of the UCPM through Regulation 2021/836 amending Decision 1313/2013/EU. The revised legislation, which came into force on 26 May 2021, was adopted in record time. The key rationale behind this reform focused on better prevention and preparedness for large-scale transboundary emergencies affecting several or all EU Member States at the same time. The corresponding targeted adaptations aim to improve anticipation, planning and response to these kind of emergencies. Concretely, the highlights of the revised legislation are the introduction of disaster resilience goals and disaster scenario planning, strengthening preparedness by bolstering the rescEU reserve and a budget boost with more flexible financing rules.
- The transfer of 81 Romanian patients to Hungary, Austria, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Czechia, Italy has been organised. This demonstrates true European solidarity in the fight of the pandemic.
-

Prevention

- In 2021, the UCPM awarded 13 “Prevention and Preparedness Projects”, 9 projects under the cross-border financing track (‘Track 2’), and 6 projects under the single-country financing track (‘Track 1’) for leveraging investments for disaster risk management. In 2021, the latter were funded out of the “Next Generation EU” budget and, as such, had a more targeted thematic focus, namely on disaster risk management actions addressing pandemics and crisis of similar nature as Covid-19.
- Out of the 13 grants awarded under Track 1 and Track 2, 6 targeted primarily disaster prevention, while 7 targeted disaster preparedness.
- A joint DG ECHO-World Bank study focusing on the economic arguments for disaster prevention and preparedness, the need to develop financial preparedness instruments to face the next “worst case scenarios” and a set of recommendations for strengthening capacities of civil protection was completed and launched in June 2021. In October 2021, a dedicated, 6 hour technical training on the study targeted disaster risk management practitioners from Member/Participating States and the Commission. More than 1 000 people participated to the launch and the training and the report was downloaded approximately 10 000 times between June and December 2021 (World Bank and ECHO websites).
- The reporting guidelines for the submission of the summaries of risk assessments and risk management capabilities as foreseen in Article 6.3 of Decision 1313/2013/EU were published in December 2019 ahead of the 22 December indicative date. This can be considered a climate-related objective, as the new guidelines introduced climate adaptation as one of the criteria to be taken into account by Member States in the future.

Preparedness

- By the end of 2021, a total of 115 response capacities were committed to the European Civil Protection Pool, 82 of which were available for immediate deployment.
- European Civil Protection Pool: seven new adaptation grants with 5 Member States were granted in 2021 for a total amount of EUR 3.5 million for the upgrading and repairing of national capacities to allow for their international deployment.
- By end 2021, six European Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) that received the WHO classification (verification) were registered in the European Civil Protection Pool. In 2021, two deployments of medical teams under the European Medical Corps were facilitated by the UCPM (to Haiti and Equatorial Guinea)
- The **rescEU** transition scheme continued to be implemented as foreseen in the legislation in 2021. The Commission signed grant agreements with Member States (Croatia, Italy, Spain, Greece, France and Sweden) to make aerial forest firefighting assets available at EU level during the 2021 forest fire season. This reserve consisted of 15 assets/6 capacities (8 Canadair, 1 Dash and 6 helicopters). Over EUR 9,7 million were dedicated to this action. This can be considered a climate related achievement, as it had a direct impact on the capacity of the Union to support Member States extinguishing forest fires.
- In parallel, the Commission put in place a number of dedicated Task Teams meetings to define all the technical and operational specifications to establish as rapidly as possible the rescEU capacities in the priority areas identified by the legislation: aerial firefighting capacities, medical capacities and CBRN capacities. A total of 8 Task Teams meetings were organised in 2021.
- In relation to CBRN capacities, two rescEU implementing acts were adopted in 2021 (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/88 and Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1886), which defined CBRN Decontamination and CBRN Stockpiling capacities as part of the rescEU reserve. The adoption of the mentioned implementing acts enables the implementation of those capacities, which will strengthen the CBRN component of rescEU.
- One grant agreement for the development of an additional aerial forest fire capacity (2 medium amphibious planes) was signed in 2021 with Greece (in addition to France and Sweden in 2020), for a maximum amount of EUR 100.000.000.
- During most of 2021, the COVID 19 pandemic still affected the training and exercises activities as they were suspended. Nevertheless, it was also an opportunity to transform some of the training courses and exercise into virtual/online and blended activities. These online or blended activities received very positive feedback. Participants were satisfied with the learning experience, on the other hand, the networking part was felt missing. A limited number of field exercises and training courses could also be conducted in late 2021 respecting strict sanitary measures and protocols to ensure a safe training and exercise opportunity in a pandemic situation. The revision work of the training programme continued during 2021, taking into consideration the lessons identified from the digitalisation of training courses and ensuring to adapt it to the future challenges. In 2021, 7 grants agreements were signed to carry out in 2022 and 2023 UCPM exercises and network partnership activities. In addition, 3 services contracts were signed to carry out in 2022 and 2023 specific exercises that will be conducted outside the EU or involving maritime incidents Following intense preparatory work and discussions with the Member States throughout the year, the Union Civil Protection Knowledge Network was officially established in November 2021, with the adoption of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1956. The first Board meeting was held on 7 December. The Commission continued to work on the development of the Network’s structure and activities, including the publication of three Newsletters and launching of the Knowledge Network’s IT Platform

(<https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/>). The Platform will continue to be developed with additional collaborative features as from 2022.

Performance in external dimension:

- Concerning the external dimension of prevention and preparedness activities, the focus continued to be put on strengthening the cooperation with the immediate neighbourhood, notably with the IPA countries (Bosnia & Hercegovina, Albania, Kosovo and Turkey in particular) as well as the whole Southern and Eastern Neighbourhoods. With the aim to continue bringing these countries closer to the UCPM, new phases of regional programmes in the Western Balkans and in the Eastern neighbourhood were launched and/or are in preparation, despite the difficult Covid-19 crisis context and the lack of face-to-face meetings (PPRD East is in its first phase and PPRD South III is in its last phase that ended in September 2021). Also, two new flagship regional programmes are in preparation and will be launched in 2022). Moreover, the dialogue with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) has continued building on the positive exchanges from recent years, delivering concrete results in the form of specific workshops around different areas related to disaster management in general, such as working groups on volunteers and engaging citizens or workshops on the future of cooperation in the Mediterranean area. In addition, the emphasis was also put on continuing financing prevention and preparedness projects in third countries with a cross-border dimension. Such initiatives have been instrumental in promoting cooperation at technical level, developing networks and promoting capacity building. Moreover, continuous efforts were done to increase the availability and use of scientific knowledge on disasters. DG ECHO continued strengthening through the expansion of available data, the early warning and information systems for natural disasters (e.g. droughts, floods, forest fires, tropical cyclones or severe weather), and made extensive use of the services and information provided via the Copernicus programme for emergency management, climate change, and security, as well as the interfaces between these three areas. DG ECHO continued strengthening its Geographic and Information System (GIS) capacity to keep supporting operations by means of cartographical and geospatial products. Such services have supported the activities of the UCPM both inside and outside the EU.
- Concerning response, given the increasingly unpredictable nature of disasters inside and outside the EU's borders, the UCPM is activated more often to support both Member States and third countries. An activation of the UCPM and the offer of rapid support contributes to European solidarity among Member States and with third countries in times of crisis. Around two thirds of the activations of the UCPM are requested by third countries, which shows the international relevance that the UCPM has acquired and the capacity and will that EU Member States have to send assistance and expertise to third countries in need.

Key achievements in external dimension:

The UCPM intervenes in all phases of the disaster management cycle: prevention, preparedness and response. This section outlines some of the key achievements of 2021 in the three areas in external civil protection cooperation.

Despite the continuation of the pandemic, international civil protection cooperation further developed with a particular focus on the IPA (Pre-Accession Instrument) region and the EU Neighbourhood (Eastern and Southern) through the implementation of regional programmes:

IPA: Management of the regional programme on flood prevention and forest fires risk management covering the Western Balkans and Turkey (IPA FF) and co-delegated to DG ECHO for a total of 5 million EUR.

Eastern Neighbourhood: Management of the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Disasters (PPRD EAST) co-delegated to DG ECHO for a total of 6 million EUR, as well as a health emergency Disaster Risk Management Action for European Neighbourhood and Enlargement Countries in Georgia (1,363 million EUR).

Southern Neighbourhood: Completion of the programme support to the PPRD SOUTH II managed by NEAR and covering the whole southern neighbourhood (5 million EUR). Continued management of a Preparedness action for European Neighbourhood Policy countries in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia (1,499 million EUR).

The UCPM international team also provided technical CP support to the Early Warning Systems for Floods in the Middle East and its data-sharing managed by DG ECHO (humanitarian unit C3).

- In 2021, the UCPM continued to be at the frontline of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic using tools and capacities to respond both inside and outside the EU. From the 114 times the UCPM was activated (12 more than in 2020), 78 activations were outside the EU. Out of 114 activations, 69 (61%) were Covid related.
- The Commission continued strengthening the early warning and information systems for natural disasters (e.g. droughts, floods, forest fires, tropical cyclones or severe weather) and made extensive use of the services and information provided via the Copernicus programme for emergency management, climate change, and security, as well as the interfaces between these three areas, resulting in 53 **activations** of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service in 2021 for disasters outside the Union.

- The UCPM replied positively to 87% of the requests for assistance from outside Europe. The programme mainly supported Member States most heavily affected through the delivery of vaccines and personal protective/medical equipment under the framework of the rescEU stockpiling.
- In 2021, out of 114 requests for assistance, 45 cases were not-Covid related – this figure is twice the average of UCPM activations counted from 2014 to 2019 (average being 22.5 activations per year). The 45 requests resulted in support provided to EU Member States or Participating States or third countries for: repatriation of EU and third countries' nationals, volcanic eruptions, Ebola outbreaks, forest fires, floods, tropical cyclones, refugee influx, medicines shortage, oil spills and maritime pollutions, as well as technological disasters.
- Over 38 million vaccine doses have been offered for sharing through the UCPM, out of which almost 32 million doses have been already delivered to over 40 third countries.

Apart from Covid-19, assistance via the Mechanism was provided to Haiti (earthquake), with the deployment of 18 civil protection experts, 15 TAST members and an emergency medical team. Moreover, the Commission through DG ECHO has also been involved in the repatriation efforts of EU citizens stranded in South Africa, Mozambique and Morocco, who found themselves in difficult situations due to travel restrictions imposed by several EU countries after the outbreak of Omicron variant. The two flights organised by Romania from South Africa (30 December) and Morocco (2 December), and the flight organised by Spain from Mozambique (2 December) repatriated 375 people. In 2021, the UCPM has facilitated the repatriation of 10,481 passengers (including 327 EU citizens) to Europe in 103 repatriation operations.

Areas of improvements and external factors

While showing the added value that the 2019 reform brought to the UCPM, notably with the creation of the first ever emergency stockpile of medical equipment under rescEU, which is counting nine EU host countries on 31 December 2021, the large-scale and unforeseen nature of the Covid-19 pandemic put the UCPM to the test and revealed some areas for improvement. As such, in the aftermath of the first wave of the crisis, a new legislative proposal was tabled [COM(2020)220 final] with targeted improvements, for which a political agreement was reached by the co-legislators in early February 2021 and Regulation EU 2021/836 entered into force in May 2021. The legislative review was also aiming at aligning the financial envelope of the UCPM with the figures of the next MFF. The areas of improvement are related to three main domains:

- a) Although the development of rescEU capacities was an important step forward, it was clear that swift action in moments of emergency was needed. The previous scheme for the development of rescEU capacities involving necessarily a Member State was not always rapid enough, and as such, the new legislation proposed to grant the Commission with additional elements of initiative, such as the possibility to directly procure capacities in certain cases. A compromise was found during political trilogue granting the Commission a higher autonomy in certain cases.
- b) Another element that required further adjustment was the collective planning (prevention and preparedness) for large-scale and cross-boundary emergencies. With the latest revision of Decision 1313/2013 from 2021, the Commission and Member states will work together to develop Union Disaster Resilience Goals, to support prevention and preparedness actions in the event of disasters which cause or are capable of causing multi-country transboundary effects.
- c) Finally, another area where improvement was needed was related to the budgetary management and needed flexibility to rapidly react and adjust to major crises. As such, a much more flexible budget structure, and with in-built mechanisms (e.g. carry-over) was proposed under the recently adopted UCPM legislation to increase the efficiency of the UCPM in fulfilling its mandate. The new UCPM legislation adopted in May 2021 includes a new provision in Article 25(7) of Decision 1313/2013/EU to carry-over commitments and payment appropriations for response actions to the following budgetary year.

In addition to the areas of improvement revealed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission continues to work on the development and further operationalisation of the Knowledge Network after its official launch on 7 December 2021, as one of the key innovations of the 2019 legislative revision. A complex activity, consisting of connecting several activities between disaster stakeholders, knowledge holders and governance structures; the success of the Knowledge Network will rely on its capacity to address the needs of its members and of the UCPM in an efficient and effective way. While the Commission is responsible for its establishment, the construction of the Knowledge Network will only be feasible with the active collaboration and involvement by the Member States and Participating States.

As far as the external dimension is concerned, the Commission should continue to reflect in structuring a coherent and proactive international strategy addressing the extension of the UCPM to new Participating States with clearly defined criteria and processes for joining the UCPM in accordance with the legislation, as well as the modalities of partnership with the non-participating States (third countries), regional and international organisations. This would also help in ensuring an efficient coordination with all other available tools and funding mechanisms under UCPM, such as rescEU, Knowledge Network, UCPM training programme, preparedness exercises, peer reviews etc... in a Team Europe approach.

In September 2021 the results of the evaluation on 'Prevention and Preparedness Projects (2014-2020)' were published. The evaluation provided as main recommendations the following points: Increase awareness, access to and engagement with ongoing and past EU-funded projects on civil protection prevention and preparedness and their results; establish an internal Planning,

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) framework to assess the performance and quality of the PPP Programme; introduce the possibility to apply for project extensions and expansions or raise awareness on the PPP Programme and provide guidance on how to prepare successful applications.

Covid section

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the UCPM activities, due to the consequences generated by the new and multiple waves of the pandemic. Based on lessons learned during the previous year adaptation became easier. However, with the evolution of the pandemic different challenges occurred and needed to be tackled. Concerning new initiatives mainly related to vaccine sharing, the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a new record number of 114 activations of the UCPM requesting the provision of medical equipment, vaccines as well as support for the repatriation of EU citizens (and others) stranded in third countries. While response time improved from 2020, internal and external response times of UCPM activations still remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. The UCPM facilitated the delivery of millions of personal protective equipment items, medical counter measures and vaccines, both to non-EU countries and to EU Member States and Participating States. This was made possible by the improved preparedness achieved through the rescEU stockpile established in March 2020 and further developed throughout 2020 and 2021. Other areas that have been particularly affected by the pandemic are for instance the ones related to training and exercises, given the restrictions in place. Another area whose normal development has been disrupted is the submission of prevention-related information. The pandemic also nearly brought to a standstill the certification of ECPP capacities. Given the crucial role that civil protection authorities play in the response to the pandemic, the management of this health crisis has forced some Member States to redirect all resources to response and coordination operations, at the expense of other less urgent tasks, such as reporting. However, this does not affect the validity of this Programme Statement as the deadline for reporting under discussion was 31 December 2021.

Finally, due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, many of the initially planned communication actions had to be revised or postponed, while a large share of the delivered work focused on showing and explaining the EU response to the pandemic (including rescEU preparedness measures and deployments and Humanitarian Air Bridge operations).

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

UCPM projects under the previous MFF (2014-2020) have continued in the same conditions under the current MFF (2021-2027). For information on the Previous Programme Performance, please refer to the section above (3.1.2. Active programme performance).

3.2. Key achievements

Union Civil protection Mechanism – Internal

36	13	115	7
activations of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism inside the EU in 2021 (100% response rate)	Prevention and preparedness projects have been financed under the UCPM in 2021.	Response capacities committed to the European Civil Protection Pool, 82 of which were available for immediate deployment by the end of 2021	Grant agreements signed with Member States and Participating States for Knowledge Network related activities in 2021.

Union Civil protection Mechanism – External

78	10 481	2	53	5
Activations of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism outside the EU in 2021, 16 of which were non-Covid related.	Passengers repatriated to Europe, including around 327 EU citizens in 103 repatriation operations in 2021.	New regional programmes were successfully launched on prevention, preparedness and response (IPA countries; Eastern Partnership countries - PPRD EAST III) in 2021	Activations of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service in 2021	Regional programmes were successfully implemented in the Enlargement and neighbourhood East-South on prevention, preparedness and response in 2021

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

EU Civil protection Mechanism – Internal & External

Article 34(2) of the revised Decision 1313/2013/EU foresees the requirement to submit a report every two years to the European Parliament and to the Council on the ‘progress towards the capacity goals and remaining gaps’ regarding the European Civil Protection Pool, taking into account the establishment of rescEU capacities.

In order to fulfil this requirement, the Commission launched in 2018 a Capacities study, whose final report was published on DG ECHO’s website in December 2019. Based on this study, the ‘Capacity Gaps Report’ was supposed to be finalised during 2020. However, the Covid-19 pandemic led to some delays and the report will be prepared in 2022 taking for the first time into account both the capacities under the European Civil Protection Pool (ECP) and under rescEU.

During 2020, an external evaluation of the ‘Prevention and Preparedness Projects (2014-2020)’ was commissioned in order to extract key lessons from this activity over the past years and identify avenues for improvement. The results of the evaluation were published in September 2021, and provide clearly positive conclusions on the effectiveness and EU added value of the programme. Recommendations focus mainly on raising awareness of projects funded, and strengthening the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework.

An overall evaluation of the UCPM (2017-2022) will be launched in 2022.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To achieve a high level of protection against disasters by preventing or reducing their effects by fostering a culture of prevention and by improving cooperation between the civil protection and other relevant services.

Indicator 1: Number of Member States that have made available to the European Commission a summary of risk assessments and assessment of risk management capability

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27			27
	Actual Progress									Final
	26									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	No of Member States
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Member States’ reporting to the Commission
Link to the objective	European Green Deal
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to Indicator 1 & 2 (Specific Objective 1) under the previous programming period.
Other methodological comments	Legal obligation for Member States to report first time by 31/12/2020 and every three years thereafter.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The first deadline for Member States’ and UCPM Participating States’ reporting under the revised UCPM Decision was 31/12/2020. Not all Member States have reported by the deadline due to the pre-occupation of civil protection services with the Covid-19 emergency, which came at the expense at other, less urgent reporting tasks. However, though with some delays, the reports are being submitted in 2021.

Specific Objective 2: To enhance preparedness at Member State and Union level to respond to disasters (European Civil Protection Pool and rescEU)

Indicator 1: Number of committed and certified capacities included in the European Civil Protection Pool (ECP)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60			60
	Actual Progress									Final
	66									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of capacities

Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The registration of modules are found in Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) data base.
Link to the objective	Promoting our European Way of Life
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation of indicator (Specific Objective 2 – Indicator 1)
Other methodological comments	The indicator covers the number of modules, as well as technical assistance and support teams and other response capacities registered in CECIS as part of the Pool. As Member States and Participating States are directly responsible for registering capacities in CECIS, DG ECHO uses an additional internal monitoring tool to verify and (where necessary) request MS/PS to correct their CECIS registrations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters, including by taking measures to mitigate the immediate consequences of disasters.

Indicator 1: Response time of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to a request of assistance (inside and outside the EU)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Response time of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to a request of assistance inside the EU										
2019	Milestones									2027
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3			3
	Actual Progress									Final
	8									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Response time of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to a request of assistance outside the EU										
2019	Milestones									2027
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10			10
	Actual Progress									Final
	68									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hours
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) database.
Link to the objective	Promoting our European Way of Life
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to Indicator 1 (Specific Objective 3) under the previous programming period.
Other methodological comments	Measured as the duration between the moment a request for assistance has been received in the Emergency Response Coordination Centre and the first offer of assistance in CECIS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	While still hampered by a wide number of requests, in 2021, the response time related to non-COVID-19 activations improved in comparison to 2020. For assistance between Member States, the average response time decreased from 182 hours to just 8 hours. For assistance between Member States, the average response time decreased for activations outside Europe from 613 hours to 68. While the response time is still higher than the target, progress is being made. This improvement was made possible through lessons-learned exercises that took place from 2020, and especially through thematic meetings held between the commission and Member/Participating States. Nevertheless to further improve the UCPM’s response to large-scale emergencies, DG ECHO continues to work on inter alia strategic autonomy in building capacities under the rescEU reserve among other measures.

Indicator 2: Adequacy of response of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (inside and outside the EU)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Adequacy of response of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism inside the EU										
2020	Milestones									2027
0	75%	75%	75%	90%	90%	90%	90%			90%
	Actual Progress									Final
	100%									
Are we on track :	On track									
Adequacy of response of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism outside the EU										

2020	Milestones								2027
0	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%		86%
	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) database.
Link to the objective	Promoting our European Way of Life
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is linked to Indicator 2 (Specific Objective 3) under the previous programming period.
Other methodological comments	This indicator measures the percentage of the request for assistance that has been successfully met with offers for assistance.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Specific Objective 4: To increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters.

Indicator 1: Level of awareness of Union citizens of the risk of their region

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
n.a.										64%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Eurobarometer
Link to the objective	Promoting our European way of life.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	For this indicator available data and milestones will only apply the year an Eurobarometer is published. The target was established on the basis of the result for this indicator on the Special Eurobarometer survey no. 511 (fieldwork November-December 2020): 64%. Milestones when ever applicable shall also aim at having a result higher than 64% on the corresponding Eurobarometer.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No Eurobarometer in 2021, therefore no applicable milestone nor data available.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Union Civil Protection Mechanism - Heading 3

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters.

Indicator 1: Average speed of interventions under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (from the acceptance of the offer to deployment).

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
36	24			18			12		3	12
	Actual Progress									Final
		21	20	11	13.7	7.4	27.6	8		27.6
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hours
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) data base.
Narrative	
Methodology	Measured as the duration between the acceptance of the offer in CECIS and the time when the assistance is ready for transportation from the port of embarkation in the offering EU Member States for movement towards the affected Member State. The indicator covers modules, as well as for technical assistance, medical personnel (not EMT) and support teams and other response capacities corresponding to the categories defined for the European emergency response capacity (EERC – Voluntary pool) as defined by Commission Decision (2014/762/EU).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	EU's Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) data base. Measured as the duration between the acceptance of the offer in CECIS and the time when the assistance is ready for transportation from the port of embarkation in the offering EU Member States for movement towards the affected Member State. The indicator covers modules, as well as for technical assistance, medical personnel (not EMT) and support teams and other response capacities corresponding to the categories defined for the European emergency response capacity (EERC – Voluntary pool) as defined by Commission Decision (2014/762/EU) of 16 October 2014 laying down rules for the implementation of Decision No 1313/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism. Results of this indicator are partly influenced by the number, severity, nature and the specific context of the emergencies for which the UCPM is activated in a given year.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	There were only two module/team deployments (EMT and Medical Personnel to Italy) inside Europe in 2020. EMTs normally need some preparation time before deploying and generally, they are not urgently needed at the very beginning of an emergency like a USAR Team.

Specific Objective 4: To increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters.

Indicator 1 Level of awareness of Union citizens of the risks in their region.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
55%							75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
		55%					64%			64%
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Special Eurobarometer survey no. 511 (fieldwork November-December 2020)
Narrative	Article 3.1(d) of the UCPM Decision specifies that one of the specific objectives of UCPM is to increase public awareness and preparedness for disasters. It also specifies that the progress in this area is measured by the level of awareness of Union citizens of the risks in their region.
Methodology	Public opinion survey
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	Report to be published on https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/
Justification of the trend	Overall positive trend to which recent disasters and EU communication campaigns might have contributed, though the role of different factors is difficult to establish. A positive trend can be observed between 2015 and 2020. Awareness level in 2020 was 64% - an increase of 9 percentage points compared to 2015.

Previous Program 2 : Union Civil Protection Mechanism - Heading 4

General Objective 1: The Union Civil Protection Mechanism shall aim at strengthening the cooperation within the EU and facilitating coordination in the field of civil protection in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters in Third countries.

Indicator 1: Economic damage caused by natural disasters

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010-2012	Milestones									2020
155	93	93	93	93	93	93	93			93
	Actual Progress									Final
	91.3	78.9	136.1	332.7	105.5	95	144			144
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	USD billion
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	As recorded in the EM-DAT database
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Estimate based on the average of annual economic damage of the 2004-2014 years. The data reflects economic damage caused by natural disasters worldwide excluding the economic damage caused by natural disasters in the Member States of the European Union.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The EM-DAT base is frequently updated and historical data revised. The annual results and evolution of this indicator depends on external factors (occurrence, frequency, severity and location of disasters) which are totally beyond the control of the Commission. In addition, the proportion of reported economic damages varies strongly by countries, disaster type, and time. The specific contribution of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism to the evolution of this indicator is difficult to assess.

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate rapid and efficient response in the event of disasters or imminent disasters.

Indicator 1: Average speed of interventions under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (from the acceptance of the offer to deployment)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
36	24			60			48		10	48
	Actual Progress									Final
		22	20	48	75	31.1	40.8	68		40.8
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hours
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) data base
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The increase in response time is explained by the general principle that assistance can only be delivered after the requesting country has accepted the offer. In some situations, the request is made, but the acceptance is not immediate, as the requesting country might consider that it is not needed immediately. In such situations, this creates a distortion in the number of hours, which is not related to the performance of the Mechanism. The indicator is measured as a yearly average of the duration between the acceptance of the offer in CECIS and the time when the assistance is ready for transportation from the port of embarkation in the EU for movement towards the affected country. The indicator covers modules, medical personnel (not EMT) as well as for technical assistance and support teams and other response capacities corresponding to the categories defined for the European emergency response capacity (EERC – Voluntary pool) as defined by Commission Decision (2014/762/EU).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In 2020, deployments outside Europe consisted mainly in MUSAR (Medium Search and Rescue Teams) teams deployed to Lebanon (Explosion emergency) and EMTs deployed to Azerbaijan and Armenia. MUSAR teams presented very fast deployments. However, the EMTs took more time to deploy given the specific preparations EMTs need to go through.

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	198.69	58.50	60.60	56.10	57.60	58.80	60.30	550.59	16%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

In the 2014-2020 period, the total contribution for climate mainstreaming was EUR 308.76 million. The figure for 2021 (EUR 198.86 million) is the result of the application of a more granular methodology that allows a more precise analysis of climate spending. DG ECHO is implementing the central tracking at commitment level, to improve the accuracy and reliability of the data on climate action. The tracking is based on EU climate markers methodology, made of three scores (0/40/100).

EUR 138.6 million spent in 2021 for climate mainstreaming correspond to 70% of funding, including activities under the 40% and 100% markers.

For NGEU funds, EUR 1 million was spent in 2021 for climate mainstreaming under the 40% marker representing almost a 100% of payments contemplated.

5.1.3. Key achievements

EU Civil protection Mechanism – Internal & External

The UCPM will continue contributing to the overall Commission objective to climate mainstreaming through its different activities.

A key achievement over the past years has been the creation of the dedicated reserve of rescEU capacities in the area of forest firefighting through the rescEU transition phase, resulting in an additional capacity of 15 capacities to support Member States in forest firefighting activities. Additional support provided to Member States to reduce the devastation that wildfires create, increasing CO2 emissions, is considered a key climate-related achievement.

UCPM direct grants to national civil protection authorities under the ‘Track 1’ programme, which was launched in 2019 as a pilot, can be considered a success story and an important achievement. This financing scheme provides ‘seed funds’ to carry out strategic disaster risk management activities in Member States. Supported by these grants, Member States have developed long-term disaster risk reduction strategies (Croatia), prepared conceptual basis for a legal reform of civil protection system (Czechia), identified investment needs to address CBRN risks (Lithuania), launched preparatory work for setting up unified disaster loss databases and improving early warning systems (Latvia).

Under the UCPM, a joint DG ECHO-World Bank study was carried out with the objective to provide some estimate of economic losses from climate-related hazards such as floods and forest fires. The study took as starting point the climate change scenarios developed by the PESETA study of the JRC. The study also intended to put forward recommendations for developing/improving financing instruments that can help the EU better manage climate risks in future. DG ECFIN, CLIMA, JRC, ENV and REGIO are members of the steering group that oversees the study.

Moreover, some specific projects financed under the prevention and preparedness ‘Track 2’ programme also contributed directly to the overall objective of climate mainstreaming. These included for instance, CASCADE - (Community Safety Action for Supporting Climate Adaptation and Development, 2019) (www.cascade-bsr.eu), which provided an assessment tool for integrated climate change risks and DRR management in urban contexts in the Baltic Sea Region, as well as prepared guidelines and training courses for local and national CPA, and organised policy dialogues between local, national, regional and international actors to develop policy recommendations for the region.

Another relevant example is the project WUIVIEW (Wildland-Urban Interface Virtual Essays Workbench, 2019), which has developed a risk management tool to help Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) communities adapting to forest fires due to climate change (www.wuiview.org/), as well as the project SAVEMEDCOAST, which mapped hotspots all along the Mediterranean coastline which are most exposed to sea level rise and therefore at risk from climate change impacts (costal floods, erosion etc.). The project also developed awareness raising campaigns (educations workshop with stakeholders) in communities in high risk flooding areas.

5.1.4. Performance

EU Civil protection Mechanism – Internal & External

Over the course of the past multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, DG ECHO has successfully integrated climate action into its activities, primarily in terms of adaptation to climate change – both through the civil protection and humanitarian programmes.

Climate change is firmly integrated in the Union Civil Protection Mechanism legislation, and Member States are asked to take into account climate risks in their disaster risk management, particularly in the new Reporting Guidelines on Disaster Risk Management, Art. 6(1)d of Decision No 1313/2013/EU/2019/C 428/07 (Commission Notice C/2019/8929). Integrating climate risks in disaster risk management was proposed to be further strengthened in the Commission proposal from 2 June 2020 (COM(2020) 220 final) where climate change is explicitly mentioned in relation to disaster resilience goals, monitoring and providing advice based on scientific knowledge, and disaster resilience planning including scenario-building. Under the Prevention and Preparedness projects (“Track 2”), in the 2014-2020 Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), out of 132 projects awarded overall, 15-16 focussed on climate change. All of this suggests a successful integration of climate action into the civil protection programme between 2014-2020. The 3rd edition of the report “Overview of natural and man-made disaster risks the EU may face” (SWD(2020)330) addressed climate change as a main driver for a changing risk landscape.

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	43.12	0.00	0.00					43.12
Share compared to total envelope	23.61 %	0.00 %	0.00 %					3.25 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

For the work of DG ECHO only the response to forest fires should be considered at a level of 40% as contributing to biodiversity mainstreaming.

In this regard, EUR 43.12 million were estimated to have been allocated to contributing to biodiversity, out of the total EUR 225.80 million budgeted for UCPM in 2021. This represents a 19% of the total amount.

In the framework of the latest legislative revision, and following the provisional agreement reached in February 2021 by the co-legislators, the revised Decision No 1313/2013/EU should contribute to the overall EU ambition on biodiversity (i.e. 7.5% of the EU budget expenditure on biodiversity in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027).

When implementing the revised Decision No 1313/2013/EU, the mainstreaming of biodiversity action in the Union policies shall be duly taken into account to the extent that the unpredictability and specific circumstances of disaster preparedness and response so allow.

5.2.3. Key Achievements

EU Civil protection Mechanism – Internal and external

Regarding the biodiversity mainstreaming methodology, it was assessed in 2021 in collaboration with DG ENV that DG ECHO’s actions contributing to biodiversity mainstreaming are actions to control forest fires. In this regard, rescEU transition capacities were again financed in 2021, with 15 aerial forest firefighting capacities including both airplanes and helicopters. Moreover, building on the first rescEU planes was concluded with France in 2021. An additional grant agreement was signed in December 2021 with Greece for the procurement of 2 such aircraft. In negotiating with the only worldwide manufacturer of relevant medium amphibious planes, DG ECHO agreed with interested Member States to coordinate the process closely and negotiate jointly to obtain the best possible deal.

5.2.4. Performance

EU Civil protection Mechanism – Internal

Progress on biodiversity actions is not yet measurable.

EU Civil protection Mechanism – External

Progress on biodiversity actions is not yet measurable.

5.3. Contribution to gender equality

5.3.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0*: 182.6							
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(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Within the framework of the 3rd phase of the regional programme for prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern Neighbourhood (PPRD EAST 3), specific guidelines (in English and Russian) for the inclusion of gender equality have been developed in order to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout the project implementation. This covers areas such as training and exercises, multi-risk assessments, early warning systems, public awareness, volunteerism and host nation support.

The project PPRD EAST 3 disposes of a budget of EUR 6 000 000 and will be lasting until 2024. It sees gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting theme integrated in all programme activities in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which pays particular attention to all-of-society engagement. Gender analysis is being used as a tool for further understanding disaster risk, vulnerabilities and capacities in relation to disaster risk assessment. A gender-inclusive approach is also being applied in the training programme, where gender aspects will be mainstreamed in course curricula as well as delivery.

EU Civil protection Mechanism – Internal and external

DG ECHO commits to gender-sensitive civil protection, including addressing specific vulnerabilities, and exchange on the issue of support to victims of gender-based violence during disasters. DG ECHO prompts gender equality through the disaster risk cycle and raises awareness of the principle of non-discrimination and inclusiveness. DG ECHO promotes gender-inclusive approach in response activities and ensures that the gender component is considered.

5.4. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

5.4.1. Goals

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

DG ECHO and Participating States provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support through the UCPM response to those in need during humanitarian crises and ensure that the most vulnerable have access to WASH.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

By providing a faster response to natural and man-made disasters, the UCPM helps minimise their impacts on the economical means of the affected areas, and therefore helps preserve the employment of local workers.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Through preventing, preparing for and responding to marine pollution, the UCPM contributes to preserving from environmental degradation, including from marine ecosystems and biodiversity loss. DG ECHO is working on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity in case of marine pollution.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Climate change is already affecting natural and human systems in every region across the globe, with some regions facing more severe impacts due to their higher levels of existing vulnerabilities and exposure. Climate change features as the key driver for risks in Europe² and in the world³. Through preventing, preparing for and responding to climate-related disasters, DG ECHO provide support both to EU Member States and third countries via the UCPM. With regards to the latter, DG ECHO also provides support through humanitarian aid. The UCPM contributes to combatting climate change and its impacts. DG ECHO works on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. While streamlining climate change in main UCPM activities, such as risk assessments, early warning systems, response capacities and funding calls for projects.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Through preventing, preparing for and responding to marine pollution, the UCPM contributes to preserving from environmental degradation, including from marine ecosystems and biodiversity loss. DG ECHO is working on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity in case of marine pollution.

² [Overview of natural and man-made disaster risks the European Union may face - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ By 2050, over 200 million people could need humanitarian assistance every year due to climate-related disasters

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Environmental degradation, in particular damage to ecosystems and biodiversity loss, is identified as a key driver for the heightening of disaster risks⁴. Through the promotion of short and long-term disaster-risk prevention measures, DG ECHO, in line with the Biodiversity strategy, promotes the use of ecosystem and nature-based solutions, in the context of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The UCPM is committed to protect people, the environment and property from natural and human-induced disasters, including the consequences of acts of environmental disasters.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

Responding to disasters requires efficient collaboration and a multi-skilled approach, the EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network aims to bring together relevant national civil protection authorities, centres of excellence, researchers, universities, knowledge centres, third countries and international organisations to facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, and to enable better informed decision-making for more efficient and effective prevention, preparedness and response.

5.4.2. Key achievements and performance***SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all***

DG ECHO and Participating States provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support through the UCPM response to those in need during humanitarian crises and ensure that the most vulnerable have access to WASH.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

By providing a faster response to natural and man-made disasters, the UCPM helps minimise their impacts on the economical means of the affected areas, and therefore helps preserve the employment of local workers.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

DG ECHO promotes a more resilient and sustainable urbanisation and places urban resilience among focus areas in its work on disaster preparedness of its humanitarian interventions. DG ECHO supports the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative⁵.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Through preventing, preparing for and responding to climate-related disasters, the UCPM contributes to combatting climate change and its impacts. DG ECHO works on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, while streamlining climate change in main UCPM activities, such as risk assessments, early warning systems, response capacities and funding calls for projects. The emergency toolbox for humanitarian aid is DG ECHO funding instrument designed to respond to unexpected emergencies, DG ECHO allocated €150 million in 2021. DG ECHO supports the implementation of a greener humanitarian response and reducing the environmental and climate footprint of EU-funded humanitarian operations.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

DG ECHO is working on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity in case of marine pollution.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Through the promotion of short and long-term disaster-risk prevention measures, DG ECHO, in line with the Biodiversity strategy, promotes the use of ecosystem and nature-based solutions, in the context of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The UCPM is committed to protect people, the environment and property from natural and human-induced disasters, including the consequences of acts of environmental disasters.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

DG ECHO launched the EU Civil Protection Knowledge Network that aims to bring together relevant national civil protection authorities, centres of excellence, researchers, universities, knowledge centres, third countries and international organisations to facilitate sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, and to enable better informed decision-making for more efficient and effective prevention, preparedness and response.

⁴ [Overview of natural and man-made disaster risks the European Union may face - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

⁵ Launched in October 2020 and operational in January 2021, the MCR2030 is an initiative led by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction that reached more than 4,000 cities across the globe within the network of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and supports cities in taking action to reduce disaster risk in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**EU4Health Programme****Lead DG: SANTE**

Associated DGs: HERA

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense human suffering across the European Union and pushed the EU health systems to their limits. The crisis spotlighted the fragility of the national and local health systems and the need for a coordinated strong action at Union level in complementing the health policies of the Member States in order to improve people's health throughout the Union and ensure that public health protection is taken into account in all Union policies.

The EU4Health Programme is a key instrument for delivering a comprehensive response to the health needs of the European citizens, reflecting the lessons learned from both the COVID 19 crisis and previous health programmes.

The Programme contributes to build strong foundations for a European Health Union, in which the EU and Member States work together to reinforce their coordination and to strengthen existing structures and mechanisms for better protection, prevention, preparedness and response against risks to human health.

The EU4Health Programme is a unique opportunity to address critical EU health challenges and improve the access to health for all European citizens addressing health inequalities and inequities in relation to healthcare, making sure that Europe remains the healthiest region in the world

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The EU4Health Programme brings a Union added value and complements the policies of the Member States to pursue the general objectives of:

- improving and fostering **health in the Union** to reduce the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, by supporting health promotion and disease prevention, by reducing health inequalities, by fostering healthy lifestyles and by promoting access to healthcare;
- protecting people in the Union from serious **cross-border threats to health** and strengthening the responsiveness of health systems and coordination among the Member States in order to cope with serious cross-border threats to health;
- improving the availability, accessibility and affordability of **medicinal products and medical devices**, and crisis-relevant products in the Union, and supporting innovation regarding such products;
- strengthening **health systems** by improving their resilience and resource efficiency, in particular through:
 - supporting integrated and coordinated work between Member States;
 - promoting the implementation of best practices and promoting data sharing;
 - reinforcing the healthcare workforce;
 - tackling the implications of demographic challenges; and
 - advancing digital transformation.

The Programme will create efficiency gains and value-added impacts that could not be generated by action taken at national level.

Where applicable, the Programme will keep the 'One Health' approach recognising the interconnection between human health, animal health and more broadly with the environment in tackling threats to health.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme will achieve its general objectives by means of ten specific objectives:

1. In synergy with other relevant Union actions, supporting actions for **disease prevention, for health promotion and for addressing health determinants**, including through:
 - the reduction of damage to health resulting from illicit drug use and addiction;
 - supporting actions to address inequalities in health, to improve health literacy, to improve patient rights, patient safety, quality of care and cross-border healthcare; and
 - supporting actions for the improvement of the surveillance, diagnosis and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, in particular cancer and paediatric cancer, in synergy with other relevant Union actions;
 - supporting actions to improve mental health, with special attention given to new care models and the challenges of long term care, in order to strengthen the resilience of the health systems in the Union.
2. Strengthening the capability of the Union for **prevention of, preparedness for, and rapid response to, serious cross-border threats to health** in accordance with relevant Union legislation, and improving the management of health crises, particularly through:
 - the coordination, provision and deployment of emergency healthcare capacity;
 - supporting data gathering, information exchange, surveillance, the coordination of voluntary stress testing of national healthcare systems; and
 - the development of quality healthcare standards at national level.

3. Supporting actions to enhance the **availability, accessibility and affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products** by encouraging sustainable production and supply chains and innovation in the Union, while supporting the prudent and efficient use of medicinal products, in particular antimicrobials, and actions to support the development of medicinal products that are less harmful for the environment, as well as the environmentally-friendly production and disposal of medicinal products and medical devices.
4. Supporting actions complementing **national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products**, at Union level, where needed, in synergy with other Union instruments, programmes and funds, without prejudice to Member State competences, and in close cooperation with relevant Union bodies.
5. Establishing a **structure and training resources for a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff** allocated voluntarily by Member States for its mobilisation in the event of a health crisis, in synergy with other Union instruments, programmes and funds, without prejudice to Member State competences and in close cooperation with the ECDC.
6. Strengthening the **use and re-use of health data for the provision of healthcare and for research and innovation**, promoting the uptake of digital tools and services, as well as the digital transformation of healthcare systems, including by supporting the creation of a European health data space.
7. Enhancing **access to quality, patient-centred, outcome-based healthcare and related care services**, with the aim of achieving universal health coverage.
8. Supporting the development, implementation and enforcement and, where necessary, the revision of **Union health legislation** and supporting the provision of valid, reliable and comparable high-quality **data** for evidence-based decision-making and monitoring, and promoting the use of health **impact assessments** of other relevant Union policies.
9. Supporting **integrated work among Member States, and in particular their health systems**, including
 - the implementation of high-impact prevention practices,
 - supporting work on HTA, and
 - strengthening and scaling up networking through the ERNs and other transnational networks, including in the area of diseases other than rare diseases, to increase the coverage of patients and improve the response to low prevalence and complex communicable and non-communicable diseases.
10. Supporting **global commitments** and health initiatives by reinforcing the Union's support for actions by international organisations, in particular actions by the WHO, and fostering cooperation with third countries.

The Programme will need to be dynamic and flexible to adapt to new emerging health challenges, and to serve the EU and the Member States in their evolving needs and priorities, making sure that the support provided by the EU4Health Programme is based on national needs.

1.4. Public intervention context

The new EU4Health Programme is a reinforced programme for the Union's action in the field of health, which will focus on EU-added value actions in line with the goals of the Union action and its competences in the area of public health.

Article 168 TFEU provides that the Union is to complement and support national health policies, encourage cooperation between Member States and promote the coordination between their programmes, while fully respecting the responsibilities of Member States for the definition of their health policies and for the organisation, management and delivery of health services and medical care.

A broad range of beneficiaries could access the EU4Health programme funds such as national, European, and international health institutions, but also public authorities, academia/research institutes, health practitioners, as well as civil society organisations when eligibility criteria are met. Natural persons are not eligible for grants under the Programme.

1.5. Actions

The Programme is going to be implemented through a variety of possible eligible actions (listed in Annex I of the Programme).

The actions expected to be addressed by the 2021 Programme implementation are clustered under four over-arching 'programme strands', along with a transversal priority for cancer:

- **Crisis preparedness** – including actions for prevention, preparedness and rapid response to serious cross-border threats to health; for mitigating risks of shortages of medicines; and for ensuring coordination, provision and deployment of

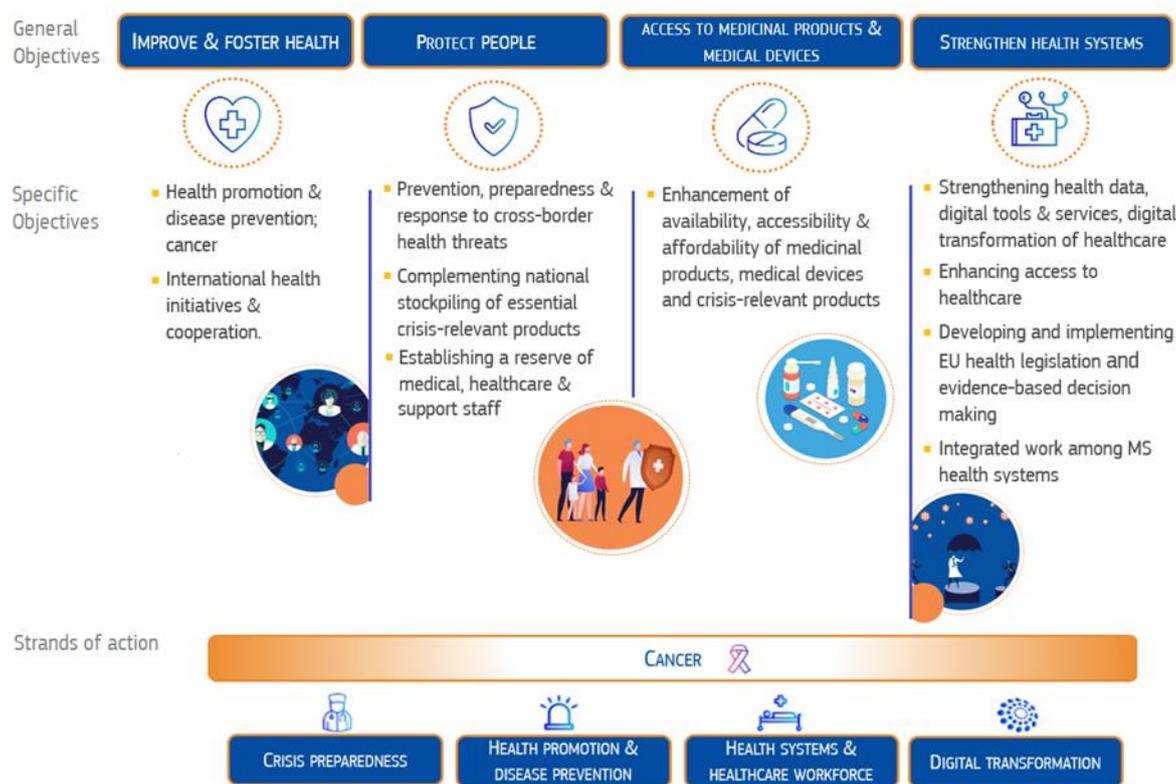
emergency healthcare capacity, including the preparatory actions for the European Health Emergency preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

- **Disease prevention** – including actions enhancing the surveillance, diagnosis and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases; exchange of best practices and data; and health promotion.
- **Health systems and healthcare workforce** – including actions improving accessibility, efficiency and resilience of health systems; reducing inequalities in accessing health care; scaling up networking through the European Reference Networks.
- **Digital** – including actions strengthening the use and re-use of health data for the provision of healthcare and for research and innovation; advancing in the uptake of digital tools and services, as well as the digital transformation of healthcare systems; supporting the creation of a European Health Data space.
- **Cancer** is a major initiative and transversal priority, implemented by specific actions and actions under the other strands and linked to the Europe’s Beating cancer plan.

1.6. Delivery mode

The EU4Health Programme is mainly implemented by direct management, using in particular grants, prizes and procurement, as well as indirect management. Major part of the EU4Health Programme is expected to be delegated for implementation to the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/522 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing a Programme for the Union’s action in the field of health (‘EU4Health Programme’) for the period 2021-2027, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	2 446.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	329.1	839.7	731.8	308.1	318.1	326.2	243.7	3 096.5
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	8.7	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	8.7
Total	337.8	839.7	731.8	308.1	318.1	326.2	243.7	3 105.3

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The EU4Health Programme is implemented mainly by the Commission (DG SANTE and HERA) through direct and indirect management, and the implementation of a large part of the direct management actions has been delegated to the executive agency HaDEA. The EU4Health Programme is cooperating closely with the European Commission's main research programme, Horizon Europe (HE), which includes a health cluster, and with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM).

The European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) will implement, next to the EU4Health credits, mainly HE and UCPM/RescEU credits in order to achieve its mission to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to health emergencies.

The Commission is currently in the process of amending the EU4Health Work Programme 2022 for funding a EUR 7 million contribution agreement with International Organisation (Red Cross) to provide mental health support to displaced people coming from Ukraine who have entered the Union or other neighbouring countries since the beginning of the Ukraine crisis.

Ukraine is not associated to the EU4Health programme and hence cannot participate to any funded activity. However, many of the actions funded under the EU4Health programme will include also displaced people coming from Ukraine.

Moreover, the Commission is discussing the association agreement of Ukraine to the EU4Health programme.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The EU4Health Programme is a new and stand-alone financial instrument that provides a solid basis for a coordinated Union action and an unprecedented EU investment in health; the new programme is also a response to lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and adds actions to implement the Europe's Beating Cancer plan and the Pharmaceuticals Strategy. The EU4Health programme will ensure continuity with the work done under the MFF 2014-2020; in particular with the work for reducing the number of antimicrobial-resistant infections and improvement of vaccination rates. Building on the results of the Third Health Programme, the EU4Health programme will expand successful initiatives such as the European Reference Networks for rare diseases and will continue to pursue EU global commitments and health initiatives.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?**2.1. Programme 2021-2027**

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	337.8	3 105.3	11%
Payments	11.6		0 %

Considering the late adoption of the 2021 Annual Work Programme in June 2021, the establishment of the new European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) in February 2021 and of the new European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) on 16 September 2021, the actions envisaged under the EU4Health Programme have started with a slight delay. Therefore, and given the lead time for the signature of grant agreements (up to 9 months) and for procurement actions, only a small amount of payment appropriations were needed in 2021.

The 2022 Annual Work Programme was adopted on 14 January 2022.

In 2021, a major part of the fresh payment credits was addressed to the expert panel meetings on effective ways of investing in health, as well as for a few activities under the European database for Medical Devices (EUDAMED). To be noted that along with the start-up of the implementation of the EU4Health programme, in 2021 also a significant number of activities of the third Health Programme were finalised, with a total budget of EUR 47.1 million.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the establishment of a third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1350/2007/EC	2014 – 2020	449.4

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Administrative support	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10.5
Operational appropriations	52.9	54.0	56.5	58.8	60.5	62.3	63.6	408.5
Executive Agency	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.6	30.3
Total	58.6	59.8	62.2	64.5	66.4	68.3	69.7	449.4^(*)

(*) Figure in 2014 prices

2. Implementation rates

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	452.1	452	100%
Payments	352.3		78%

As of first quarter 2021, 100% of the allocated budget (EUR 452.3 million on the period 2014-2020) has been committed through projects and other actions pursuing the Programme's objectives; 67% of the total budget (i.e. EUR 305.3 million) has been paid to participants/beneficiaries or for the procurement of services necessary for the implementation of the Programme. Outstanding payments (33% of the budget or EUR 147 million) account for projects or actions launched in the last 2-3 years which are not yet completed and therefore have not led to final payments by the Commission.

Objective 1: promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles:

34 % of the overall Programme budget. From those, EUR 8 million were spent on cancer, inter alia to support screening programmes in MS, improve the quality of patients' lives, address survivorship issues, look into the impact of research in cancer and the uptake of innovative treatments; EUR 11 million were channelled towards the prevention of major risk factors i.e. on alcohol and tobacco control, physical activity and nutrition. Other activities addressed the prevention of chronic diseases, including through the promotion of uptake of validated best practices across the EU in cardiovascular disease or diabetes prevention.

Objective 2: protect Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats:

10 % of the overall budget; more than EUR 14 million were spent for projects to ensure that EU Member States are well prepared to respond to a possible major health threat. These included several table top or other types of exercises addressing generic preparedness; capacity building actions such a quality assurance for diagnostic capacity, as well as specific activities addressing the air transport and shipping sectors. They also included several actions supporting Member States in addressing the challenges of the migratory crisis of 2015-2016.

Objective 3: support public health capacity-building and contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems:

27 % of the operational budget. From those, EUR 30 million were invested in the collaboration on Health Technology Assessment, to develop commonly agreed tools and procedures, as well as carrying out joint assessments or early dialogues, in an approach recognizing the full life cycle of health technologies. Other actions supported the exchange of experience and best practices in addressing the ageing of the population, promoted integrated care models and practices (Joint Action on implementation of digitally enabled integrated person-centred care – JADECARE was launched in autumn 2020 and will run for three years) or supported the EU eHealth network in promoting the uptake of digital solutions. The Joint Action on health information helped to streamline and harmonise health information activities across Europe by working towards building a sustainable and solid infrastructure on EU health information and to enhance coherence and sustainability.

Objective 4: facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens:

27 % of the overall budget. From that, EUR 26 million were invested for set up cost and coordination of the European Reference Networks, including through the assessment of the networks and their healthcare provider members. The effort to jointly address the effects and challenges of increased anti-microbial resistance and healthcare acquired infections; the support to the Member States' collaboration in the area of blood, tissues and cells; and rare diseases were key priority areas of the health programme spending.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The EU4Health programme was adopted on 24 March 2021, at a time when national health systems were facing unparalleled threats due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme brings an unprecedented level of EU investment (EUR 5.3 billion during 2021-27) to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to reinforce EU and Member States crisis preparedness and to EU's long-term response to health challenges by building stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems.

The EU4Health Programme is one of the main instruments of the European Union to implement its policy objectives in the area of health and to pave the way towards a European Health Union.

The EU4Health Programme supports the implementation of Union priorities such as the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the establishment of European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority ('HERA'), the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and the implementation of Union health legislation.

The annual work programmes set out the priorities and actions for the year, including the resource allocation, for the implementation of the EU4Health Programme.

According to the Programme Regulation, health promotion and disease prevention actions are at focus, at least 20% of the programme's funding will be dedicated to this area. A maximum of 12,5 % of the amounts shall be reserved for complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products at Union level; as well a maximum of 12,5 % shall be reserved for supporting global commitments and health initiatives; and a maximum of 8 % of the amounts shall be reserved for covering administrative.

The year 2021 was the first year of implementation of the programme, and the 2021 work programme was adopted only 3 months after the adoption of the legal base. In this year the processes for ensuring the functioning of the programme were put into operation:

- engaging with the Member States in the EU4Health Steering Group to identify the priorities and strategic orientations for the 2021 and 2022 annual work programmes;
- consulting stakeholders on the needs to be addressed through these annual work programmes, and informing the European Parliament on the outcome of the proceedings of the EU4Health Steering Group and of the stakeholder outreach activities;
- identifying and coordinating synergies and complementarities with other EU spending programmes, funds and initiatives; preparing agreements for association of interested Third Countries to the funding activities.

As well, in 2021 work programme actions have been included for key initiatives such as the preparations for the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and the European Health Data Space (EHDS), as well as for supporting initiatives under Commission priorities such as the European Beating Cancer Plan and the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe.

the majority of the actions included in the work programme 2021 have been launched.

On 24 June 2021, three months after adoption of the EU4Health Regulation, following the consultation with stakeholders and a positive opinion of the EU4Health Programme Committee, the Commission adopted the 2021 work programme. This first annual work programme provided around EUR 312 million for targeted investments in health with the main focus on actions to strengthen

the EU's crisis preparedness and management of cross-border health threats (EUR 106.0 million), and on health promotion and disease prevention activities (EUR 104.1 million) that included actions implementing the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, one of the major EU public health initiatives of the Commission.

On 14 January 2022, the second annual work programme for 2022 was adopted, making available for investment a significant budget of EUR 815.2 million.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Under the 2021 Work Programme, the European Commission has invested about EUR 312 million in 2021 to progress toward the achievement of the EU4Health programme objectives and in line with EU the long-term vision for a healthier Europe.

More than one third of the funds (34.0%) were allocated to safeguard, prepare, and respond to future health crises. Under the **crisis preparedness strand**, also drawing from the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, actions funded aim to enhance preparedness of Member States to future health crises; to address medicine shortages; to support clinical trials for COVID-19 therapeutics; to improve capacity to detect infectious diseases; and to prepare the European Health Emergency and Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA). This work is of paramount importance to protect the health of people.

Another third of the 2021 Work Programme budget (32.5%) is aimed at actions under the **disease prevention and health promotion strand**, including flagship initiatives of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan on the prevention and detection of cancer, as well as to collect, share and implement best practices on health promotion and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related risk factors. In addition, the 2021 Work Programme supported the creation of a Disease Knowledge Gate and the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive. These interventions will contribute to improving and fostering health in the Union, as well as to reduce inequalities, promoting healthy lifestyles and access to healthcare.

Actions on **health systems and health workforce** with a budget of EUR 68.5 million were directed towards the strengthening of national health systems, the implementation of the new Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, the implementation of the pharmaceutical and medical devices legislations and to improve the European Reference Networks (ERNs).

The **digital strand** has been allocated around EUR 32 million for the establishment of the European Health Data Space, involving the infrastructure and governance of primary and secondary use of data. Patient access and data interoperability will be supported. This a first critical investment for advancing the digital transformation of health systems to complement healthcare, and make it more effective.

2021 EU4Health Work Programme

	EUR Million	%
Crisis Preparedness	106.0	34.0%
Health promotion & disease prevention	101.4	32.5%
Health systems & healthcare workforce	68.5	22.0%
Digital	32.5	10.4%
Other	3.3	1.1%
TOTAL	311.7	100%

The programming has been finalised in a record time, and implementation is now following and on the good track for its finalisation.

Funds committed in the 2021 Work Programme have been mainly deployed via grants (51% of total budget) and procurement (47%); the remaining budget has been deployed in prizes and other activities and expenditure. The implementation of the majority of the EU4Health Programme, has been assigned to the newly established [European Health and Digital Executive Agency \(HaDEA\)](#), while DG SANTE has a role in managing the EU4Health programme and adopting the annual work programmes as well as implementing a smaller part of the EU4Health programme.

According to the information available in January 2022, the implementation of the EU4Health Work Programme 2021 was well advanced, with almost 100% of Grant procedures launched, and with 7.7% of procurement actions launched (as recorded at 31 December 2021). In the first months of 2022, almost all remaining procurement actions have been launched.

2021 EU4Health Work Programme

	EUR Million	%
Grants	159.8	51.3%
Procurement	145.9	46.8%
Prizes	0.4	0.1%

Other activities and expenditure	5.6	1.8%
TOTAL	311.7	100%

The EU4Health Programme has already in place a sound performance framework, developed by the Commission and stemming out from the list of performance indicators listed in Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/522 agreed by the European Parliament and the Council.

Those indicators are complemented by a more comprehensive set of indicators, as part of the monitoring and evaluation framework of the EU4Health Programme. For each action (i.e. grants, procurement or prizes), meaningful indicators are systematically included, as necessary and beneficiaries are requested to collect data for measuring and monitoring progress of implementation and for highlighting the key results achieved.

The Commission and HaDEA will ensure that data and information are available for these indicators timely and that are of sufficient quality and reliability; given limited resources, indicators are selected for ensuring that the data collection is also cost-efficient.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

In line with the results of the mid-term evaluation of 2017, the Commission (DG SANTE) considers that the Health Programme has been performing well and has been effectively implemented, contributing to better health protection through its policies and activities, in accordance with Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The programme has addressed efficiently the Commission priorities on the implementation of best practices for health promotion and diseases prevention, crisis preparedness and risk management, relevant information in the framework of the EU semester, mental health, and health and innovation.

In the period 2014-2020, the Court of Auditors published several reports assessing the implementation of the Health programme. In the Special report no 07/2019¹ on Cross-border healthcare access, the Court of Auditors mentioned: 'EU actions in cross-border healthcare enhanced cooperation between Member States. The Commission has overseen the implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive well'. This Special report (SR 07/2019) also identified certain shortcomings and improvements to be made in terms of administrative burden reduction and long-term financial sustainability of the European Reference Networks (ERNs). In the ECA's Special report no 21/2019 on Addressing Antimicrobial resistance² it is emphasized that 'Fighting against antimicrobial resistance is complicated. The Commission and ECDC support to strengthen Member States One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance was valuable'. However, the Court observed challenges, particularly with regard to the sustainable implementation of the results in the Member States. These were addressed in the EU4Health programme, which includes actions for supporting the prudent and efficient use of medicinal products, in particular antimicrobials.

While reorienting and gearing a proportion of its resources towards fighting the covid-19 pandemic, the 3rd Health Programme continued the implementation of main actions under the programme with a view to enhancing and further consolidating key achievements over the implementation period 2014-2020.

A majority of indicators and sub-indicators (except one sub-indicator³) for assessing the performance of the Programme's general and specific objectives showed positive trends over the implementation period 2014-2020, with many of them meeting their targets set out for the year 2020. The performance indicators linked to the programme's specific objectives are relevant, measurable and realistic.

Objective 1: promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles:

Indicator: number of Member States involved in health promotion and disease prevention, using evidence-based and good practices through measures and actions taken at the appropriate level in Member States

This composite indicator reached in 2020, the value of 24 for most of its components except for the one relating the European accreditation scheme for breast cancer for which the number of involved Member States was 6.

Objective 2: protect Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats:

Indicator: number of Member States integrating coherent approaches in the design of their preparedness plans

This indicator reached its highest value of 28⁴ in 2020.

Objective 3: support public health capacity-building and contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems:

¹ https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19_07/SR_HEALTH_CARE_EN.pdf

² https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/SR19_21/SR_Antimicrobial_resistance_EN.pdf

³ **Indicator** : number of Member States involved in health promotion and disease prevention, using evidence-based and good practices through measures and actions taken at the appropriate level in Member States, **Sub-indicator: Cancer**

⁴ UK included

Indicator: advice produced and the number of Member States using the tools and mechanisms identified in order to contribute to effective results in their health systems

This composite indicator reached in 2020 the value of 41 for the number of advice produced and 23 for the number of Member States using the tools and mechanisms identified in order to contribute to effective results in their health systems.

Objective 4: facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens:

Indicator: number of European reference networks established in accordance with Directive 2011/24/EU; number of healthcare providers and centres of expertise joining European reference networks; number of Member States using the tools developed

This composite indicator reached in 2020, 30 for the number of European reference networks established in accordance with Directive 2011/24/EU, 1185 for the number of healthcare providers and centres of expertise joining European reference networks; and 28 for the number of Member States using the tools developed.

The following actions corresponding to the Commission priorities⁵ were taken:

(i) Health security and Covid-19

The Commission steered running actions in the area of health security to contribute to the fight against the pandemic. Key examples are: the [Joint Action Healthy gateways](#) supports the coordination among EU countries to improve capacity for combating cross-border health threats at points of entry, including ports, airports and ground crossings, and the [Joint Action on Strengthened International Health Regulations and preparedness \(SHARP\)](#)⁶ which collaborated with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) [EVD-LabNet \(Emerging Viral Diseases-Expert Laboratory Network\)](#) in ensuring quality control and capacity building for precise diagnostics at an early phase of the pandemic and demonstrated the importance of using laboratory networks as a preparedness and response tool.

(ii) Vaccination

Vaccination was already high on the EU political agenda before the emergence of COVID-19. Previous work carried out in this area demonstrated the added value of EU cooperation in this area.

In December 2019, the Health Programme launched a study **on an EU citizens' vaccination card**. The proposed templates resulting from this study are tested in a sample of 10 000 citizens per country across 10 Member States, this pilot testing covering a potential population of more than 200 million citizens. In 2020, the **Joint Action on Vaccination** focused specifically on vaccine hesitancy and uptake, identified by the WHO in 2019 as one of ten top health threats to global health and included in the Commission's roadmap on strengthening cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases.

Four projects were launched in 2021 on improving vaccination access and uptake. The IMMUNION project (Improving IMMunisation cooperation in the European UNION) focuses on increasing vaccine uptake and contributing to the 2018 Council Recommendation on vaccination while also adding value to EU and national initiatives - particularly the Coalition for Vaccination.

(iii) Implementation of best practices for health promotion and diseases prevention:

The online 'best practice portal' was launched in April 2018. Since June 2018, it counted more than 6 650 visitors from all EU Member States as well as neighbouring countries. Portal visitors can access good practices collected by previous Health Programme actions. Stakeholders can also submit a practice for evaluation.

As of 2020, more than 12 selected best practices are implemented across 75% of the EU countries, in areas such as integrated care; mental health and the fight against depression; nutrition and physical activity; prevention of alcohol abuse or chronic disease prevention and management. A joint action with EU countries was launched on the exchange and implementation of best practices in the field mental health, in particular regarding suicide prevention and the reform of mental health services.

Actions in the field of nutrition delivered important outputs and tools, justifying the need for public health decision makers to invest in prevention rather than cure. A review of the available evidence for cost-effective prevention interventions has identified the food reformulation as the 'best value for money' action to improve nutrition patterns. The Programme also supported the development of a database of nutritional information on processed food and drink products on the market in 16 Member States.

Actions to promote health and to prevent diseases also included the launching of a joint action with EU countries⁷ on the exchange of best practices for the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU)⁸ and e-cigarette regulation.

(iv) The establishment of 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs):

⁵ Priorities are defined in the recent annual work programmes of the 3rd Health Programme and in

⁶ The JA SHARP supports coordination among EU reference laboratories to prevent, detect and respond to biological outbreaks, chemical contamination and environmental and unknown threats to human health

⁷ 'EU countries' includes all countries participating in the Third Health Programme.

⁸ [EUR-Lex - 32014L0040 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#).

ERNs are virtual networks involving healthcare providers across Europe. They aim to tackle complex or rare medical diseases or conditions that require highly specialised treatment and a concentration of knowledge and resources. To review a patient's diagnosis and treatment, ERN coordinators are convening a 'virtual' advisory board of medical specialists across different disciplines, using a dedicated IT platform and telemedicine tools. This way, the medical knowledge and expertise travel rather than the patients.

Using the clinical patient management system (CPMS), the members of the ERNs have already been able to consult, explore, diagnose and decide on cases of particular complexity. In February 2019, the ERNs had used 458 panels to discuss 444 patient cases, and the number of cases opened in the CPMS regularly evolves (see for example <https://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=1164244>).

The first ERNs are up and running since March 2017. During the current MFF 2021-2027, as the ERNs reach full capacity, thousands of EU patients suffering from a rare or complex condition can expect to benefit. In addition, several networks received co-funding to set up disease and patient registries, building on the clinical patient management system provided through the DG SANTE IT platform.

(v) Crisis preparedness and management:

In 2018, the Joint Action EMERGE – Efficient response to highly dangerous and emerging pathogens at EU level – has delivered on its work for the improvement of capabilities for rapid laboratory diagnosis of new or emerging pathogens (e.g. sample sharing). The Joint Action also contributed to combating the outbreaks of ZIKA and Ebola.

The Health Programme is also playing a crucial role in addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), by defining common approaches to fight AMR and to control healthcare-associated infections in line with ongoing EU and international policies.

Funded under the AWP 2017 (EU contribution of EUR 6.9 million) the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI) supports EU Member States in developing and implementing effective one health action plans against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthcare associated infections (HCAI).

(vi) State of Health in the EU - (1) Country Health Profiles 2019 and (2) Health at a Glance 2020: Europe

On 28 November 2019, the European Commission published 30 *Country Health Profiles* delivered as part of the *State of Health in the EU* cycle. The accompanying 'Companion Report' (a Commission Staff Working Document) and factsheet flagged five key challenges faced by EU health systems:

- Tackling the decline in vaccination confidence across the EU,
- Harnessing the digital transformation of health promotion & disease prevention,
- Strengthening the evidence base on access to healthcare,
- Shifting tasks and changing the skill mix to explore new ways of providing care,
- Breaking down silos for safe, effective and affordable medicines.

Several of these are closely linked to objective 3 of the Health Programme and to the key priorities of the 2019-2024 Commission as set out in the mission letter to Commissioner Kyriakides. Several of these actions were supported by the 3rd Health Programme (see below sections on health and innovation, vaccination and access to medicines).

In November 2020, the European Commission and the OECD published *Health at a Glance: Europe 2020*, which the first comparative study on how European countries have experienced and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Delivered under the *State of Health in the EU* grant⁹, the joint EC-OECD report provided a much-needed preliminary assessment of the effectiveness of European countries' COVID-19 containment and mitigation measures; health systems capacity; testing strategies; measures to protect vulnerable groups; and continuity of care for non-COVID patients. The report provides policymakers with high-quality evidence and emerging insights on how to develop more effective health policy interventions to build greater resilience in the short and the long term.

In addition to the chapter assessing countries' resilience to the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 edition of *Health at a Glance: Europe* provides an assessment of the health impact of air pollution on EU citizens. Lastly, the report also provides comparative analyses of the health status, risk factors, health expenditure, quality and access to care in 36 European countries.

(vii) Accessible and affordable medical technologies:

The *State of Health in the EU's* 'Companion Report' raised the issue of access to affordable medical technologies whether pharmaceutical products or medical devices, as being essential for the sustainability and resilience of health systems. This is a challenging area, combining implementation of legislation (notably for medical devices); common if not harmonized life-cycle

⁹ The *State of Health in the EU* cycle was created in 2016 with a view to develop "expertise on performance assessments of health systems, [...] and build up country-specific and cross-country knowledge which can inform health policies at national and European level - including the work of the European Semester of economic policy coordination".

based assessment methods; shared information and expertise on pricing and procurement methods, including joint procurement or other collaboration mechanisms.

The contribution of the health programme is important in this area, through the following:

- It supports the work of civil society and the contribution to the EU level policy dialogue in this field of stakeholder organisations, through the operating grants awarded to Health Action International; the European Public Health Alliance; and the European Organisation of Rare Diseases Associations.
- It provides continuing financial support to the work of the EUnetHTA 3 Joint Action: The piloting of the EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment has proven successful. By the end of 2019, the EUnetHTA 3 Joint Action carried out 27 joint reports (13 assessments and 14 early dialogues).
- A service contract was concluded in 2021 for the provision of joint Health Technology Assessment (HTA) work supporting the continuation of EU cooperation on HTA. The scope of this tender is to address the existing methodological issues in order to foster joint work on HTA, while also supporting EU co-operation on HTA beyond the end of the Joint Action EUnetHTA. Therefore, this service provides relevant input for a potential new legal framework on HTA.

In particular, the tender shall lead to the further development of HTA methodology applicable to both Joint Clinical Assessments and Joint Scientific Consultations, a task of high significance in areas where divergent opinions persist. Furthermore, the HTA tender shall continue and advance work undertaken under the Joint Action EUnetHTA, through the coordination of the above-mentioned joint activities, the interaction with stakeholders' representatives (i.e. patients, health professionals and industry), academia and relevant EU/international organisations and initiatives on HTA.

viii) Digital innovation – paving the way to a European health data space

The Commission aims to support EU Member States in making the most of the potential of e-health to provide high-quality healthcare and reduce inequalities. Key to achieving this aim is the creation of a 'European Health Data Space', to promote health-data exchange and support research on new preventive strategies, as well as on treatments, medicines, medical devices and outcomes. The Joint Action TEHDAS (The European Health Data Space) was launched, with 25 participating countries, to facilitate the establishment of a European Health Data Space, a critical step for data sharing in the domain of health.

ix) Supporting the implementation of the new medical devices regulations

The Commission aims to support EU Member States in making the most of the potential of e-health to provide high-quality healthcare and reduce inequalities. Key to achieving this aim is the creation of a 'European Health Data Space', to promote health-data exchange and support research on new preventive strategies, as well as on treatments, medicines, medical devices and outcomes. The Joint Action TEHDAS (The European Health Data Space) was launched, with 25 participating countries, to facilitate the establishment of a European Health Data Space, a critical step for data sharing in the domain of health.

ix) Supporting the implementation of the new medical devices regulations

In 2019, through service contracts, the first communication and information campaign on Medical Devices was implemented, informing stakeholders about the legislative changes brought by the new EU legislation on Medical Devices and in-vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices which will enter into force in May 2020. The campaign mapped all relevant stakeholders, numbering more than 2000 contacts in and outside the EU. It produced eight informative factsheets translated in all EU languages, as well as in Chinese, Japanese and Arabic. The campaign also comprises the organisation of webinars addressed to stakeholders as well as other information material in a layman language.

In 2019, the Joint Action on Market Surveillance of Medical Devices (JAMS) came to its end, yielding significant added value by reinforcing the market surveillance system for medical devices and improving coordination and cooperation among all European Union's countries.

SCHEER (Scientific Committee on health, environmental and emerging risks) is providing the Commission with risk assessment and scientific advice on medical devices (like hip implants, breast implants, phthalates used in medical devices...).

x) Addressing health inequalities

The Joint Action on Health Equity (JAHE), funded under the 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020 has been an important opportunity for Member States to work jointly to address health inequalities and achieve greater equity in health outcomes across all groups in society, in all participating countries and in Europe at large. The general objective of this initiative is to improve health and well-being of European citizens across all groups in society. It also has a specific focus on both vulnerable groups and migrants.

xi) Tobacco control (JATC and JATC2):

In 2020 the Joint Action on Tobacco control (JATC) produced key deliverables fostering an harmonised implementation of the Tobacco products' directive across the EU: it mapped the implementation's state of play across the EU; it conducted a needs assessment identifying the areas of support for national competent authorities; it assessed the laboratory testing capacity of national regulators; it looked at emerging trends and new challenges, such as the electronic cigarettes; it reviewed the system of enhanced reporting of additives; and it developed guidelines both on the technical and legal dimensions for improving data sharing and

exchange from the EU-CEG across the Member States. The Health Programme also supported the **EU tobacco tracking and tracing system**, in cooperation with WHO and is implementing the development of a set of automatic alerts, exploiting the massive amount of traceability data so as to identify fraud patterns, suspicious behaviours and spot possible fraudsters¹⁰.

These actions were followed in 2021 by the launching with EU countries¹¹ of a joint action (JATC2) on the exchange of best practices for the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU)¹² and e-cigarette regulation.

Amongst others, JATC2 aims to ensure greater consistency in the application of the Tobacco Products Directive to ensure a fair internal market for tobacco and related products, especially regarding market surveillance and enforcement. In that direction, it will identify and assess the existing legal framework regarding tobacco advertising and advertising of emerging products.

xii) *Facilitating access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens*

A study supporting the impact assessment of the revision of Directive 2002/98/EC on safety and quality of human blood and blood components and of Directive 2004/23/EC on safety and quality of human tissues and cells and of their implementing acts was launched. The duration of the contract is nine months and the scope of the study is to support the European Commission in preparing an impact assessment supporting the Revision of the Union legislation on blood, tissues and cells.

The specific objectives are to:

- Provide a description of the baseline. Moreover, to summarize the key elements of the evaluation and complement the problem definition by gathering and analysing evidence on borderline technologies/therapies and the impact and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Measure the likely economic, social and environmental impacts of each of the options. A preliminary identification of the key impacts is in section 1.6. of the study.
- Analyse the effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of policy options in order to achieve the objectives of the revision.

xiii) *Cooperation with Member States through joint actions*

To complement the above actions, a joint action was launched in 2021 on Increasing the capacity of National Focal Points to provide guidance, information and assistance to national applicants on the EU4Health programme and other EU funding instruments, and another joint action addressing the Differences in national implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the health sector-Development of a code of conduct for data processing.

Main achievements of the Health programme:

- Following the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic in the first quarter of 2020, the Programme's on-going actions have been reoriented in emergency mode, towards combatting the pandemic. For example, the Healthy Gateways Joint Action¹³ organised training courses for trainers and specific webinars, providing guidance including questions and answers on points of entry and borders. The SHARP Joint Action¹⁴ (Strengthened International HeAlth Regulations and Preparedness in the EU) supported laboratory diagnostics for covid-19, and mapping the current existing facilities and clinical capacities. In addition to the Health Programme, and in the context of the Joint Procurement Agreement to procure medical countermeasures¹⁵ DG SANTE launched, in emergency mode, joint procurements for protective personal equipment (PPE), for ventilators/respirators, laboratory equipment, covid-19 treatments and vaccines.
- In April 2018 DG SANTE launched the online 'best practice portal'. Since June 2018, it counted more than 6 650 visitors from all EU Member States as well as neighbouring countries.
- Efficient response to highly dangerous and emerging pathogens at EU level (Joint Action EMERGE) and improvement of capabilities for rapid laboratory diagnosis of new or emerging pathogens (e.g. Ebola, Zika).
- Four projects funded in 2021 targeting the increase vaccination uptake. Three of them were focused on increasing access to vaccination for disadvantaged, isolated, difficult-to-reach groups and newly arrived migrants (taking into account a life-course approach). The fourth project ActToVax4Nam (Increased Access To Vaccination for Newly Arrived Migrants), targets exclusively newly arrived migrants – in first-line, transit and destination countries – and aims to make access to vaccination equitable and guaranteed.
- The establishment of 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs), which are providing greater access to high quality healthcare and information, accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment to patients affected by rare or low prevalence diseases. In this first phase (2017-2018), ERNs include more than 900 highly specialised healthcare providers in 300 hospitals across the EU.

¹⁰ The current COVID-19 related restrictions are impacting progress in this work: the contractor cannot access the data room located in the Commission premises

¹¹ 'EU countries' includes all countries participating in the Third Health Programme.

¹² [EUR-Lex - 32014L0040 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/lexuris/ui/entry.do?uri=EUR-Lex%3A32014L0040-EN-EN).

¹³ www.healthygateways.eu

¹⁴ www.sharpja.eu

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/joint_procurement_en

- In 2020 DG SANTE concluded a new call for expression of interest for healthcare providers (HCPs) wishing to join ERNs. CHAFEA subsequently launched a request for services to the Independent Assessment Bodies (IABs) to assess the compliance of the HCPs with the criteria included in the relevant EU legislation.
- 2020 also marked an acceleration of the work on patient registries within the ERNs, in line with the digital innovation priority: EUR 3,8 million were allocated through 19 grants.
- Effective evaluations and studies conducted: in 2020, DG SANTE/CHAFEA launched a request for services to prepare the impact assessment of the legislation on blood tissues and cells (BTC). An evaluation of this landmark legislation was carried out in 2019, leading to specific recommendations for its revision. CHAFEA signed two important service contracts targeting Antimicrobial resistance addressing both human and animal dimensions of the problem under the 'One Health' strategy. A review of the available evidence for cost-effective prevention interventions has identified the food reformulation as the 'best value for money' action to improve nutrition patterns. A service contract was concluded in 2020 to develop a database of nutritional information on processed food and drink products on the market in 16 Member States. This work is complemented by a second study which will map fiscal measures and pricing policies applied to alcohol and products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS), including non-alcoholic beverages. The study 'Support for the health workforce planning and forecasting expert network - SEPEN' concluded that 75% of EU countries have health workforce planning systems in place; but that their focus remains limited to planning medical professions (GPs, medical specialists), while an innovative approach would require an enlarged scope of planning, encompassing all five sectoral health professions (physicians, dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists). The tender on a EU citizens' vaccination card, started in December 2019 has already completed the mapping (both form and content) of existing vaccination cards and the development of three card templates (paper and digital). Currently, the proposed templates are being tested in a sample of 10 000 citizens/country across 10 Member States, this pilot testing covering a potential population of more than 200 million citizens.
- Establishment of an EU quality register ensuring the safety of medical devices.
- Establishment of an Organ Database, which has helped 34 000 transplants only in 2017.
- Set up of an EU-wide tobacco tracking and tracing system to combat illicit tobacco products trafficking.
- Second joint action on tobacco control (JATC2) was launched in order to facilitate the exchange of good practices between the Member States, therefore, aiming to improve the implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU)¹⁶ as well as implementing and delegated acts relating to e-cigarette regulation.
- Service contract signed for the provision of joint Health Technology Assessment (HTA) work supporting the continuation of EU cooperation on HTA. The scope of this tender is to address the existing methodological issues in order to foster joint work on HTA, while also supporting EU cooperation on HTA beyond the end of the Joint Action EUnetHTA. Therefore, this service provides relevant input for a potential new legal framework on HTA.
- Study supporting the impact assessment of the revision of Directive 2002/98/EC on safety and quality of human blood and blood components and of Directive 2004/23/EC on safety and quality of human tissues and cells and of their implementing acts with a view to preparing an impact assessment supporting the Revision of the Union legislation on blood, tissues and cells.

The experience from the ongoing Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated that the EU must improve health systems ready to provide state of the art services and care and to be prepared to cope with epidemics and other unforeseeable challenges.

The crisis showed for instance the importance of testing, contact tracing and public health surveillance as essential aspects of preparedness and response. It also uncovered the need for a smooth functioning single market and access to personal protective equipment, medicines and medical devices. Another the key lesson learned was that, whilst physical infrastructure could be expanded, the most pressing need became the availability of healthcare staff that were competent within intensive care units. In some instances, health care service reservists and medical students were called in and, where needed, rapid training was provided.

Maintaining rapid access to surge public health capacities, without neglecting other areas of healthcare is therefore essential, as well as non-pharmaceutical countermeasures, support to vulnerable groups (elderly, those with underlying health conditions, socially marginalised) and equitable access to vaccines.

Overall, the crisis spotlighted the fragility of the national and local health systems and the need for a coordinated strong action at Union level in complementing the health policies of the Member States in order to improve people's health throughout the Union and ensure that public health protection is taken into account in all Union policies.

3.2. Key achievements

¹⁶ [EUR-Lex - 32014L0040 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/lexUri.do?uri=CELEX:32014L0040-EN)

1185	36	27
healthcare providers and centre of expertise joined the 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs) established	European countries (27 EU Member States and non EU countries) were assessed in the context of the 2022 edition of Health at a Glance on the health impact of air pollution on citizens as well as through comparative analyses of the health status of their citizens, risk factors, health expenditure, quality and access to care	Joint reports (13 assessments and 14 early dialogues) carried out in the context of the EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and with financial support to the EUnetHTA 3 Joint Action

23	2000	3
Member States using the tools and mechanisms identified in order to contribute to effective results in their health systems	contacts with stakeholders in and outside the EU informing them about the legislative changes brought by the new EU legislation on Medical Devices and in-vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices which entered into force in May 2020	Joint Actions with the Member States reoriented in emergency to contribute to the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic

EUR 100 million	EUR 100 million	EUR 70 million
was dedicated to investment in crisis preparedness . The WP 2021 addressed the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides EUR 106.0 million for shoring up MS preparedness against health crises	was afforded to support a decisive action against cancer . Cancer is among the main causes of death in the EU and with the WP 2021 the EU4Health brings a EU contribution of EUR 101.4 million to reduce the impact of cancer, also supporting actions presented in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan	was made available for joint actions with MS . In the Work Programme 2021, EUR 69.3 million have been made available for projects aimed to reinforce involvement and cooperation among Member States on health challenges, maximizing the impact for all European citizens

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The Mid-term evaluation of the 3rd Health programme 2014-2020 was published in the Commission Report to the European Parliament and to the Council COM(2017) 586 final. The conclusion was that implementation of the Programme was on track, in alignment with the Commission’s main priorities under Article 168 TFEU and the SDG, striving to maximise synergies with other EU policies and financial instruments such as Horizon 2020. All thematic priorities remained valid and most actions delivered useful outcomes with high EU-added value, in particular for crisis management and for the safety and security in Europe.

The open public consultation provided strong support for continued cooperation through the Programme, particularly in areas such as health promotion, disease prevention and eHealth.

The Staff Working Document SWD(2017) 331 final accompanies the Commission’s report on the mid-term evaluation. It presents the main findings based on an independent external study conducted from May 2016 to May 2017.

The mid-term evaluation recommended to maintain a focus on thematic areas with strong EU added value (e.g. European Reference Networks – ERNs; Health Technology Assessment – HTA) and to strengthen the delivery of results in these areas. It also

suggested to refine the thematic priorities, as part of continuing effort to focus programme spending, and in the longer term to streamline thematic priorities, so as to avoid overlaps or redundancies. As regards programme management, the mid-term evaluation recommended to integrate multi-annual planning with existing programme processes and to refine the EU added value criteria so as to fully integrate them into the programme application processes. This should help potential applicants and assessment panels to build a common understanding of the EU added value criteria. The recommendations also addressed, inter alia, the necessity to develop a broader strategy to increase participation from lower GNI¹⁷ countries and from underrepresented organisations; the need to invest in resources for improvement of systems for programme implementation monitoring; the implementation and use programmatic and action-specific indicators; the rolling out of the newly communication strategy towards core stakeholders and wider audiences.

The conclusions of the evaluation were used to improve the implementation of the Health Programme in 2018-2020 and serve as a basis for the new Health Programme.

The evaluation indicated that major achievements were:

- establishing 24 European Reference Networks;
- supporting Member States to increase their capacity-building to respond to outbreaks (e.g. Ebola and Zika viruses);
- contributing to the EU's migration policy by supporting Member States to respond to the health needs of high influx of migrants and refugees;
- training health professionals and other front-line staff.

Other achievements of the health programme included exchanges of good practice in areas as diverse as alcohol reduction, cancer screening, HIV/AIDS and TB prevention, additional support for EU health legislation on medicinal products and medical devices, the eHealth Network activities and Health Technology Assessment.

A significant progress represented the joint work with the OECD and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. This collaboration brought together internationally renowned expertise in the State of Health in the EU cycle to strengthen country-specific and EU-wide knowledge on health issues.

Compared to the second Health Programme, the 3rd Health programme design took a more strategic view of a mid-term perspective and has demonstrated its value as an effective and flexible management tool capable of covering unforeseeable needs (refugees' crisis).

The external mid-evaluation of the 3rd Health programme 2014-2020 ('3HP') concluded that the programme complemented and supported to the policies of Member States, in terms of improving the health of EU citizens and reducing health inequalities. The 3HP represented a major improvement. The new structure has increased the Health Programme's ability to target important health needs where it can add value (such as anti-microbial resistance and 'e-Health' in the context of the digital single market to name just a few). It demonstrated efforts to identify common, structural challenges facing Member States. The mechanisms for pooling expertise at EU level and supporting MS in their health reforms have been set up (namely the Expert Panel on Health and the Expert Group on Health Systems Performance Assessment) and the 3HP was providing direct financial support to the OECD and WHO to produce country profiles, giving a clear understanding of country specific needs. This focus was recognised by Member States: the consultation of Programme committee members and national focal points representing Member States' interests confirmed the 3HP structure matches the main health challenges in their country.

The Commission has launched the final (ex-post) evaluation of the 3HP, which will assess the relevance of its objectives, the added value of its actions, whether the programme delivered effectively and efficiently against its intended objectives, the coherence of the actions within the programme and of the whole programme with other relevant EU initiatives. The results of the evaluation are expected in the fourth quarter 2022.

The final evaluation of 3HP will also follow up on how the recommendations from its mid-term evaluation (2016) were taken into account and its results will serve as input to the implementation of the successor health programme (EU4Health Programme) over the period 2021-2027.

The Commission concluded in 2021 a service contract for the study supporting the final evaluation of 3HP. The inception phase of the study (July-September 2021) enabled to provide input to the contractor (scoping interviews with a number of Programme stakeholders and with relevant Commission/DG SANTE services), to refine the methodologies and to set up a data collection strategy.

From September 2021, the second phase of the study consisted of desk reviews and preparation of the field work, including consultation activities and the definition of themes and sub-themes for case studies to be included in the study. It has been followed in February 2022 by field work (open public consultation – OPC, targeted stakeholder surveys, stakeholder interviews, focus groups) and by data collection and validation. The analytical phase of the study will start in May 2022, enabling to draw conclusions and to reply to the evaluation questions included in the technical specifications of the study.

¹⁷ Gross national income

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Supporting actions for disease prevention, for health promotion and for addressing health determinants

Indicator 1: Actions contributing to the reduction of avoidable mortality in the area of non-communicable diseases and risk factors

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									1
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Member States implementing best practices regarding health promotion, disease prevention & addressing health inequalities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									27
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Vaccination coverage for measles

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
95%	Milestones									100% of young population, according to national recommendations
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	
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Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition.

Indicator 4: Vaccination coverage for flu

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
41%	Milestones									75% vaccination coverage in older age groups, according to national recommenda- tions
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Eurostat
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition.

Indicator 5: Vaccination coverage for Human papillomavirus infection (HPV)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
n.a.	Milestones									100% of young population, according to national recommenda- tions
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	ECDC
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Vaccination coverage for COVID-19

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
n.a.	Milestones									100% of population, according to national recommendations
	Actual Progress									Final
	68,6%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	ECDC
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Age-standardised five-year net survival rate for paediatric cancer

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
n.a.	Milestones									100%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	JRC ECIS - European Cancer Information System)
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Screening coverage for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening programmes

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									100% targeted population
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	
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Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Eurostat/Implementation report
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Population covered by Cancer Registries reporting information on cervical, breast, colorectal and paediatric cancer stage at diagnosis

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
n.a.	Milestones									100% targeted population
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR)
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 10: Member States reporting information on cervical, breast, colorectal and paediatric cancer stage at diagnosis

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									27
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR)
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 11: Actions addressing the prevalence of major chronic diseases

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 12: Actions addressing the age prevalence of tobacco use

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 13: Actions addressing the prevalence of harmful use of alcohol

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 14: Actions addressing the fight against communicable diseases

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 15: Actions addressing environmental risk factors for health

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Improve & foster health SO: Health promotion & disease prevention; including cancer
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products

Indicator 1: Access to centrally authorised medicinal products: existing and new orphan authorisations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									Progress
97										
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	

Data source	European Medicines Agency (EMA)
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Authorisation of new medicines is essential to advancing public health as they bring new opportunities to treat certain diseases; they represent significant progress in their therapeutic areas. This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicators has no direct link with the funded actions and it could not be possible to estimate an "expected value". The most appropriate target is a trend, while zero is not a realistic target. The target will be refined along implementation. In 2020, EMA recommended 97 medicines for marketing authorisation. (2020 Annual report)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Access to centrally authorised medicinal products: Advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs) - Requests

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									Progress
74	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Medicines Agency (EMA)
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	ATMPs are medicines based on genes or cells that have the potential for ground-breaking new treatments. They are particularly important for severe, untreatable or chronic diseases for which conventional approaches have proven to be inadequate. This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicators has no direct link with the funded actions and it could not be possible to estimate an "expected value". The most appropriate target is a trend, while zero is not a realistic target. The target will be refined along implementation. In 2020, EMA received 74 requests for ATMP classification. (2020 Annual report - Workload indicators)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Access to centrally authorised medicinal products: Paediatric Use Medicinal Products

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									Progress
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Medicines Agency (EMA)
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Paediatric-use marketing authorisations - This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicators has no direct link with the funded actions and it could not be possible to estimate an "expected value". The most appropriate target is a trend, while zero is not a realistic target. The target will be refined along implementation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: EU Laboratory capacity index (EULabCap)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
7,8	Milestones									8
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Index
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EULabCap index is produced by the EDC and indicates the average capability and capacity with regard to its public health microbiology system, the range of the index is defined as: low level (index value range: 0 to 5.9), intermediate level (6.0 to 7.9) and high level (8.0 to 10). The target is the minimum high level.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Shortages of medicinal products in the Member States as reported through the single point of contact network

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
52	Milestones									Reduction
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions; the target is to be read not as the "expected value", but the ambition.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Actions aimed at increasing the security and continuity of the global supply chains and addressing dependence on imports from 3rd countries for the production of essential active pharmaceutical ingredients and medicinal products in the Union

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a proxy of the investments in the field area. Due to the governance of the programme, the number of actions that are going to be included in each annual Work programme could not be estimated; however, the base numbers will emerge over the implementation of the programme. The target 1 indicates an ambition for progress and that the programme has funded action(s) in the field area.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Antimicrobial consumption for systemic use ATC (group J01)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
19,4	Milestones									Reduction
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Index
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator has to be interpreted as a context indicator i.e. it gives information about the situation and its evolution; this indicator has no direct link with the funded actions and it could not be possible to estimate an "expected value". The most appropriate target is a trend, while zero is not a realistic target. The target will be refined along implementation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Strengthening health data, digital tools & services, digital transformation of healthcare

Indicator 1: Member States participating in the European health data space

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									27
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	0									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Strengthen health systems SO: Strengthening health data, digital tools & services, digital transformation of healthcare
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Health Technology Assessment (HTA) reports jointly carried out

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									Progress (cumulative)
	Actual Progress									Final

	0									
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Strengthen health systems SO: Integrated work among MS health systems
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EU4Health is a new programme for the size of the investment, scope of the actions and external conditions. The base numbers from estimating the target of this indicators will emerge over the early years of the programme. At present, the target is represented by the ambition for progression.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 5: Development and implementation of EU health legislation and supporting evidence-based decision-making

Indicator 1: Audits conducted in the Union and in third countries to ensure good manufacturing practices and good clinical practices (Union control)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									To be defined
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Access to medicinal products & medical devices SO: Enhancement of availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EU4Health is a new programme for the size of the investment, scope of the actions and external conditions. The base numbers from estimating the target of this indicators will emerge over the early years of the programme. At present, the target is represented by the ambition for progression.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of health impact assessments of Union policies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									Progress (cumulative)
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	EC DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Strengthen health systems SO: Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EU4Health is a new programme for the size of the investment, scope of the actions and external conditions. The base numbers from estimating the target of this indicators will emerge over the early

	years of the programme. At present, the target is represented by the ambition for progression.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 6: Support integrated work among MS health systems

Indicator 1: Healthcare units involved in the European Reference Networks (ERNs)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
900	Milestones									Stability
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	EC DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Strengthen health systems SO: Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EU4Health is a new programme for the size of the investment, scope of the actions and external conditions. The base numbers from estimating the target of this indicators will emerge over the early years of the programme. At present, the target is represented by the ambition for progression.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Patients diagnosed and treated by the members of the European Reference Networks (ERNs)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									Progress (cumulative)
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	0									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	24/06/2021
Data source	EC DG SANTE
Link to the objective	GO: Strengthen health systems SO: Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The EU4Health is a new programme for the size of the investment, scope of the actions and external conditions. The base numbers from estimating the target of this indicators will emerge over the early years of the programme. At present, the target is represented by the ambition for progression.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Union action in the field of health (Health Programme)

Specific Objective 4: Increase access to medical expertise and information for specific conditions beyond national borders, facilitate the application of the results of research and develop tools for the improvement of healthcare quality and patient safety

Indicator 2: Number of healthcare providers and centres of expertise joining European reference networks

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
0	Milestones									2020
	0	0	120	936	1 136	1 342	1 450	1 180	1 780	1 450
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	936	956	956	953	1 185	1 134		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The difference with regard to 2018 is due to cleaning of duplicate records. The stabilisation of this indicator around 950, after reaching in 2017 the milestone set out for that year, can be explained by external factors linked with the ERNs' infrastructure and work procedures – first, Member States took much longer to endorse Affiliated Partners (which only joined during 2021) and secondly new members can only be accepted after a long assessment process (which is coming to an end in 2021).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of Member States using the tools developed

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0	0	0	0	18	20	24	28	28		28
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	25	25	25	28	28		
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	27 MS+Norway (following BREXIT)
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to gender equality

6.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 318 Score 0: 11.1							

(*Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)
The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Tagged as 0 because these are administrative and support horizontal expenditure which do not promote gender equality.

6.2. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Health Programme contributes to EU efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in health and well-being by supporting actions to implement the EU's political commitments and legal obligations in health and work towards Sustainable Development Goal 3 on health. Examples of such support included funding for operating grants to NGOs. Specific Grant Agreements were signed with 15 NGOs in 2020.

Four direct grant agreements were also concluded with international organisations, as follows:

- Three direct grant agreements were signed with the OECD, on best practices implementation; on patient reported outcomes and on pharmaceutical products' accessibility.
- One direct grant agreement was signed with the Council of Europe to support the European Pharmacopeia work.

In order to maximise collective EU work towards the WHO's nine voluntary targets on non-communicable disease and the UN Sustainable Development Goals for health and well-being, DG SANTE works through the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGPP).

In 2019, mental health good practices identified by the Steering Group were selected for scale-up and transfer (Suicide Prevention in Austria, Mental healthcare delivery system reform in Belgium, and European Alliance Against Depression).

In 2020, the SGPP launched two joint actions with member state involvement, notably on mental health and on nutrition.

At the Steering Group's formal meeting in September 2020, anti-microbial resistance (AMR), cancer, and access and availability of medical products, followed by prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were identified as a priority area for population-level health interventions and best practices. After the priority assigned to prevention of NCDs, the next three priorities relate to risk factors on tobacco, environmental determinants of health (notably pollution) and obesity. For these four risk factors, a Best Practice call was published at the end of 2020 in the Best Practice Portal. In addition, a Best Practice call on Primary Care was opened.

Other projects on health promotion and disease prevention launched included projects on cardiovascular disease prevention; the prescription of physical activity; and on the promotion of whole grain consumption.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Emergency support within the Union (ESI)****Lead DG: SANTE**

Associated DGs: CNECT, ECHO, GROW, HERA, HOME

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

COVID-19, declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020, led to an unprecedented loss of life in the Union. Member States have adopted exceptional measures to limit the spread of the virus with unprecedented consequences for society and the economy. National healthcare systems in particular have been, and still are, under severe strain and Member States were faced with urgent and high needs for medical supplies, treatments and vaccines, additional hospital beds and the reinforcement of the workforce.

On 14 April 2020, the Council adopted Council Regulation (EU) 2020/521 activating emergency support under Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 to finance expenditure necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike other programmes, the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) is activated independently of the multiannual financial framework for the period 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2022. EUR 2 700 000 000 were mobilised under the 2020 budget. Furthermore, by 15 December 2020 the Member States made contributions of a total of EUR 750 000 000 as external assigned revenue. As many Member States faced at the time a third wave of infections, including as a result of new variants emerging in the first quarter of 2021, the Commission proposed to reinforce the ESI in 2021 with an additional EUR 231 700 000 from the EU budget to finance actions such as the interoperability of EU Digital Covid certificates, an EU waste water monitoring system, the further development of the passenger locator form exchange platform and digital platforms, grants to Member States to support accessibility of tests for the delivery of EU Digital COVID certificates. The situation was evolving in 2021 with a fourth, fifth and, in some countries, sixth wave, and it was decided to allocate the remaining ESI funds for donating vaccines to third countries as well as for characterisation of the highly contagious omicron variant that appeared end November 2021.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The nature and consequences of the pandemic are large-scale and transnational, affecting all Member States given the quick spread of the virus and requiring a comprehensive response to allow the Union as a whole to address the crisis in a spirit of solidarity. Actions taken by the Member States alone, including with Union financial support under other Union instruments, are not sufficient.

The general objective is to provide needs-based emergency support, complementing the efforts of Member States aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering, and maintaining human dignity, wherever the need arises as a result of the pandemic.

The Emergency Support Instrument provides added value by directly supporting the Member States through targeted measures that can be deployed strategically and in a coordinated manner to deliver greater impact in mitigating the large-scale consequences of the pandemic.

1.3. Specific objectives

The legal base of the Emergency Support Instrument is designed to allow for a comprehensive and flexible response to the urgent, evolving and diverse needs during the pandemic. It therefore does not set out specific objectives but rather provides the EU with a broad toolbox to support Member States, with an indicative and non-exhaustive list of the actions which may be funded. In line with the legal base, the Commission cooperated closely with the Member States in the implementation of the instrument. The Commission regularly exchanged views with Member States on their needs and how these were being taken into account in programming, and informed them of the state of play of the actions to be financed by the instrument. This was done via written information, through the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) and the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) meetings, as well as through dedicated meetings with Member States' contact points. The Health Security Committee, the eHealth Network and the Civil Protection Committee were also regularly engaged. This cooperation and exchange informed the choice of actions to be prioritised. The European Parliament was also kept informed.

1.4. Public intervention context

Article 5(1) TFEU provides for the EU to take measures to ensure that Member States coordinate their economic policies. The Emergency Support Instrument is based on Article 122(1) TFEU, which allows the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, to decide, in a spirit of solidarity between Member States, upon the measures appropriate to the economic situation, in particular if severe difficulties arise in the supply of certain products.

Under its legal base, the Emergency Support Instrument complements the efforts of Member States, in close cooperation and consultation with them, and only in exceptional circumstances where no other instrument available to Member States and to the Union is sufficient. The nature and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are large-scale and transnational and, therefore, require a comprehensive response. While the EU already benefits from other Union instruments to respond to different types of internal challenges, for example the measures provided for under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) established by Decision No 1313/2013/EU, rescEU or the Joint Procurement Agreement for medicines and medical equipment, these instruments are limited in scale and do not provide a sufficient response to address the exceptional and wide-ranging needs resulting from the pandemic.

The Union is better placed than Member States, acting alone and in an uncoordinated manner, to mobilise appropriate levels of financing and use them to implement operations of a potentially life-saving nature in an economic, efficient and effective manner by reason of its scale, speed of deployment or capacity to provide Union-level solutions to underpin cross-border cooperation. Given the unprecedented consequences of the pandemic for all citizens and all sectors of the economy and considering the need for rapid and efficient action as well as the complementarity of the emergency support provided, the instrument does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve its objective.

1.5. Actions

In line with the broad scope of possible interventions provided for by the legal base and its needs-based rationale, the Emergency Support Instrument is financing a strategically-chosen range of actions, reflecting the needs expressed by Member States during consultations with them, and focussed on response and increased preparedness and bringing fast, targeted and tangible impact with maximum EU added value. The following actions were allocated funding in 2021:

1. Vaccine instrument: to fund Advanced Purchase Agreements with COVID-19 vaccine developers (procurement).
2. Development of digital green certificates underpinning free movement of persons.
3. waste water monitoring.
4. further development of the Passenger Locator Form exchange platform
5. funding the purchase for donation to Member States of specialised RT-PCR assays for identifying variants under the existing facility for essential health-related products.

6. supporting accessibility of tests for the delivery of EU Digital COVID Certificates.
7. vaccine procurement in order to contribute to the global immunisation efforts against the COVID-19 in low and lower middle income countries.
8. grants to research institutes to analyse the characteristics of the Omicron variant.
9. revocation of false Digital COVID-19 certificates and supporting the continuity and good functioning the EU DCC system.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Emergency Support Instrument is centrally managed by the Commission and implemented very largely through direct management (grants (9%) and procurement (89%)), with around 2% of the funding being implemented through indirect management via the International Federation of the Red Cross and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and International Organisation for Migration.

Given its broad scope, the authorising officers by delegation of five Commission departments (DGs SANTE (Health and Food Safety), GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs), ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations), HOME (Migration and Home affairs) and CNECT (Communications, Networks, Content and Technology) are co-delegated (type I). As a result of the selection of actions prioritised for funding, DG GROW is not implementing any of the budget. DGs DIGIT (Informatics), MOVE (Mobility and Transport), ENV (Environment) and JRC (The Joint Research Centre) also implement part of the budget for 2020 and 2021 through co-delegations type II, while DG INTPA (International Partnerships) implements one action from the budget for 2021 through cross sub-delegation.

A specific internal governance arrangement was put in place including a Steering Committee of the co-delegated authorising officers together with the SG (Secretariat- General) and DG BUDG (Budget) in order to provide strategic coordination of the instrument, in particular as concerns priority-setting and allocation of funding, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the authorising officers by co-delegation for the implementation of the funding allocated to them.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

	Allocation (million EUR) Total: 3 683.4
Mobility package	175.3
Facility for essential health-related products (i.e. masks, Remdesivir, and training of healthcare professionals in intensive care skills, rapid antigen tests)	201.97
Vaccine instrument	2 553.79
Treatment of COVID-19 patients (convalescent plasma)	35.15
Clinical trials for treatments	1.0
Increased testing capacity	35.47
Interoperability of tracing apps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federated gateway - Support to Member States 	13.02
UV disinfection robots for hospitals	12.0

Medical capacities for the reception facilities and their host communities in Greece	25.37
Common digital passenger locator form (PLF) exchange platform (including Pilot project)	2.8
Digital Green Certificates	37.1
EU wastewater monitoring system	21.2
Affordable tests within the scope of the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation	94.6
Contribution to vaccine doses in favour of 3 rd country vaccination	467.1
Revocation of false Digital COVID-19/Green Certificates and maintenance EU DCC	7.0
Characterisation of omicron variant	0.5

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union (OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p. 1). Council Regulation (EU) 2020/521 of 14 April 2020 activating the emergency support under Regulation (EU) 2016/369, and amending its provisions taking into account the COVID-19 outbreak (OJ L 117, 15.4.2020, p. 3).	2021 - 2027	

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	231.7							231.7
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	416.6	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	416.6
Total	648.3							648.3

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Unlike other programmes, the Emergency Support Instrument is activated independently of the multiannual financial framework for a specific limited period of time to address the special needs of a particular crisis situation, in this case from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2022. Voted budget appropriations of EUR 2 700 000 000 were made available from the Union budget 2020. The Member States used the possibility to contribute EUR 750 000 000 by 15 December 2020 as external assigned revenue in the context of the vaccines initiative. As many Member States faced at the time a third wave of infections, including as a result of new variants emerging, in the first quarter of 2021 the Commission proposed to reinforce the ESI in 2021 with an additional EUR 231 700 000 from the EU budget.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Emergency Support Instrument was activated independently from the multiannual financing framework and spans both the 2014-2020 period and the 2021-2027 period.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Information about the activation and use of the Emergency Support Instrument in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/emergency-support-instrument_en#general

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

There are no voted commitment appropriations in the Union budget 2021 for the Emergency Support Instrument. The voted payment appropriations for 2021 amount to EUR 90 000 000.

As mentioned above, many Member States faced a third wave of infections, including as a result of new variants emerging in the first quarter of 2021, so the Commission proposed to reinforce the ESI in 2021 with an additional EUR 231 700 000 in commitment appropriations (EUR 75 500 000 as a budgetary transfer from the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) and EUR 156 200 000 under Draft Amending Budget 2021/2). The objective of this reinforcement was to support new actions in relation to the development of the EU Digital Covid Certificate system, waste water monitoring, and the further development of the passenger locator form exchange platform, as well as to fund the purchase for donation to Member States of specialised RT-PCR assays for identifying variants, and a reserve of EUR 100 000 000 for emerging needs. This reserve has been consequently allocated to grants to Member States to support accessibility of test for the delivery of EU Digital Covid Certificate. The budget that has not been implemented together with the unused external assigned revenue was allocated to donation of vaccines to low and middle income countries as well as characterization of the Omicron variant and the revoke of false certificates.

The instrument expired on 31 January 2022 and hence no commitment appropriations were requested for 2022.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Financial execution for the instrument – both in terms of commitments and payments – is on track. The Emergency Support Instrument was activated for a limited period of time with voted commitment appropriations for the financial year 2020 in order to meet the urgent needs associated with a rapidly-evolving pandemic. The implementation rate for commitment appropriations in 2020 was 100% as concerns the EUR 2 700 000 000 voted budget credits. For the EUR 750 000 000 in external assigned revenue from Member States' contributions received by 15 December 2020, some EUR 416 600 000 remained to be committed. These funds were used to further extend the portfolio of Advance Purchase Agreements with promising vaccine candidates so as to maximise the chances of benefiting from effective and safe vaccines, across a range of technological approaches, in the quantities necessary and in the timeliest manner.

As concerns payments, the initially voted budget credits of EUR 1 380 000 000 for 2020 proved inadequate, largely because the objective of the instrument is to provide emergency support and hence payments commitments are generally needed very shortly after contracts are signed. For example, for the urgent procurement and distribution of essential medical products, most payments needed to be made at the moment of delivery of the products. Similarly, in relation to the advance purchase agreements with vaccine producers, payments had to be scheduled almost immediately after contracts were signed, given that these agreements provided upfront funding to secure access to the eventual vaccines and to support the companies concerned with the investment needed to scale up production to be able to deliver adequate quantities to cover Union citizens whilst also delivering on the Union's firm commitment to the wider global community.

In July 2020 the budgetary authority agreed to the Commission's request to transfer of an initial EUR 140 000 000 in payments appropriations from DG HOME's budget lines to the European Support Instrument. In September, the budgetary authority approved the Commission's proposal for Amending Budget 8/2020 which transferred an additional EUR 1 090 000 000 in payments credits to the instrument, bringing the total available payments credits to EUR 2 610 000 000. Of this some EUR 2 231 000 000 had been executed by the end of 2020, which represents an implementation rate of 85% of available credits.

Due to delays in the reception of relevant supporting documents or in the finalisation of the contracts, some payments initially foreseen in 2020 were postponed to 2021:

the second down payment of one of the vaccines advance purchase agreements where the technical report submitted in 2020 was not considered satisfactory;

in the framework of the reimbursement of cargo operations by the Member States, beneficiaries of larger grants have reported delays, as they must wait for a Certificate on Financial Statement prepared by an independent auditor and some grants were not paid in 2020 due to the need to review documents submitted for the final report;

the procurement of rapid antigen tests, for which specific contracts and donation agreements have been signed in the first quarter of 2021.

On top of these, several payments were due in 2021 for other actions, including the interoperability of tracing applications, disinfection robots, the medical capacities for the reception facilities and their hosting communities on the Greek islands, as well as to cover the remaining commitments to be made under the vaccines initiative.

The 2021 voted payment appropriations (EUR 90 000 000) were not sufficient to honour all these outstanding commitments. Therefore, based on point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, some EUR 378 800 000 in payment appropriations was carried over in the context of the Commission decision on non-automatic carryover of appropriations 2020-2021. Most of the remaining payments were executed by end of 2021, however payment credits will still be needed in 2022 (and 2023) to honour obligations.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The rationale for the Emergency Support Instrument is needs-based, in the context of a quickly-evolving pandemic. No performance framework or indicators are prescribed in the legal base since the instrument has been designed to be adaptable to emerging needs.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The Emergency Support Instrument has proven its effectiveness in terms of quickly mobilising resources towards the needs identified in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore met its objective, which is to respond to the urgent, evolving and diverse needs of Member States in responding to the crisis. All funds made available in 2020 were effectively committed and 85% of payments were made in the course of the year. The flexibility enshrined in the legal base, together with the mandate given to the Commission to centrally manage the funding, in cooperation and consultation with Member States, allowed the prioritisation of those actions where collective action could generate the most added value, more timely interventions, or indeed outcomes that could not have been achieved by Member States acting individually.

The instrument is unique in terms of its activation by the Council under the Emergency Support Regulation (No 2016/369) over a limited time frame, its mandate to adapt flexibly to needs at a time of medical and scientific uncertainty, but when rapid response was required and its limited time span. The ESI was activated in April 2020 in the context of the outbreak of COVID 19 crisis. Its initial budget was 2.7 billion EUR, intended to provide a needs-based emergency response, complementing the response of the affected Member States. The deployment took place in a rapidly-evolving environment marked by uncertainties about the nature of the virus, the appropriate medical response, and both supply and demand. The breadth of scope and possible interventions also required policy choices in the context of a quickly-evolving epidemiological situation, also taking into account the limited EU competences in the health domain. The initial budget was increased with 750 million EUR in December 2020 with the contributions from Member States. Moreover, subsequent actions as a result of the Health crisis were foreseen to be implemented under the EU4Health programme, therefore no commitment appropriations were voted under the Emergency Support Instrument as of 2021.

Particularly in the early phase of the crisis, there was a systemic lack of information about needs at both Union and national/sub-national level. To mitigate this, the work of the Clearing House for medical equipment, and in particular the results of the needs surveys and projections produced in that context, were fed into programming the instrument. The needs reported by Member States were also cross-referenced against the epidemiological methodology of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, in order to ensure the equitable distribution of equipment and products for donation to Member States. The Commission regularly exchanged views with Member States on their needs and how these were being taken into account in programming, and informed them of the state of play of the actions to be financed by the instrument. This was done via written information, through Coreper and the Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) meetings, as well as through dedicated meetings with Member States' contact points. The Health Security Committee, the eHealth Network and the Civil Protection Committee were also regularly engaged. This cooperation and exchange informed the choice of actions to be prioritised, in the absence of specific objectives in the legal base.

The major focus of the programme (around 70% of funding) has been on the vaccines initiative, which allowed the conclusion at an early stage of advance purchase agreements with pharmaceutical companies developing COVID-19 vaccines, providing the necessary investment to advance the scientific progress and production capacities, as a result of which 4.6 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines were secured for Member States. The instrument provided the financial support to underpin Member States' agreement to a joint approach in this area, which: (a) allowed individual Member States who otherwise would have had different (or potentially zero) capacity to engage with developers of vaccines to secure supplies; (b) leveraged the scale offered by Union investment to reduce prices and obtain contractual conditions on issues such as liability and capacity increase which will mitigate Member States' risks going forward. At the same time, the advance purchase agreements funded by the instrument are by their nature risky investments. Whilst the Commission designed a portfolio of contracts with the most promising candidates across a wide range of technologies, there was no guarantee that individual vaccines would be successful and authorised in the EU, or that producers would be able to step up their production at the levels they had committed to. It could not be excluded that the risk of

having invested in a failed vaccine candidate materialised: this risk was mitigated in part by provisions in the advance purchase agreements requiring the reimbursement of part of the unused EU investment in any such case.

In line with its objectives, the instrument was deployed to meet urgent needs expressed by Member States in the context of tight supply and market uncertainty. The instrument delivered some 10 million masks to medical staff in the early phase of the crisis, when the pressure on supplies of equipment was intense. A first batch of 1.5 million masks purchased and distributed to Member States did not meet the necessary quality standards and was destroyed; under the terms of the contract the supplier provided replacements, and a quality control contract was put in place to ensure the necessary standards were met before export of the replacement and future batches.

The programme also allowed all Member States to have access to the therapeutic Remdesivir, the first EU-authorized medicine to treat COVID-19, at a time when national contracts with the sole producer were not on offer. The programme allowed the Union collectively to make necessary purchases which Member States acting alone were not able to access. The Emergency Support Instrument allowed the Union to respond to needs expressed by all Member States by delivering some 34 000 courses of the treatment, which at the time reflected the best available scientific evidence at the time, although this was subsequently challenged.

Also under the facility for essential health-related products, the instrument allowed the Union to procure and donate to the interested Member States over 23 million rapid antigen tests.

Clinical trials for testing repurposed medicines, use of convalescent Covid-19 patients' plasma and EU wastewater monitoring system or the urgent characterisation of the SARS/CoV2 omicron variant have been additional actions financed with this instrument and that not have been done otherwise.

Under the Mobility Package (ESI-MP), which provided support for cargo transport of COVID-19 related medical items, transport of medical personnel, and transfer of patients, three different invitations to submit applications were launched (June 2020, May 2021 and November 2021). In total, over 1,000 flights and 500 operations by road, rail and sea have been funded through 55 projects totalling approximately EUR 164 million in grants to support cargo transport of essential medical supplies (PPEs, medical equipment, medicines, etc.) into the EU. This was at a time when Member States were confronted with both limited cargo transport availability and accordingly higher costs. Furthermore, EUR 9 million have also been awarded through additional 18 projects for the cross border transport of medical teams and transfer of patients, supporting Member States' transport of more than 450 health workers and approximately 350 patients.

Through the instrument, the Union was able to provide solutions to other common challenges, such as the development of interoperability between national contact tracing apps. The system went live in October 2020.

Working with the national branches of the International Federation of the Red Cross, the instrument ensured the stepping up of testing capacity across the seven Member States that expressed an interest. 9 222 volunteers and professionals have been trained in testing techniques, and 1 795 mobile testing teams have been established and 1 263 309 tests conducted. The activities were implemented from July 2020 to end September 2021.

The action to provide training in intensive care skills has proved very successful to increase the available capacity to support the regular Intensive Care Unit staff to take care of COVID-19 patients. With the collaboration of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), more than 17 000 professionals were trained in 24 EU Member States plus UK, in 7 17 hospitals in the period from August 2020 to May 2021. 5 696 medical doctors and 6 400 registered nurses were certified. The Commission received requests from third countries and international organisations to benefit from the established system and access the training platform. An assignment agreement which settles the transfer of rights from the EC to ESICM was signed.

The instrument has also funded the supply of at least 200 UV disinfecting robots to hospitals across the Union, providing efficient and effective solutions to ensure the safety of healthcare environments and their staff. 301 robots were delivered to hospitals in all the 27 Member States. 4 more robots need to be delivered to Greece and Netherlands however hospitals seem to be not interested any more despite having signed the donation agreement.

The instrument financed grants to 24 interested Member States to join the EU gateway for issuing Digital Covid Certificates as a proof of vaccination, recovery or negative test, between 29 March and 31 December 2021. The initial granted amount, for 24 MS, was 21 million EUR (3 MS did not apply for funding).

Additionally, grants to 18 interested Member States supported accessibility of tests for the delivery of the Digital Covid Certificate, for the period 1 June-31 October 2021. The initial granted amount, for 20 MS, was 95,3 million EUR (2 MS did not provided the final reports).

The instrument contributed 461 million EUR from 2021-2022 budget for the provision and delivery of 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and their auxiliary material in low and lower-middle income countries, the actions that will be implemented by DG INTPA in 2022.

ESI is an instrument for using in emergency situations therefore many of the actions had to be implemented immediately, according to the knowledge/situation in a given moment, and some with a retroactive effect. The initial demand for certain products/services did not always lead to concluded contracts/grant agreements for various reasons (inability of MS to respond within the required deadlines, inability to absorb the funds due to complicated political environment, etc). Even if the administrative process was quicker than in regular times, it still remained cumbersome when an urgent action had to be implemented.

Whilst the instrument had only been operational since April 2020, the European Court of Auditors’ review 01/2021 on the EU’s initial contribution to the public health response, published on 18 January 2021, addressed the state of play of the instrument as of 30 June 2020 and noted the role of the instrument in complementing Member States’ and other Union responses. The Court did not make recommendations but acknowledged that it was a challenge for the EU to complement rapidly the measures taken within its formal remit by additional actions, as public health is primarily a national competence. With regard to the Commission’s financial support to vaccine development, the Court highlighted that the Commission mitigated the inherent risk linked to vaccine development by investing in a range of vaccine technologies and companies.

3.2. Key achievements

>1 500	>800	34 000	Over 23 million	10 million	17 000
<p>Medical cargo transport operations supported more than 1 000 flights and 500 transports by road, rail and sea supported with grants to 55 projects since April 2020, delivering medical supplies including PPEs, medical equipment, medicines, etc</p>	<p>The total number of medical personnel (more than 450) and patients (approximately 350) transported with support via EUR 9 million awarded to 18 projects since April 2020 according to needs during 2020</p>	<p>courses of the therapeutic remdesivir purchased and distributed to Member States from August to October 2020</p>	<p>rapid antigen tests purchased with deliveries started in February 2021</p>	<p>masks for healthcare workers distributed to Member States from July to October 2020</p>	<p>doctors and nurses trained to support and assist Intensive Care Units in 750 hospitals across the EU from August 2020 to May 2021</p>

4.6 billion	150	301	16
<p>doses of vaccines against COVID-19 secured for delivery once vaccines have proven safe and effective, of which 2.2 billion doses funded with the help of ESI. Deliveries started in December 2020</p>	<p>local blood or plasma collection centres were awarded grants for blood-collection services to step up programmes for collecting plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients from January 2021</p>	<p>ultra-violet (UV) disinfecting robots, together with transport, installation and training of operating staff, delivered to hospitals in all 27 MS</p>	<p>national tracing apps are linked into the European Federation Gateway Service for interoperability of tracing apps. The system went live in October 2020.</p>

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The Emergency Support Instrument was first activated in 2016-2019 in response to the refugee crisis in Greece and provided EUR 647 million of support. This activation was subject to an evaluation.

The key findings of the evaluation of the 2016 activation ([SWD\(2019\)97](#)) were that:

1. The activation of ESI should be accompanied by an obligation to develop an organisational framework outlining roles and responsibilities, tailored to each country of activation;
2. ESI should include an explicit requirement for the development of an overall exit strategy, as well as specific exit strategies by sector and at action level;
3. Further synergies with other funding mechanisms to complement emergency activities with longer-term actions should be sought systematically as part of any future activation;
4. Local partners should be more systematically involved in future ESI activations.
5. In any future activation, the ESI should continue to aim for cost-effectiveness among the different sectors targeted and by seeking further economies of scale.

Given the specific context and focus of the objectives of the first activation, the findings of the evaluation are of limited relevance to the present programme, with the exception of the action to be implemented as concerns the medical capacities for the reception centres and their host communities in Greece.

In this area, the first activation aimed to prevent and alleviate human suffering as a result of the emergency, and to restore and maintain the dignity of the affected populations. As regards healthcare, it focussed on emergency provision of primary health care, specialised healthcare (including mental health), psychosocial support and referral to hospital for people located in reception centres. The current action is complementary and builds upon the lessons learnt by providing structural investment to increase the capacity of local hospitals and within reception centres, geared towards the particular challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus on structural investments increases the sustainability of the action, in line with the evaluation recommendations. Needs have been assessed jointly, consulting in a bottom-up approach with the local hospitals and Greek health partners, and the selection of partners for the grant ensures a combination of local involvement and relevant expertise. The action is implemented by the International Organisation for Migration and is currently running until 30 June 2022, where all the relevant procurement processes are expected to be completed and delivered to the Greek Authorities. Finally, the action has been designed to be complementary to the funding for healthcare in the Greek migration reception system under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

More widely, notwithstanding the different circumstances and scope of the first and present activations of the instrument, findings 3 and 4 were taken into account in the selection and implementation of ESI actions under the current programme. Complementarity and synergies with other mechanisms was a key test in the selection of actions, for example: there was no other EU instrument available to finance Advanced Purchase Agreements with vaccine developers; as concerns support to the medical facilities in Greece, no other instrument had the legal scope to provide funding to enhance the overall capacity of the local infrastructure to address the needs of hosting communities as well as those in reception centres. Actions such as the direct donations of UV disinfecting robots were delivered in partnership with the beneficiary local actors, at the level of individual hospitals. The action to increase testing capacity was implemented through the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was working through its national and regional branches to deliver localised increased testing.

4. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

4.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

4.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	0.33							0.33	

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

4.4. Contribution to gender equality

4.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 8 Score 0: 224							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The actions under ESI are COVID related actions to fight the pandemics that were not designed with gender needs in mind, therefore a score 0 is attributed to the majority of them.

However, regarding two strands of the Mobility Package, i.e., transport of patients and transport of medical staff, a score of 0* can be attributed, because the beneficiaries of these operations were known at the time of the operations themselves, and therefore it is assumed that gender considerations were taken into account.

4.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

4.5.1. Goals

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

4.5.2. Key achievements and performance

The United Nations (UN) has acknowledged that COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilising the global economy and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe, and that the pandemic provides a watershed moment for health emergency preparedness. The Emergency Support Instrument, deployed in response to the health crisis, supports the whole-of-government and whole-of-society response needed, matching the resolve of frontline health workers.

The Emergency Support Instrument provided 10 million masks for health workers in the early days of the crisis, and therapeutics to treat nearly 35 000 patients later. It has provided rapid antigen tests and also supported Member States to perform more tests. It has provided increased testing capacities and promoted the availability of treatments such as Remdesivir and convalescent plasma. It has trained more than 17 000 professionals in 700 hospitals in intensive care skills. It has provided solutions to support the interoperability of tracing and warning apps across border, helping to break the chain of coronavirus infections and helping to save lives. Most importantly, it has accelerated the development of vaccines and secured access to vaccines for EU Member States and – through COVAX – the wider world.

The Emergency Support Instrument supported EU Member States through grants to develop and join the EU Digital Covid Certificate system (EU DCC), a common framework for issuing certificates with a digital proof of vaccination, recovery or negative test for Covid. Launched in July 2021, it aimed at restoring the right to freedom of movement during the pandemic. As of 31 December 2021, 1 billion certificates were issued in the EU; with 60 countries connected worldwide, the EU DCC was the largest global system of interoperable digital Covid certificates, allowing interoperability among all countries connected, not only with and within the EU. As reported by a Bruegel study ¹, the EU Digital Covid Certificate has helped increased uptake for vaccines, avoiding thousands of deaths and improving public health and economic performance, preventing losses in the billions of euros.

¹ <https://www.bruegel.org/2022/01/the-effect-of-covid-certificates-on-vaccine-uptake-public-health-and-the-economy>

HEADING 2A: Economic, Social and territorial cohesion

European Social Fund + (incl. The Fund for the Most Deprived and Employment and Social innovation)

Lead DG: EMPL

Associated DGs: CNECT, EAC, ECFIN, HOME, MARE, REGIO, RTD

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The European Union (EU) is at a crucial point in time where its relevance and success in the decades to come will be determined by its ability to remain competitive in the global economy and ensure high levels of employment, education and training, health, social inclusion and active participation in society. Ensuring EU's competitiveness, cohesion and resilience in the future means investing in its people: in their education and training, skills, creativity, potential to create businesses and to innovate, and in their health.

Furthermore, a number of challenges remain significant; despite improvements, tackling both unemployment and persistently high rates of poverty remains a priority throughout the EU. Social and employment issues are a primary concern of European citizens and an area where more is expected from the Union. Additional challenges that the Union faces are related to:

- shortfalls in skill levels;
- under-performance in active labour market policies and education systems;
- challenges arising from new technologies such as automation and the related new forms of work;
- social exclusion of marginalised groups, including Roma and migrants; and
- relatively low labour mobility.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

There is a need both for policy initiatives and for targeted supporting actions to address the above challenges. Therefore, the objective of the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) is to make the EU more social and inclusive by implementing the principles enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights ⁽¹⁾ together with the Member States.

1.3. Specific objectives

The European Pillar of Social Rights consists of 20 principles. They include education, training and life-long learning; active support to employment; inclusion of people with disabilities and access to essential services. The ESF+ specific objectives aim at implementing all the principles of the Pillar and thus target:

- a. Improving access to employment and activation measures for all jobseekers in the labour market, in particular youth, through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, long-term unemployed, disadvantaged groups and of inactive people, promoting self-employment and the social economy;
- b. Modernising labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and ensure timely and tailor-made assistance and support to labour market matching, transitions and mobility;
- c. Promoting a gender-balanced labour market participation, equal working conditions and a better work/life balance, including through access to affordable childcare and care for dependent people;
- d. Promoting the adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change, active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment that addresses health risks;
- e. Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems, including through validation of non-formal and informal learning, to support acquisition of key competences, including entrepreneurial and digital skills, and through the promotion of the introduction of dual-training systems and apprenticeships;
- f. Promoting equal access to and completion of quality and inclusive education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training, and to tertiary level, as well as adult education and learning, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- g. Promoting lifelong learning, notably flexible upskilling and reskilling opportunities for all, taking into account entrepreneurial and digital skills, better anticipating change and new skills requirements based on labour market needs, facilitating career transitions and promoting professional mobility;
- h. Fostering active inclusion with a view to promoting equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation, and improving employability, in particular for disadvantaged groups;

(¹) [European Pillar of Social Rights](#).

- i. Promoting socioeconomic integration of third country nationals, including migrants;
- j. Promoting the socioeconomic integration of marginalised communities, such as Roma;
- k. Enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services, including services that promote the access to housing and person-centred care, including healthcare; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection, with a particular focus on children and disadvantaged groups; improving accessibility including for persons with disabilities, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services;
- l. Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children;
- m. Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including children, and providing accompanying measures supporting their social inclusion.

As the ESF+ is primarily directed to people, the ESF+ common indicators under shared management will mainly measure change in the participants' labour market situation. For example, one of the outputs will be the number of unemployed or inactive participants supported, and one of the results will be the number of people in employment upon leaving ESF+ support.

The Employment and Social Innovation strand of ESF+ targets structural changes. Its indicators will monitor analytical activities and will serve supporting evidence-based policy making, social experimentations, capacity-building and mutual learning activities, as well as job placements under the targeted mobility scheme.

1.4. Public intervention context

The ESF+ is the main instrument of the Union for investing in people's employment, education and skills, and social inclusion ⁽²⁾ to support economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU.

The responsibility for employment and social policy lies primarily with the Member States. The European Union mostly supports and complements Member States' efforts by co-financing projects with ESF+ resources at national and regional level, therefore operating under shared competence.

The EU may also adopt minimum requirements in the form of directives, which enable EU Member States to adopt additional stricter provisions. Still, no financing is directly linked to the implementation of directives.

Besides ESF+, the Union can also mobilise the European Globalisation adjustment Fund for displaced workers, a special instrument aiming to support the workers on short term. The fund helps Member States to overcome the worst of the short-term shock of mass redundancy and so it is limited to a 24 months period.

1.5. Actions

EU resources are used to support investments in human capital through grants and financial instruments. For the ESF+ the regulatory proposal defines 13 specific objectives under the policy objective of 'A more social and inclusive Europe - Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights.'

The types of actions (e.g. vocational education and training, active labour market policies, capacity building of public employment services, social inclusion activities, distribution of food and goods) are selected by the Managing Authorities in the Member States and described in the national and regional programmes implemented under shared management.

Activities under the Employment and Social Innovation strand are implemented under direct management mostly through grants and procurement, following the adoption of an annual work programme.

1.6. Delivery mode

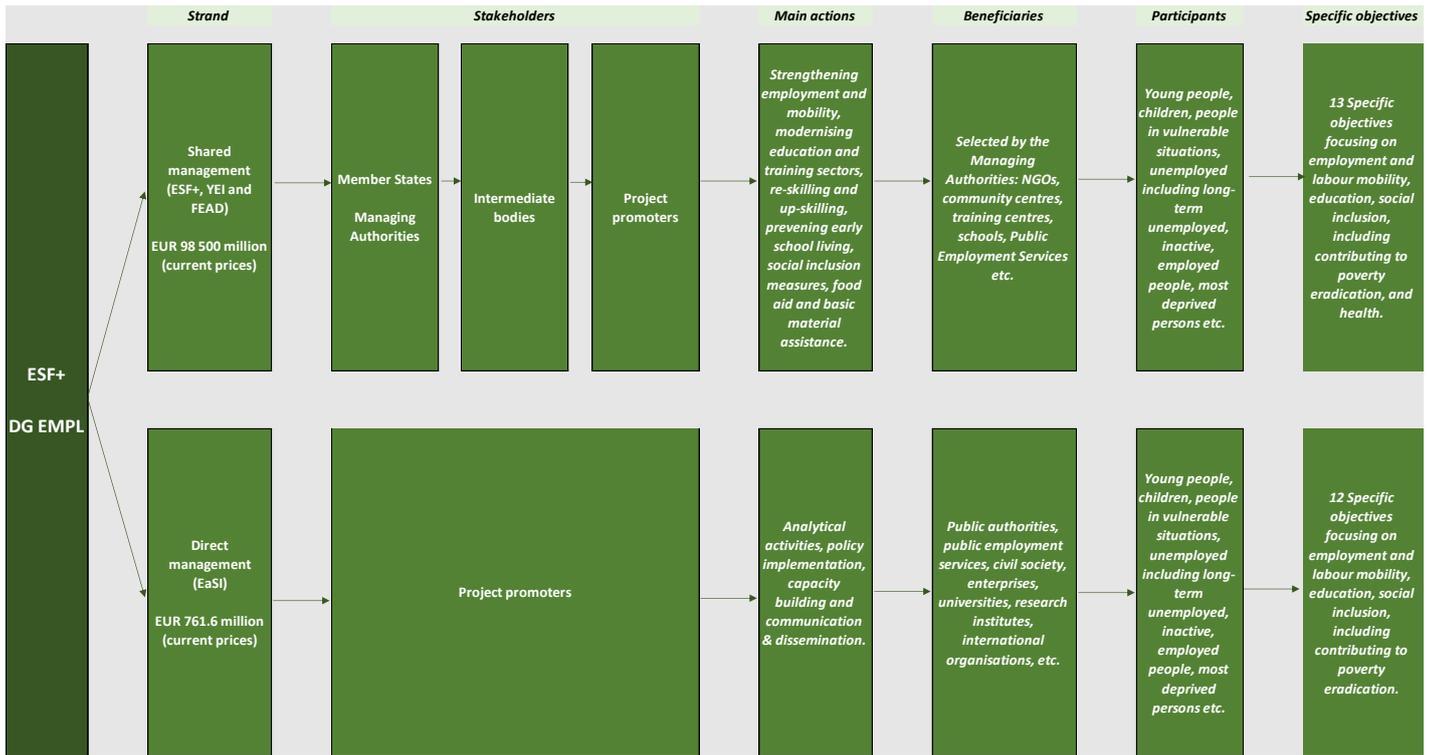
Shared and direct management.

The ESF+ is composed of two strands: the shared management strand encompassing the previous European Social Fund (ESF) and the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived, and the direct management strand under which the Employment and Social Innovation programme is managed.

Lead DG: Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

⁽²⁾ Articles 162 to 164 and 174 to 178 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).	2021 - 2027	98 499.62

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

In addition to the ESF+ Regulation, the shared management strand of the ESF+, as part of the Cohesion policy, is mainly regulated by the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). The rules on management, programming, implementation, monitoring and auditing to be applied are provided for in the CPR, whereas the specific objectives, fund-specific rules on the methods of implementation, programming, thematic concentration, eligibility, indicators and reporting are provided for in the ESF+ Regulation.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

Budget programming of the ESF+ :

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming (**)	174.0	16 455.8	16 819.0	17 280.7	17 727.9	15 012.6	15 487.9	98 957.9
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	2.7	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	2.7

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Total	176.7	16 455.8	16 819.0	17 280.7	17 727.9	15 012.6	15 487.9	98 960.7

(*) Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

(**) These amounts take into account the contribution of the ESF+ to the Just Transition Fund, the Border Management and Visa Instrument and other instruments (if any). The total does not include financing under the recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe programme.

Budget programming of the recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe programme (REACT-EU) under the ESF:

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming (*)								
NextGenerationEU	15 918.1	3 243.3						19 161.4
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

The ESF+ is composed of two strands: the shared management strand encompassing the previous European Social Fund (ESF) and the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived, and the direct management strand under which the Employment and Social Innovation programme is managed.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

On 2 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, amended in 2020 in order to address the long-term challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposal reflects the current social and economic context.

The ESF+ merges the following funds and programmes from the 2014-2020 programming period:

- the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI);
- the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD);
- the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme.

In the MFF 2014-2020, the above programmes were addressing similar policy objectives but were implemented independently according to different sets of rules, making it difficult to establish synergies. In the MFF 2021-2027, these funds are merged into a single programme to pool available resources to support integrated investments in people and avoid overlaps.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>

The ESF+ website is the main external communication channel for the multiannual financial period 2021-2027 and incorporates information on both shared management and direct management strands of the fund.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=86&langId=en>

The Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion website provides an introduction to ESF+, including a link to the ESF+ website (see above) and information on previous programmes such as the EaSI Programme 2014-2020, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/esf>

The funding & tender opportunities portal is the entry point (the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area) for participants and experts in funding programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies.

It provides for the electronic management of EU programmes and tenders and facilitates the related interactions with the EU institutions. For the 2021-2027 programming period, the calls for proposals under the EaSI strand of ESF+ accompanied by some general information, news and information about the projects awarded can be found on the portal:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/esf>

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate of the ESF+ at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	145.7	98 960.7	0%
Payments	5.4		0%

Cumulative implementation rate of the recovery assistance for cohesion and the territories of Europe programme (REACT-EU) under the ESF at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	15 434.9	19 161.4	81%
Payments	2 081.1		11%

Significant delays materialised in the start of implementation of ESF+ shared management. The most common factors that caused the delays in the preparations of 2021-2027 programming documents are:

- delays in the adoption of the ESF+ Regulation (adopted on 24 June 2021);
- priority given by the Member States to REACT-EU, under which the eligibility of expenditure elapses in 2023, and/or the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF);
- the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII and CRII(+)) ⁽³⁾ extensive reprogramming efforts, which shifted the focus of programme authorities from ESF+ programming to CRII(+) amendments in order to provide an immediate response to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis;
- problems stemming from the need to activate different funding sources (e.g. REACT-EU, ESF, ESF+, RRF) for similar or complementary purposes;
- absence of agreement between national entities on the ESF+ allocation to different programmes;
- pending decisions on the Just Transition Fund (eligible area of support, scope for intervention, agreement after regional elections etc); and
- administrative delays due to governmental changes/reshuffles in 10 Member States.

⁽³⁾ Between March and April 2020, the Commission adopted a series of amendments (the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative and the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus) which allowed for an unprecedented redirection of Cohesion policy funds, including the ESF/YEI, to address the effects of the public health crisis. This allowed simplifying administrative procedures and reducing administrative burden for Member States.

Therefore, the budget allocated in 2021 for the 2021-2027 ESF+ shared management programmes could not be utilised.

The implementation of the shared management strand of ESF+ is expected to start in 2022 with the adoption of operational programmes for which a pre-financing of 0.5% will be paid. In addition, first interim payments are expected in 2023, depending on the level of implementation on the ground.

As regards the ESF+ direct management strand (employment and social innovation), some delays in the implementation of activities were noticed in 2021 due to the entry into force of the Regulation only at the end of the first semester, as well as the impact of the pandemic on meetings and on the ability for some of the stakeholders to take part in the calls for proposals. However, the Commission anticipated the preparatory steps by initiating the programming exercise in May 2020 and was able to adopt the financing decision for 2021 in June 2021, so that implementation could start as soon as possible. Seven calls for proposals were published in 2021, all to be awarded in 2022. Therefore, this initial slow start is expected to be caught up in 2022 already, since the financing decision for 2022 was adopted in December 2021. In 2023, the level of payment needs is assessed to be similar to the one in 2016 for the 2014-2020 period.

In 2022 and 2023, EaSI will continue to support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, as part of the ESF+. Even though the implementation of the Pillar falls largely within the remit of the Member States, the EU and notably the EaSI programme can play an important supporting role. The Pillar illustrates a shared commitment to foster equal opportunities, to improve access to the labour market, to fair working conditions and social inclusion, to supporting people in the face of changing realities of work and to achieving new and more rights for Europeans, priorities to be addressed by EaSI in the coming years.

DG EMPL's proposal for Draft Budget 2023 fully acknowledges the difficulties encountered in 2021 and reflects the result of the assessment on the execution of the 2022 budget. Furthermore, it takes into account the urgent need for funding to support the people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine. To this end, a special effort of rationalisation has been done on the 2022 budget to help other funds cope with the situation in Ukraine by returning EUR 12 million in commitment credits. Therefore, in order to ensure 100% execution from 2023 on, without any abnormal backlog, and to contribute to the common effort to pool funding for the war refugees, DG EMPL decided to reduce the amount of commitments requested. The cut has been carefully weighted so that it would not negatively affect the objectives of the programmes in the long term.

From 2024 on, it is key that we resume with the initially agreed profile of commitments in order to fully meet the objectives of the strand at the end of the period.

Activities will be programmed and implemented to support the effectiveness of employment and social policies through social experimentation and innovation. The EaSI strand will also keep supporting evidence-based policy making, notably through the funding of statistical data on working conditions, as well as various studies on e.g. the future of work and the social impact of climate change. Some activities will also tackle the crisis in Ukraine by measuring the impact of the crisis, such as modelling the socioeconomic effects of geopolitical developments and their impact on energy prices.

To implement these activities in 2022, the Commission will allocate EUR 48 million in grants, same in procurement and EUR 22 million in indirect management. The amounts will be used to:

- provide operating grants to support EU level Social NGO Networks;
- support networks active in the area of social enterprise finance/microfinance;
- support financial intermediaries that undertake long term risk capital investments in ticket sizes of less than EUR 500 000 in social enterprises;
- fund transnational cooperation initiatives to transfer the scaling up of innovative solutions;
- support the EURES Targeted Mobility Scheme to ensure around 4 000 placements over the duration of the action in economic sectors with hard to fill vacancies; and
- promote social innovations for a fair green and digital transition.

In 2023, the Commission will continue to pursue these objectives. For the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027, support structures are being established, like the EaSI National Contact Points in each country informing about EaSI calls, projects and results, to improve the participation in the EaSI strand and to assist in up-scaling, mainstreaming and/or replication of EaSI project results, for instance by using other funds (in particular ESF+).

In the struggle against abuse and for a better enforcement, EaSI will continue the ongoing activities to enhance cooperation in tackling undeclared work under Decision (EU) 2016/344. The EaSI strand will also continue to support the implementation of EURES Regulation 2016/589. Actions to support targeted mobility schemes and cross-border cooperation will be stepped up, building on the experiences gained in the previous years. The support to the EURES network will no longer be funded under EaSI as the European Labour authority will take it over under the current MFF.

REACT-EU will ensure a smooth transition between the periods 2014-2020 and 2021-2027, providing swiftly for financial support to the Member States to help them recover from the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. In 2021, an initial pre-financing of 11% was paid upon adoption of the related operational programmes (both ESF and FEAD) to help Member States put in place a quick and efficient delivery of recovery measures. From 2022 onwards, the Member States' forecasts indicate that implementation will start with close to 30% of the financial envelope being declared to the Commission for reimbursement through interim payments. This would be on top of the payment of the annual pre-financing of 2%.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

European Social Fund

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	93 619.5	93 630.5	100%
Payments	73 353.0		78%

Implementation of the ESF/YEI has progressed relatively well. The effects of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII and CRII+) and REACT-EU programme amendments and the higher flexibility provided positively impacted the financial implementation rate. By mid-January 2022, all amendments concerning the 2021 REACT-EU allocation were adopted. As regards the ESF, most REACT-EU allocations went to labour market measures (EUR 9.4 billion), including measures to short-term work schemes. EUR 2.8 billion were allocated to education and training and EUR 1.7 billion to social inclusion measures. DG EMPL has worked in close contact with the Managing Authorities of the operational programmes to make sure that ESF/YEI resources were swiftly mobilised on the ground to allow for a prompt response to the crisis and a swift recovery. The Managing Authorities have been supported through regular bilateral contacts with DG EMPL geographical units and through the dedicated Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Platform. On 23 November 2021, the Commission adopted the breakdown by Member State of REACT-EU resources for the year 2022, based on the latest available socioeconomic data ⁽⁴⁾. Most Member States have started planning –and in some cases already decided- the allocation of this 2nd instalment between funds/operational programmes.

Thanks to the CRII and CRII+ initiatives, since the beginning of the crisis, about EUR 25.3 billion of Cohesion policy resources have been mobilised/reprogrammed to counter the crisis. The Coronavirus Dashboard ⁽⁵⁾ on the Open Data Platform provides up-to-date information on these resources.

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2021 Summary Report ⁽⁶⁾ of the programmes' Annual Implementation Reports covering implementation up to end 2020 was published and was accompanied by an update and further development of the ESIF Open Data Platform ⁽⁷⁾. This report underlines that, for all ESI Funds taken together, project selection (financing decided) amounted to EUR 676 billion (106% of the total allocation) by end 2020. This is a significant 17 percentage point increase compared to the situation at end-2019, confirming that the acceleration in project selection that started in 2016 continued in 2020. Most Member States have fully allocated the available budget for the 2014-2020 cycle. The explanation for the over-allocation resides in the practice of many programmes to award support to a volume of projects that exceeds the total planned cost of the programme. In terms of payments from the EU budget to the Member States, for all ESI Funds taken together a net total of EUR 253.8 billion was paid by end-2020 (55%, including pre-financing and interim payments of declared expenditure and deducting recoveries), which increased to EUR 331.1 billion until end-2021 (67%). This suggests that the rate of implementation has not slowed down in the exceptional circumstances of the crisis. In fact, considering both the high stage of maturity of the programmes and the immediate flexibility provided for the funds as crisis response under CRII, including 100% EU financing, there was a clear boost in terms of EU payments made to programmes. More in particular, the ESF has now reached cruising speed and the difficulties related to implementation, such as the late start of operational programmes at the beginning of the 2014-2020 programming period, have been addressed. Moreover, implementation progress and challenges are addressed in the ESF Technical Working Group and ESF Committee meetings, which take place five times a year and gather Commission officials, Member States representatives and representatives from the social partners. The main challenges identified were linked to a slow start of implementation and the high level of complexity associated with the management of the fund, as well as a greater need for active involvement of stakeholders and their representatives in all stages of projects. Discussions focused, among other aspects, on promoting the use of simplified cost options in ESF programmes, better involving social partners and all relevant stakeholders in the programming, implementation, and monitoring phases of the ESF programmes through sharing of best practices, for instance. These challenges will also be addressed in the next programming period, as the 2021-2027 Common Provisions Regulation and the ESF+ Regulation aim to further simplify implementation. Moreover, DG EMPL desk officers responsible for leading the negotiations on the ESF+ programmes in the Member States will address all relevant challenges identified by the evaluations and the ESF Committee and Technical Working Group during ESF+ programming by discussing bilaterally with the authorities.

By end-2021, the overall ESF project selection rate, including for the additional REACT-EU allocation, stood at 105%. In 2021, nearly EUR 14.6 billion have been paid to the 2014-2020 ESF programmes as well as nearly EUR 320 million for REACT-EU, lifting the absorption rate to 61% (total payments made compared to allocation, including REACT-EU). When considering the trend observed since the start of the current programming period, the level of ESF expenditure certified to the Commission

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/2055 of 23 November 2021 amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/182 to set out the breakdown by Member State of REACT-EU resources for the year 2022 (notified under document C(2021) 8271).

⁽⁵⁾ [Coronavirus Dashboard: EU Cohesion Policy Response to the Crisis.](#)

⁽⁶⁾ [Summary Report of the Programmes.](#)

⁽⁷⁾ [ESIF Open Data Platform.](#)

remained high in 2021, which is a confirmation that a mature phase of implementation has been reached for the majority of programmes. Implementation has not been impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis thanks to the effects of the CRII/CRII(+) programme amendments and the higher flexibility provided, as explained above for all ESI Funds.

In regard to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), the mature phase of implementation continued in 2021. By the end of 2021, the total eligible cost of YEI operations selected for support was EUR 11.3 billion and more than EUR 7.3 billion had been declared by beneficiaries. By end 2021, nearly EUR 4.5 billion had been paid to the Member States in relation to YEI (including interim payments and pre-financing).

Even though the differences among types of regions were significant in the early years of implementation, the figures reported in the 2020 Annual Implementation Reports suggest that these differences have almost entirely disappeared, with implementation of ESF/YEI picking up steam in Member States and regions that were lagging behind. Overall, the implementation has seen a positive trend across the EU, allowing the 188 ESF operational programmes to continue investing in promoting sustainable employment, social inclusion and investing in education and institutional capacity. However, some differences still exist. In terms of expenditure declared, the lowest implementation rate was observed in Croatia. The Croatian authorities had problems meeting the ex ante conditionalities at the start of the programming period, which continued to cascade into present-day delays. Moreover, Croatian authorities also indicate that their capacity to manage project calls and monitor the activities continues to face challenges (e.g. administrative and procedural issues, compliance with GDPR, delays at governance level due to a focus on preparations and not yet on attracting proposals etc.). Implementation weaknesses are regularly addressed bilaterally by DG EMPL's geographical desk officers in the context of ESF implementation as well as ESF+ programming negotiations with Managing Authorities.

Simplified Cost Options (SCOs)

Following the adoption of Delegated Regulation 2015/2195 ⁽⁸⁾ in July 2015, the Commission adopted nine amendments of the Regulation by the end of 2021. In total, 19 Member States and the UK benefit from the legal certainty of having their simplified cost methodology and amount defined in advance and also from the consequent reduction in the administrative burden associated with reduced documentation that needed to be retained for management verification. Since the start of the 2014-2020 programming period, the total ESF expenditure which has been reimbursed on the basis of unit costs and lump sums under Article 14(1) of the above Regulation is approximately EUR 12 billion.

Finally, in 2021 DG EMPL completed a study on the development of EU-level SCOs and financing not linked to costs schemes for the 2021-2027 period in the area of community social services and for ALMA (active inclusion measures for disadvantaged young people). In 2022 DG EMPL will adopt a delegated act and Member States will be able to make use of these off-the-shelf tools, if they so wish, so as to simplify implementation of their ESF+ programmes for both programme authorities and beneficiaries.

Information about financial instruments financed by the ESF

As of end 2020, 11 Member States have included financial instruments in their operational programmes for the 2014-2020 period. Some Member States committed resources to financial instruments from their regional programmes such as Germany, Italy and Poland. All other committed resources were from national programmes. EUR 785 million of operational programmes' resources were committed to financial instruments. This is nearly 0.6% of the ESF and YEI resources for the 2014-2020 programming period.

About EUR 377 million or over two thirds of ESF commitments to financial instruments were allocated to thematic objective 8 (employment), while EUR 90 million and EUR 75 million were committed for thematic objective 9 (social inclusion) and 10 (education). The highest ESF resources committed to thematic objectives 9 and 10 were in Italy and Poland.

ESF and YEI disbursements to final recipients were 22% of the respective amounts committed to the financial instruments. Over 7 960 final recipients were supported, of which 4 047 microenterprises and 3 557 individuals. Two out of three final recipients were provided with loans.

In the new programming period 2021-2027, the increased use of financial instruments will be a priority under the ESF+.

On the one hand, financial instruments cannot be taken as an alternative to ESF grants due to the specific nature of ESF activities (small projects, specific target groups, limited or no direct financial return on investment, etc.). On the other hand, for a number of operations with financial viability, they represent a resource-efficient way of deploying Cohesion policy resources in pursuit of the Commission political objectives.

Forthcoming implementation

Member States will submit their Annual Implementation Reports in 2022 with updated information as of end 2021. These will contain both quantitative and qualitative evidence on the implementation of the ESF.

Based on these reports, the four ESIF Directorate-Generals of the European Commission will prepare an Annual Summary Report to the attention of the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

⁽⁸⁾ [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2015/2195 of 9 July 2015 on supplementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund, regarding the definition of standard scales of unit costs and lump sums for reimbursement of expenditure by the Commission to the Member States](#)

To accompany this report, DG EMPL, together with the other ESIF DGs, will also continue making relevant data available to all on the ESIF Open Data Platform.

In 2022, DG EMPL will continue providing technical and policy guidance on the operational programmes through the monitoring committees to ensure that the programmes are on track to deliver the expected results. DG EMPL will run the ESF Transnational Cooperation Platform (TCP) until its conclusion, in July 2022. The TCP was set up in July 2020 for a duration of 24 months. It has been the framework for activities related to transnational cooperation, revolving around four communities of practice: employment, education and skills; social inclusion; social innovation; and result-based management. Its aim is to foster mutual learning and good practice between the Member States' ESF Managing Authorities and other stakeholders involved in ESF planning, implementation and monitoring, while paving the way for the 2021-2027 programming period and ESF+. Due to the pandemic, all activities took place online. After the end of the TCP in 2022 and during the 2021-2027 period, transnational cooperation activities will take place under the 'ESF Social Innovation+' initiative. With a budget of EUR 197 million, the initiative will be implemented under indirect management, i.e. by an entity entrusted by the European Commission to implement the initiative on its behalf. Following a call for expression of interest, the Lithuanian European Social Fund Agency (ESFA) was selected. The first activities of the initiative are expected to start in the second half of 2022, upon completion of the administrative procedures formalising the role of ESFA.

The implementation of the programmes is expected to continue at cruising speed in 2022, reinforcing the positive trend observed in 2021. Project selection rates and interim payment requests are expected to increase further. The gap between the project selection rate on the ground and the implementation rate of ESF is expected to reduce significantly in 2022 and 2023. According to the Member States' forecasts, an amount of EUR 13.4 billion is expected to be sent to the Commission for reimbursement in 2022, lifting the implementation rate to 75% of the total envelope. Additional EUR 12.5 billion is expected to be requested for reimbursement in 2023, further raising the implementation rate of ESF to 88%. The COVID-19 crisis is not expected to impact the level of interim payments in 2022 and 2023. Moreover, DG EMPL will continue its work on the assessment of programme amendment requests submitted by Member States to ensure the policy and result-orientation of the ESF and YEI programmes.

In March 2022, in order to help Member States and regions to provide emergency support to people fleeing from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Commission adopted the Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) initiative. The initiative introduced the necessary flexibility in the 2014-2020 Cohesion policy rules to allow a swift reallocation of available funding to such emergency support. In practical terms, the Member States will have more flexibility to use the ERDF and ESF to support the integration of refugees. The ESF may provide diverse support to refugees in finding jobs, starting or continuing education and accessing childcare. They will also be able to receive support for counselling, training and psychological assistance. To complement this initiative, the Commission has proposed to increase by EUR 3.4 billion the total pre-financing from the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe (REACT-EU). Once adopted by co-legislators, this immediate injection of liquidity, in combination with the flexibility introduced by the CARE initiative, will speed-up Member States' access to funds to spend on infrastructure, housing, equipment and services in employment, education, social inclusion, healthcare and childcare. The impact of the Ukraine crisis will be known in the coming years once the Member States submit their Annual Implementation Reports.

Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	3 813.7	3 813.7	100%
Payments	2 931.1		77%

Note: this table represents the gross level of payments made by the Commission to the Managing Authorities for the period 2014-2020, not taking into account the amounts actually recovered by the Commission. For further detail on the implementation, please check the Open Data Platform: [Open Data Portal for the European Structural Investment Funds - European Commission | Data | European Structural and Investment Funds \(europa.eu\)](https://open-data-portal.ec.europa.eu/data-portal/data-sets/european-structural-and-investment-funds)

According to the 2020 FEAD Annual Implementation Reports, the fund contributed substantially to alleviate the worst forms of poverty in the EU and to promote social inclusion for those at the margin of society. Despite its limited budget, FEAD has shown that it successfully complements national efforts to address material deprivation and combat poverty and social exclusion. It notably addressed food deprivation, child poverty and homelessness.

In 2020, FEAD successfully delivered assistance in 27 Member States, making good progress to achieve its objectives. It supported almost 15 million people with food, approximately 1.96 million people with material assistance and 30 000 people with social inclusion assistance.

In regard to financial implementation, the total eligible public expenditure committed to FEAD support stood at EUR 643 million in 2020, up from EUR 608 million in 2019. At the end of 2020, the cumulative amounts committed (for 2014-2020) amounted to

approximately EUR 3.9 billion, or 85% of the total resources of the programmes (which include EU funds and national co-financing). An amount of approximately EUR 552.2 million was paid to beneficiaries in 2020, a notable increase with respect to previous years' levels (EUR 478.5 in 2019, EUR 501.2 million in 2018, EUR 412.8 million in 2017 and EUR 435.2 million in 2016). The increase is mainly due to the restart of operations in Romania in 2020. It also reflects the increased demand due to the COVID-19 health crisis that worsened the conditions for existing vulnerable people in receipt of FEAD support, while additional people also sought food aid, including people with precarious jobs (e.g. short-term contracts, temporary or informal work), independent workers and also disadvantaged tertiary education students. The increase in payments is consistent with the increase in end-recipients. The profile of target groups remained broadly stable, albeit with some small changes. In 2020, according to estimations of partner organisations about 47% of the end recipients were women (2 percentage points less than in 2019), 28% children aged 15 or below (also 2 percentage points less than in 2019), about 10% migrants, participants with a foreign background or minorities, 10% people aged 65 years or over (2 percentage points more than in 2019), 6% homeless people and another 6% people with disabilities.

According to 2020 data, the COVID-19 outbreak resulted in lower Member States' expenditure declarations. During the second quarter of 2020, those represented EUR 51 million - less than half of the corresponding amount from 2019 (EUR 128 million). However, the situation improved in the second part of the year. Eventually, the total FEAD amount declared during 2020 was only slightly lower than the total amount declared during 2019 (EUR 549 million ⁽⁹⁾ declared in comparison to EUR 573 million during 2019). The total amount paid for FEAD in 2021 increased to EUR 610.8 million due to the extra resources (EUR 81 million) made available under REACT-EU.

FEAD is well on track to reach its objectives. However, a few obstacles to implementation persisted, such as capacity issues of partner organisations and logistical challenges mainly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These were partly tackled through the increased flexibility and reduced administrative burden offered by the 2020 FEAD amendments, which allowed to deliver food aid and basic material assistance through electronic vouchers, to provide personal protective equipment thus lowering the risk of contamination and to finance measures at 100% for the accounting year 2020-2021. Strong cooperation between Managing Authorities and partner organisations also proved to be essential to address new challenges.

Forthcoming implementation

In 2022 and 2023, the fund is expected to continue to support a similar number of people among the target group of the most deprived, as the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis continue to affect disproportionately the most vulnerable people in the society. Based on Member States' forecasts, including the REACT-EU additional credits, the implementation rate is expected to increase to 84% of the total envelope in 2022 and to be close to 100% in 2023.

The year 2022 will also be marked by the transition to the successor fund European Social Fund+ (ESF+), into which the FEAD is merged.

Part of the CARE initiative, funding from the FEAD will also be crucial to provide much-needed food and basic material assistance to the people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Employment and Social Innovation programme

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	882.7	899.6	98%
Payments	693.6		77%

Since its launch in 2014, EaSI has provided financial support to promote high-quality and sustainable employment, adequate and decent social protection, social inclusion, poverty reduction and prevention and fair working conditions. It is structured into three axes for the period 2014-2020:

- PROGRESS axis focuses on providing support to the policymaking and implementation process through production of policy evidence, organisation of information sharing and mutual-learning activities, funding social policy experimentation projects and providing capacity-building support to EU and national organisations;
- EURES axis aims to improve geographical labour mobility in the EU through making information on placements more transparent and accessible as well as funding the actual services for jobseekers and employers;

⁽⁹⁾ This amount includes an invoice for 2020 that Romania revised and resubmitted in February 2021 corresponding to EUR 40 665 406.17.

- Microfinance and social entrepreneurship (MF/SE) axis aims to improve access to finance for vulnerable people, micro- and social enterprises by providing funding for financial intermediaries and capacity building of relevant actors.

EaSI creates added value to national policies, for instance with regard to the exchange of good practices, the social policy innovations, the cross-border partnerships, the support provided to social enterprises as well as regarding the provision of loans to vulnerable people.

The Programme focuses on key actions with high European added value such as:

1. Supporting the EU policymaking process and a stronger EU policy coordination/economic governance, for example in the context of the European Semester;
2. Focusing on the transnational dimension of employment and social situation, working conditions, health and safety at work issues;
3. Ensuring development and proper application of EU laws in the field of employment, working conditions, health and safety at work, and social protection;
4. Promoting EU governance, mutual learning, inclusive information sharing and dialogue to consolidate cooperation between the Member States and achieve EU goals;
5. Making knowledge and expertise accessible at EU level through policy experimentation and transferring/up-scaling best practices;
6. Promoting workers' EU geographical mobility by developing services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment (in particular young people and professionals) through the clearance at European level of vacancies and job applications;
7. Increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance and the support to social entrepreneurship.

The implementation of activities linked to commitments made within the 2014-2020 programme has continued in 2021. As in previous years, PROGRESS concentrated in 2021 on gathering evidence through studies, analysis and EU statistics to shape policy developments. In connection to this, the axis fostered shared understanding of policy options and solutions by providing for high quality, inclusive and participatory policy debates. It also promoted the involvement of civil society through financial support for 23 key Union level NGOs via 23 operating grants. In 2021, the EURES axis supported the European job mobility portal, training courses on EURES services, as well as horizontal support to the member organisations of the EURES network. In this context, it continued financing cross-border partnerships supporting mobility for frontier workers in the cross-border regions along with targeted mobility schemes, following the preparatory action 'Your First EURES job'. The 13 EURES calls for proposals dealing with matters such as intra-EU mobility in general and targeted mobility schemes for youngsters and persons re-entering the labour market launched between 2014-2020 resulted in 94 contracts.

The Progress axis has supported actions in three thematic sections, exceeding the minimum shares of financial commitments foreseen per thematic section over the entire programme duration:

- employment, in particular, to fight youth unemployment: 28% (minimum share: at least 20%).
- social protection, social inclusion and the reduction and prevention of poverty: 50% (minimum share: 45%).
- working conditions: at least 10% (minimum share: 7%).

The EURES axis has supported actions in three thematic sections, with the following minimum shares of financial commitments foreseen per thematic section over the entire programme duration:

- transparency of job vacancies, applications and any related information for applicants and employers: 33% (minimum share: at least 15%).
- development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment through the clearance of job vacancies and applications at Union level, in particular, targeted mobility schemes: 49% (minimum share: at least 15%).
- cross-border partnerships: 10 % (minimum share: at least 18%).

The committed funding for the two first thematic sections was well in line with the indicative minimum percentages set in the EaSI legal basis, while activities under the thematic section focusing on cross-border partnerships have not reached the minimum indicative target, mainly due to the quality of applications received under the call for proposals.

The Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis supported actions in two thematic sections, with the following minimum shares of financial commitments foreseen per thematic section over the entire programme duration:

- microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises: 52% (minimum share: at least 35%).
- social entrepreneurship: 33% (minimum share: at least 35%).

Regarding the financial commitments for social entrepreneurship (33%), this percentage excludes reflows from the previous financial instruments. Overall, EUR 166.9 million were allocated to the microfinance and EUR 95.1 million to social entrepreneurship, corresponding to a share of 36.2%.

In general, the COVID-19 pandemic has given rise to extending deadlines allowing the applicants to duly prepare high quality and relevant proposals under the 2020 launched calls for proposals. This, subsequently, has caused some delays in the award of grants that were finalised in 2021. Out of the seven calls under the 2020 work programme, six have been launched in 2020, resulting in 132 agreements.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic also caused some delays in the implementation of projects. In the beginning of the pandemic, some projects postponed face-to-face meetings and study visits in the hope to hold these later on but, eventually, had to cancel or transform them into online events.

In order to support the organisations, notably those benefitting from an operating grant, the payments were processed more speedily. In addition, the use of e-signatories, acceptance of e-documents where in the past only hard copies were accepted, and relying more on ex post instead of ex ante verifications also contributed to swifter processing of invoices and payment requests. In addition, a specific call strengthening the role of the social partners in mitigating the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis was introduced in the 2020 work programme and was launched in February 2021.

The EaSI Financial Instruments (encompassing the EaSI Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship Guarantee, the Capacity Building Investments Window and the Funded Instrument) continued in 2021 to support microenterprises and social enterprises improving their access to finance and helping them start up and grow their businesses, thereby creating and sustaining jobs. The three instruments are implemented by the European Investment Fund (EIF).

The Delegation Agreement between the Commission and the EIF for the EaSI Guarantee was signed in 2015 with technical amendments in 2016 and further amendments in 2017 and 2018 allowing for an additional top-up of EUR 300 million from EFSI. A fifth amendment was signed in 2020 to introduce the COVID-19 support measures allowing for higher risk sharing. The main changes introduced were an increase in the ceiling of the guarantee rate from 80% to 90% for the COVID-19 support period final recipient loans, a one year extension of the guarantee coverage, a six months extension of the availability period for loan inclusions under existing guarantee agreements, lower risk retention for financial intermediaries and an increase of the maximum exposure in respect of a final recipient loan from EUR 25 000 to EUR 50 000 for the microfinance guarantee and for the social entrepreneurship guarantee from EUR 500 000 to EUR 1 million. The initial financial envelope of EUR 96 million has been extended to a current financial envelope of EUR 131 million (out of which EUR 1 million committed for the Business Development Services Support pilot and on top of EUR 300 million from EFSI).

From its launch until 30 September 2021, guarantee agreements worth of EUR 401 million were signed with 114 financial intermediaries in 31 countries which resulted in a total of 154 137 loans to micro- and social enterprises worth of EUR 2.5 billion.

The EaSI capacity-building instrument with a financial envelope of EUR 45 million aims at building the institutional capacity of selected financial intermediaries in Europe for both microfinance and social entrepreneurship, primarily through equity and quasi-equity investments. Capacity building investments can be used for several purposes, depending on the intermediaries' needs (investment in branch expansion, scaling up of IT infrastructure and investment in human resources). This instrument is also implemented by the EIF. At 30 June 2021, 17 transactions for an aggregated amount of EUR 39 million were signed with financial intermediaries in 10 countries, out of which 9 in the EU and 1 in a candidate country (Serbia).

The EaSI Funded Instrument is a EUR 200 million loan fund aiming at promoting microfinance and social entrepreneurship in the Member States and other participating countries, by encouraging microfinance institutions and social enterprise lenders to increase funding for microenterprises as well as social enterprises as a means of supporting financial and social inclusion. The loan fund provides senior and subordinated loans to microfinance institutions and social enterprise lenders in order to boost their lending capacity. The EU budget resources available to the EaSI Funded Instrument are set at EUR 67 million as a first-loss piece investment. The EU is the only equity-holder in the sub-fund. The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) will provide funding respectively under a senior loan facility of EUR 110 million and a mezzanine loan facility of EUR 23 million. At the end of 2021, 13 transactions for an aggregate amount of EUR 83.6 million had been concluded and 4 additional transactions worth EUR 19.9 million were in the pipeline.

Forthcoming implementation

The EaSI Programme brought together three EU programmes managed separately between 2007 and 2013 (PROGRESS, EURES and Progress Microfinance) as the three axes of EaSI. For the period 2021 – 2027, the EaSI programme is a strand for the direct and indirect management of the European Social Funds Plus and is not structured anymore in three axes. It maintains the focus on evidence-based policy-making and social experimentation, support to job mobility and the non-financial instrument activities related to the former Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis. However, under the programming period 2021-2027, the successor of the EaSI financial instruments for microfinance or social entrepreneurship will be implemented under the InvestEU Fund and will no longer be part of the ESF+ EaSI strand.

The EaSI financial instruments will continue to be implemented until the end of their implementation period and they will continue to implement the support measures which were introduced in 2020 in order to counter the impact of COVID-19 outbreak at least until 30 June 2022 (in line with the extension of the State Aid Temporary Framework). As for EaSI technical assistance, some operations under the existing framework contracts will still be supported in 2022. However, the advisory services and technical support to microfinance intermediaries and social enterprise finance providers will be offered under the InvestEU Advisory Hub.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

ESF+ will support investment in job creation, education and training, as well as social inclusion, access to healthcare, and measures for eradicating poverty in the EU. As such, it will make a decisive contribution to mitigate the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis by promoting employment and reducing poverty levels, creating better opportunities for all, especially young people and children.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment for the shared management strand of ESF+ will be provided once the implementation will have started. At the reporting date, none of the ESF+ programmes was adopted by the Commission. However, as the eligibility of expenditure on the ground started on 1 January 2021, Member States will have a backlog of ongoing operations. As soon as adopted, the programmes may cover and finance operations that are already being implemented on the ground but are not yet completed at the time of programme approval, therefore partially mitigating the delays in programmes' approval.

Article 32 of the ESF+ Regulation establishes the monitoring dispositions for the implementation of the EaSI strand and, as a novelty, annex IV the primary indicators to report on the progress of the strand.

To monitor the strand in greater detail, additional subsets of indicators have been designed by DG EMPL as part of the performance framework of the EaSI strand ⁽¹⁰⁾.

Input and output indicators will become available at the end of 2022, when actions of the work programme 2021 will be implemented and finalised.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

European Social Fund

With an overall budget of EUR 133.7 billion (EU + national share) ⁽¹¹⁾, the programme has recorded a positive trend in implementation, allowing Member States to continue investing in sustainable and quality employment, social inclusion, education and vocational training, and institutional capacity. Reported data by Managing Authorities through their 2020 Annual Implementation Reports has increased significantly after some late reporting observed in the previous years.

Available data related to ESF financial implementation by end 2021 suggests that, thanks to the CRII/CRII(+) and REACT-EU initiatives, the rate of implementation has not slowed down in the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic (see section 2.2).

Data from the latest Annual Implementation Reports show that the project selection rate increased steadily, reaching 100% at EU level by end-2020 (EU + national share), which means an increase of 15 percentage points compared to last year's reporting. Declared expenditure rates also rose steadily, reaching 54% at the EU level by end-2020. Though differences among types of regions were quite pronounced in the early years of implementation, these have almost entirely disappeared, both in terms of project selection rates and declared expenditure (see section 2.2). The factors driving these results are outlined in detail in the following paragraphs for each specific objective.

The use of financial instruments also increased with 11 Member States having included them in their operational programmes for 2014-2020 period by the end of 2020, mainly under thematic objective 8 employment (EUR 377 million) with the remainder being committed under thematic objective 9 social inclusion (EUR 75 million) and thematic objective 10 education (EUR 90 million). Financial instruments can support a broad range of development objectives to the benefit of a wide range of recipients with the potential for funds to be reused for further investments. In 2014-2020, recognising the advantages of financial instruments, their use was extended to all thematic objectives and was intensified thanks to improved and more flexible implementation options. Increased financial instruments take up was also due to advisory and technical support provided in the context of the fi-compass ⁽¹²⁾, a joint initiative provided by the European Commission together with the European Investment Bank aiming at building capacity within the ESF managing authorities.

⁽¹⁰⁾ These indicators are divided in the following categories:

- input indicators, measuring the performance in relation to the financial implementation of the strand.
- output indicators, related to the direct deliverables of the strand and are directly linked to the eligible actions defined in Article 26 of the ESF+ Regulation; for example the number of studies published, the number of events organised or the number of participants to the events.
- results indicators, looking forward to the immediate effects of the EaSI strand activities; for instance, the number of participants reached through the EaSI strand activities.
- outcome indicators, measuring the extent to which the strand effectively implements the specific objectives defined in Article 4(1) of the ESF+ Regulation and the operational objectives defined in Article 25 of the ESF+ Regulation.

⁽¹¹⁾ Not including the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which receives an EU contribution of EUR 8.9 billion.

⁽¹²⁾ [FI-compass](#)

By end 2020, ESF/YEI actions helped 5.4 million participants find a job, while another 7.4 million participants gained a qualification and 2.2 million were in education or training. Additionally, a total of 5 million disadvantaged participants achieved one of these positive results.

The ESF has been successfully promoting sustainable and quality employment (specific objective 1) by supporting 17 million participants under this thematic objective, by end 2020. This has steadily increased since 2016 and represents a significant improvement compared to end-2019, when data showed that 14 million participants had been supported. The trend reflects the performance observed in the previous programming period: an acceleration in implementation and in the achievement of outputs and/or results typically takes place after the mid-term. Moreover, all Member States implemented projects/operations under this specific objective by end 2020 and these types of projects are usually relatively short interventions. Therefore, results/outputs are materializing faster. Another reason for this improvement is that, by this time in the programming period, the ESF programmes from the 2007-2013 period have been fully implemented and Managing Authorities now only focus on the implementation of the 2014-2020 ESF programmes. Under this objective, more than 5.2 million participants achieved positive results. This consist of people that found a job, gained a qualification or were able to improve their labour market position by means of ESF interventions. The total allocated ESF investments under thematic objective 8 amounts to EUR 40.1 billion for ESF 2014-2020 (EU + national co-financing), of which 96.8% was committed (for selected operations) by the end of 2020. The project selection rate is relatively uniform in the Member States, showing an overall steady pace of implementation at the EU level (96.8% at end 2020).

In the field of social inclusion (specific objective 2), the ESF has been contributing to the EU2020 headline target of reducing poverty in the EU by targeting various specific groups such as low-skilled, (long-term) unemployed, elderly, disabled and people with a migrant/foreign background. In order to ensure that a sufficient share of resources is allocated to promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, Article 4(2) of the ESF Regulation requests that at least 20% of the total ESF resources in each Member State shall be allocated to this thematic objective. Member States allocated a variety of interventions to this objective also evidenced by its highest allocated budget. This specific objective has been allocated a total of EUR 34.1 billion (EU + national co-financing), of which 98.1% had been selected for projects by the end of 2020. This project selection rate shows that progress is relatively well underway, with only limited differences among Member States. In Italy, for instance, the average project selection rate remained below the EU average (70.9%) in 2020. A number of Managing Authorities were counting on an increase in project calls, which did not materialise by end-2020. No specific reasons were mentioned in the Annual Implementation Reports. In 2021 the selection rate increased significantly, with an average of 100%. DG EMPL accompanied the Managing Authorities in the reprogramming of the different programmes to include COVID-19 support measures, notably short-time work schemes, and the option of 100% co-financing in the 2020-2021 accounting year. DG EMPL geographical desk officers are always in close bilateral contact with Managing Authorities to ensure all implementation challenges are effectively addressed. At EU level, by end 2020 social inclusion investments supported 10.8 million participants, which led to 3 million positive results, such as finding a job, gaining a qualification or other improvements in terms of one's position on the labour market. Moreover, 40% of all ESF participants supported by end 2020 were considered as part of disadvantaged groups. The figure is slightly lower than in 2019 (42%). This may be due to the COVID-19 crisis, as ESF resources were partially shifted to direct anti-crisis measures such as job maintenance, resulting in a focus on employed participants, among whom disadvantaged are less represented. The increase in the share of employed participants from 21.7% by 2019 to 24.3% by 2020 is an indication to that. However, the ESF has maintained a strong focus on disadvantaged participants and the 2020 value is in line with the target of 40%. The indicator shows that the ESF is successfully reaching and supporting the most vulnerable groups and thus provided an important contribution to the headline target of lifting people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion. The evaluation of ESF support for social inclusion finalised in 2020 showed that the provision of personalised support is costly and requires more intense training of providers. Yet, sufficient time and personalised support for participants are crucial to ensure needs are met and to generate the desired results. For these reasons, DG EMPL will continue promoting the use of long-term strategies on long-term unemployment, the implementation of more person-centred approaches, and advocate against the use of institutional care, also under the ESF+. Moreover, under the ESF+ Member States will have to allocate at least 25% of their ESF+ resources to promote social inclusion. DG EMPL will use evidence on costs from the current programming period and will continue advocating for personal support in the ESF+ programmes negotiations, because this approach has proven to be more effective in the long run. However, it is worth remembering that under shared management the final decision on how to use the resources on the ground lies with the Managing Authorities from the Member States.

With regard to education and training (specific objective 3), a total amount of EUR 37.1 billion (EU + national share together) was allocated, which makes it the ESF's second largest specific objective, slightly lower than the employment-related one. Implementation is relatively high across all regions, with a project selection rate by end 2020 at or above 100% in most Member States and types of region. In terms of participation and target achievement rates, no substantial differences were observed. All Member States that programmed interventions under this objective now report participations. In total, 16.9 million participants were recorded for all operations in the field of education by end 2020, of which 6.2 million have reached an individual short-term result. This represents an improvement compared to 2019, when 13.4 million participants were reported under this specific objective. The increase in the rate of implementation and in the achievement of outputs and/or results is attributable to the same reasons as for specific objective 1. In terms of immediate results, more than 4.3 million participants gained a qualification with support of ESF investments with an education objective, while another 1.2 million participants were in education/training upon leaving the intervention. As could be expected for operations that focus on education, these results are higher than the results related to the number of participants that engaged in job searching or entered employment. In addition, 2.8 million participants recorded an improvement in their skills (not necessarily leading to a qualification). In all Member States, COVID-19 measures had an impact on progress in implementation of education investments. For instance, many education providers were unable to offer

training, there were less face-to-face lessons and more difficulties in the planning and execution of projects due to the multitude of unforeseen events. Projects adapted to these consequences, through adjustments of training offers and education programmes, introducing distance-learning, the design of e-learning modules and other responses. The conclusions of the evaluation on ESF support to education and training show that, compared to the other specific objectives, the lower percentage of the positive results after six months is an inherent result. The reason is that longer-term common result indicators are oriented towards employment and measure the extent to which the employment situation of participants has improved, while actions under specific objective 3 support mostly skills development and, to some extent, labour market relevance of education and training. Moreover, the lower success rates reported for low qualified adults, people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), and disadvantaged groups are due to the fact that, to effectively support these target groups, it is necessary to intervene ad hoc, which is typically more expensive. DG EMPL advocates for a more person-centred approach, an increased focus on the most vulnerable groups and on digital skills across all ESF programmes. This is done through bilateral discussions between DG EMPL desk officers and Managing Authorities in the context of the ESF+ programming negotiations and ESF implementation, as well as in the ESF Committee and the Technical Working Groups.

Institutional capacity investments (specific objective 4) receive the lowest budget allocation with an overall EUR 4.4 billion. The implementation of these investments moves relatively in line with the other thematic objectives and reported a total of 95.4% of the allocated amounts as eligible costs by end 2020. This type of investments supported 61 365 projects targeting public administrations or public services at national, regional or local level. The number of projects supported has significantly increased since 2018 (27 644 projects supported). In terms of individual results, such interventions mainly contributed to public officials gaining a certain type of qualification (229 277), but most meaningful results in this area are procedural in kind, such as shorter time required for certain operations or specific positive results for organisations, public administrations, the judiciary and civil society organisations such as implementation of certain IT systems, revision and/or simplification of procedures and increased regulatory scrutiny.

As regards investments in specific support to young NEETs (specific objective 5), on average over 100% of the total budget was already reported as eligible costs by end 2020. In regard to outputs, by the end of 2020, a total of 3.4 million young people had benefitted from YEI support. At EU level, participants are well balanced from a gender perspective, with an approximately equal share of men (51%) and women (49%) reached by the interventions. The immediate results of YEI support point to 2.5 million unemployed or inactive persons having completed a YEI intervention. Moreover, around 1.6 million were in education or training, had gained a qualification or were in employment, including self-employment at the end of the YEI-supported measure. These outputs and results indicate a positive trend in implementation and good progress in reaching the targets. The findings of the evaluation on ESF/YEI support to youth employment highlight, among other elements, that integrated pathways are needed to better support disadvantaged groups across all ESF programmes. This will be addressed in the ESF+, where there will be a specific focus on youth employment. Member States with a level of NEETs above the EU average should devote at least 12.5% of their ESF+ resources to help these young people find a qualification, or a good quality job. All other Member States must allocate an appropriate amount of their ESF+ resources to targeted actions to support youth employment measures. Moreover, under the ESF+, DG EMPL intends to support better outreach of NEETs, a person-centred approach and more inclusive measures. In this regard, DG EMPL will launch the ALMA initiative, working on the scaling-up of a cross-border youth mobility scheme for most disadvantaged NEETs (for personal or structural reasons) that has already been implemented by some Member States under the ESF since 2008. By giving to most marginalized NEETs the opportunity to create new connections across Europe, ALMA will foster their inclusion into society and help them find their way to the job market in their home countries more easily. Member States will be able to programme ALMA activities in their ESF+ programmes at national and/or regional level as from 2022. A call for proposals as a one-off initiative in order to help implement the transnational partnerships and do some piloting for few Member States facing obstacles in the ALMA programming in 2022 will be also launched in Q4 2022, in order to foster first placements of participants.

Overall, the main challenges encountered are linked to a slow start of implementation in the first years of the programming period and the high level of complexity associated with the management of the fund. These will be addressed in the next programming period as the adopted legislation further simplifies implementation by facilitating the roll-over of existing designations of implementing authorities. Programming will also be simplified through simpler Partnership Agreements and programmes in content, including lighter procedures for programme amendments. The 2021-2027 rules will also allow for an increased focus on results and simpler ways to claim payments by making more extensive use of simplified cost options and financing not linked to costs. This will further reduce the need for beneficiaries to document detailed costs for each operation and will allow both beneficiaries and programme authorities to better focus on the quality and intended results of the funded actions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that special attention needs to be paid to vulnerable groups such as women, people at risk of poverty or social exclusion and NEETs, among others. They are the ones who had been hardest hit by the crisis and risk being left behind. The need to further support the development of digital skills across the EU also became evident. Member States should focus on these target groups and priorities in the medium and long-term recovery through ESF, REACT-EU and ESF+ programming. The ESF+ Regulation sets out thematic concentration requirements that will ensure an increased focus on actions promoting social inclusion, fighting poverty and developing the skills needed for the digital and green transitions. It also includes a more ambitious requirement for investing in young people and addressing child poverty. Moreover, learning from the COVID-19 crisis, a derogation article was added to the ESF+ Regulation setting out the possibility to adopt temporary measures to respond to possible future exceptional and unusual circumstances.

As for the response to the pandemic, the ESF was primarily used to support people affected by the crisis and to increase the capacity of social and health care services, notably through support to short-time work schemes, to supplementary wage for healthcare personnel and healthcare equipment, and to improve access to healthcare and social services for vulnerable groups. Overall, thanks to the flexibility and additional resources introduced by the CRII(+) and REACT-EU initiatives, no negative effect on ESF performance was noticed by end-2020, according to information submitted by the Member States through the latest Annual Implementation Reports.

Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived

FEAD is effectively providing much needed food and basic material assistance to a large number of most deprived, complemented by accompanying measures providing guidance and advice aiming at their social inclusion. During the 2014-2020 programming period, FEAD support was present in 27 Member States. Most Member States (23 out of 27) distributed food and/or basic material assistance and provided accompanying measures. Four Member States (Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden) ran social inclusion programmes. In 2020, almost 16.97 million people received FEAD support⁽¹³⁾, from which approximately 15 million people benefited from FEAD food assistance (distributing around 430 000 tonnes of food up from approximately 350 000 tonnes in 2019), approximately 1.96 million received material assistance (up from 800 000 in 2019) and around 30 000 benefited from social inclusion support. This increase is mainly due to the resumption of operations in Romania. It also reflects the COVID-19 health crisis that worsened the conditions for existing of vulnerable people in receipt of FEAD support, while new people also sought food aid, including people with precarious jobs (e.g. short-term contracts, temporary or informal work), independent workers and also disadvantaged tertiary education students. FEAD is coherent with the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan⁽¹⁴⁾ (targeting a reduction of at least 15 million people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by end 2030), by aiming to foster social inclusion and protection. It complements other EU funds, notably the ESF and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), by targeting other groups or providing complementary measures.

Based on the Staff Working Document on the mid-term evaluation of FEAD⁽¹⁵⁾, stakeholders value and stress the need to preserve the fund specific aspects such as flexibility and generally the less stringent administrative requirements compared to the mainstream ESF programmes, along with the established networks and operational Delivery modes. Low thresholds allow aid to be provided to persons not reached by the social services such as homeless, new or undocumented migrants or elderly people at risk of poverty. It also allows responding quickly to emerging needs and crisis situations. The preliminary findings of the ongoing 'Study supporting the monitoring of FEAD – data collection systems implemented by Member States' confirms the findings of the mid-term evaluation of FEAD and will provide good practices as regards monitoring systems.

In the mid-term evaluation of FEAD it was recommended that the future programmes continue focusing on those who are most in need and maintain flexibility to implement both types of programmes. A merger of FEAD with ESF will allow synergies and open up potential pathways for basic support to social inclusion that lead to people getting training and finding work, when the target groups are the same. It was seen as a scope for requiring more evaluations from Member States. In addition, it was advocated that Member States are encouraged to follow the Regulation closely to avoid the introduction of requirements at national levels, which go beyond the requirements of the Regulation as much of the administrative burden stems from requirements imposed at Member States' level, such as narrow definitions on eligibility.

These challenges were tackled in FEAD evaluation partnership meetings and in the 2021-2027 Regulation, whereby FEAD operations are integrated with ESF. In addition, simplified monitoring requirements are applied for specific objectives targeting the most deprived. For output indicators, it is no longer necessary to report which types of goods have been purchased and there is no longer a distinction between the quantity of meals and food packages distributed. If data is coming from registers, Member States can use national definitions, they do not have to align with the toolbox definitions. In addition, there is an enabling clause allowing Member States to use registers or equivalent sources. There will be no Annual Implementation Reports anymore. Instead, the reporting of data will be made via the IT tools for regular exchanges between the Commission and the programme authorities, i.e. SFC2021. Evaluations are mandatory for all specific objectives.

The aid delivery is mostly based on NGOs relying on volunteers and generally cost-efficient.

To improve FEAD's efficiency by building the capacity of programme authorities and partners and to further strengthen performance, between 2017 and 2019, 18 FEAD Network meetings were held, dedicated to various challenges of FEAD implementation including targeted outreach to the most deprived such as children, homeless and older people. A dedicated session took place in 2019 on monitoring and evaluation of FEAD. The meetings allowed participants to present case studies, share challenges and solutions on issues of common interest in the delivery of FEAD activities. In line with the Regulation, the Commission also hosted annual EU-level meetings in 2018 and 2019, steered by representatives of the partner organisations. During the years 2020 and 2021, mutual learning activities under the FEAD community replaced the FEAD network meetings. Three online thematic seminars, three peer exchanges and two conferences were held during this period, in the course of which the remaining implementation challenges and the opportunities offered by the ESF+ were discussed. In particular, the seminars and peer exchanges discussed the characteristics of the new end-recipients of FEAD-funded measures and new practices implemented during the COVID-19 crisis; possible integrated approaches to support beneficiaries towards their social inclusion; monitoring and

⁽¹³⁾ A person may be recipient of multiple forms of FEAD support and thus reported for more than once.

⁽¹⁴⁾ [The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.](#)

⁽¹⁵⁾ [FEAD Mid-Term Staff Working Document.](#)

outreach; social inclusion accompanying measures during and after the pandemic; the implementation of vouchers/e-voucher schemes; and the involvement and role of stakeholders and end-recipients.

FEAD has proven to be adaptable and responsive to emerging needs, such as the COVID-19 crisis. The FEAD Regulation was first amended in April 2020 as part of the CRII+ initiative, making it possible to use indirect Delivery modes, e.g. vouchers or cards (to lower the risk of contamination) and to buy personal protective equipment for organisations delivering FEAD support. Moreover, the amendments strengthened liquidity in Member States, making it possible to provide 100% co-financing rate for one accounting year. By the end of 2021, 12 FEAD programmes had been amended: 8 to benefit from the 100% co-financing rate and 4 to introduce emergency measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A second amendment to the FEAD Regulation was adopted at the end of 2020 as part of the Commission's recovery plan, i.e. REACT-EU. This amendment allows Member States to allocate additional funding to ESF, FEAD and European Regional Development Fund programmes. Additional resources can provide top-ups to existing support, such as food and/or basic material assistance or social inclusion actions. They should be in line with each Member State's specific needs, and take into account the increased number of the most deprived since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under REACT-EU, 13 operational programmes (Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Austria, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia) were amended with a top-up of EUR 506 million.

Since July 2020, the effects of these programme amendments and the higher flexibility provided started to show the impact on financial implementation figures, as presented under section 2.2.

In line with the Regulation requirements, Managing Authorities implementing food and/or basic material assistance operational programme (Operational Programme I) carried out a structured survey on end recipients in 2017. These surveys, together with the findings of an external evaluation⁽¹⁶⁾ and the results of the open public consultation were used for the Commission mid-term evaluation of FEAD and have fed into the negotiations for the 2021-2027 programmes. Furthermore, the second round of structured survey on FEAD end recipients is to be carried out by the Managing Authorities of type I programmes (i.e. providing food and/or basic material assistance and accompanying measures) in 2022. The results of this survey can be used by the Managing Authorities to conduct evaluations and draw lessons learned at national level and will allow aggregation of survey results at EU level to feed into the FEAD ex post evaluation, to be conducted by the Commission.

In the new ESF+ Regulation, ESF and FEAD objectives are merged in a single, integrated list. This is expected to simplify funding and increase synergy and complementarity between employment, education, social inclusion and support to the most deprived. It is worth noting that specific rules apply to the support to material deprivation to keep it as streamlined as possible.

Employment and Social Innovation programme

Up to end 2020, the Commission has committed close to EUR 879 million under EaSI. Funding has targeted the modernisation of employment and social policies with the PROGRESS axis (57.51% of total 2014-2020 budget), job mobility with the EURES axis (20.45%) and access to microfinance and social entrepreneurship with the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis (22.04%). The programme has improved the distribution of the EaSI funds over the whole period between its axes being at least 55% to the Progress axis; at least 18% to the EURES axis, and; at least 18% to the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis⁽¹⁷⁾.

A large number of respondents (73%) to the EaSI stakeholders' survey agree that the Commission is an effective source of guidance and support for social and labour innovation (see 2019-2020 monitoring report), as well as for improving understanding and ownership of EU objectives and policies. More than 91% of participants of EaSI funded events declared that they gained a better understanding of EU policies and objectives as a result of participating in the event (91% also in 2017-2018 and 87% in 2015-2016).

According to the 2019-2020 monitoring report, 76% of stakeholders declared that they have already used or intend to use information acquired during the events for policymaking or advocacy purposes. Indeed, the programme has supported data collection and simulation, notably the (i) Labour Force Survey as an important source of information about the situation and trends in the EU labour market, (ii) Classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations, (iii) EUROMOD, (iv) Mutual Information System on Social Protection and (v) European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics.

Overall, the integration of all EaSI horizontal issues remains high: values showed an increasing trend in comparison to 2019, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups. Young people was seen as the most mainstreamed principle (80% of respondents to the stakeholders' survey), followed by promoting equality between women and men (79%) and combating discrimination. Since

⁽¹⁶⁾ The external study was carried out by Metis GmbH in cooperation with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini and Panteia B.V. and covered data reported by the Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports for the period 2014-2016. The contract was implemented during period of October 2016 and May 2018. It served as input for a Staff Working Document (FEAD mid-term evaluation).

⁽¹⁷⁾ These implementation percentages are not final; they are based on information available for the study team at the time of writing each individual EaSI Performance Monitoring Report for 2014, 2015-2016, 2017-2018 and 2019-2020. As the programme continued to be implemented after the latest report available, the implementation of financial commitments could change. The EaSI final activity report, to be finalised in 2022, will include the final implementation percentages per axis.

2019, the highest increase in the values were noted for two horizontal principles: combating long-term unemployment (by 7%) and guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection (by 7%).

The programme also supported fair labour mobility through the EURES network and portal, and the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information. Initiatives were geared to provide easier access to microfinance and social entrepreneurship.

In the period 2014-2020, 56 calls for proposals were launched with 1 092 applications leading to 451 projects. Overall, these EaSI grant projects involved over 1 693 beneficiaries coming from all participating countries (65 from the candidate and potential candidate countries, 24 from the EEA countries, 39 from the UK and the rest from EU). Since a number of projects are follow-up projects involving the same beneficiaries and co-beneficiaries, the programme supported over 640 different organisations. In addition, the programme assisted 38 EU sector organisations via operating grants. Almost 32% of the grants awarded involve public authorities and their agencies, some 24% of the funds supported the Social Partners such as trade union organisations (15%) and employers' organisations (9%), and 24% went to foundations/NGOs. The rest was for enterprises (9% for profit making and 2% for non-profit making) and higher education and research institutes (9%).

The EaSI calls addressed matters like (i) development of tailored learning provision in the implementation of 'Upskilling Pathways', (ii) enhancing administrative cooperation and access to information concerning posting of workers, (iii) social protection reforms, (iv) undeclared work (v) work-life balance (vi) reforms in social services (vii) Youth Guarantee offers (viii) European Solidarity Corps pilot and (ix) integration into the labour market of third country nationals.

The efforts for scaling-up of projects are hindered by a lack of adequate follow-up in terms of promoting the projects and their results as well as insufficient opportunities for linking the promoters with stakeholders who can assist in their follow-up. For the current programming period, the Commission will put in place a European Competence Centre on Social Innovation, a database of social innovation projects to be published on the ESF+ website, next to the creation of National Contact Points to guide applicants and beneficiaries. Also the switch to the Funding and Tenders portal of the EaSI calls for proposals would mean that each project will have its own place to make its results available to a wider audience on Europa pages, beyond those consulting the projects' webpages. Furthermore, the incorporation of EaSI as a strand of ESF+ will mean that it will share its objectives and governance with the shared management strand, which could facilitate the uptake of EaSI projects by the ESF+ Managing Authorities for further support.

PROGRESS axis

Evidence based EU policies and legislation developed: EaSI supported the development and dissemination of high-quality comparative analytical knowledge. This is to ensure that the EU policies and legislation in the fields of employment and social affairs are based on sound evidence and are relevant to the needs, challenges and conditions in individual Member States and other countries participating in the programme.

Effective and inclusive information sharing, mutual learning and dialogue facilitated: the EaSI Programme remained strong in facilitating effective and inclusive information sharing, mutual learning, and dialogue on the EU policies in the target fields.

Testing of social and labour market policy innovation provided: EaSI provided financial support to test social and labour market policy innovations and contributed to building up the main actors' capacity to design and implement social policy experimentations and to make the relevant knowledge and expertise available.

Greater capacities of national and EU-wide organisations to develop provided, implementation of EU policies supported: EaSI provided EU and national organisations with financial support to increase their capacity to develop, promote and support the implementation of EU policies and law in the area of employment and social affairs.

EURES axis

In 2020, there were 1 189 798 jobseekers registered on the EURES portal. This marks a significant increase of 110.2% since 2019. On the contrary, the number of employers registered increased only by 3%. In 2020 for every registered employer there were on average 76 registered jobseekers. The major increase in the registered jobseekers on the EURES Job Mobility Portal can be directly related to the changes made in the labour market due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the dampening immediate effect it had on mobility patterns.

EURES acted not only as a catalyst for providing transparent labour market information but also for effective recruitment and placing of workers. Cross-border partnerships reported 195 060 contacts with jobseekers and job changers in 2019-2020. Targeted mobility schemes ('Your First EURES Job'), in comparison, provided services to several hundreds of jobseekers per year / per scheme, but were more targeted and customised. While all cross-border partnerships which finalised their activities in 2019 translated into 0.76% of contacts into placements, targeted mobility schemes facilitated 29.1% of contacts into actual placements.

Microfinance/Social Entrepreneurship axis

A significant increase in support for persons from non-EU countries was observed (22.1% in 2020, 14.3% in 2019 and 11.9% in 2018). A slight but steady increase in the category of people aged 51 years and above is noticed as well. On the contrary, the

support for women, unemployed or inactive, and persons aged less than 25 years is decreasing, while people with disability received a somewhat equal amount of financing from 2018 to 2020 ⁽¹⁸⁾.

Overall, EaSI provided a real added value to better access and the availability of microfinance. It's support for the overall availability and access to finance for social enterprises increased significantly.

EaSI focused on supporting the improvement of microcredit providers' infrastructure to better assist the final recipients; and on supporting persons who are in a disadvantaged position to access the conventional credit market, such as women, unemployed, those with no or only primary education, young and older people.

3.2. Key achievements

European Social Fund

45.3 million	5.4 million	7.4 million	2.2 million	3.4 million
people were supported by the ESF and YEI actions by end 2020.	people found a job (including as self-employed) thanks to ESF and YEI support by end 2020.	people gained a qualification thanks to ESF and YEI support by end 2020.	participants were in education or training thanks to ESF and YEI support by end 2020.	young people benefitted from the YEI by end 2020.

Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived

15 million	1.96 million	30 000	2.4 million
people benefitted from FEAD food assistance in 2020.	people received material assistance under FEAD in 2020.	benefitted from social inclusion support under FEAD in 2020.	tonnes of food were distributed amongst end recipients between 2014-2020 from which 428 000 tonnes in 2020.

Employment and Social Innovation programme

76%	62%	12 149	10 926	EUR 1.2 billion	EUR 4 billion
of EaSI stakeholders declared they have used/will use EaSI outputs in 2019-2020.	of stakeholders declared in 2019-2020 that they have/will use EU funded social policy innovation for policy making or implementation.	job placements were obtained from the start of the targeted mobility schemes in 2015 and Your first EURES job, until the end of the first semester of 2021.	vacancies were handled in the first semester of 2021 by 8 EURES cross-border partnerships.	worth of loans were awarded to 97 271 microenterprises between 2014 and 2020 thanks to EUR 222.7 million of guarantees for 104 microfinance intermediaries.	of financing for micro- and social enterprises is expected to be unlocked at the end of the borrowing period thanks to the 141 contracts under EaSI MF/SE.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

European Social Fund

Four thematic evaluations on ESF support between 2014-2018 were finalised in 2020, namely:

⁽¹⁸⁾ A large number of applicants for the EU microfinance and social entrepreneurship support under EaSI programme are legal persons (enterprises). As these do not provide their social data (e.g. gender, age, employment), there are limitations to assess the outreach of the EU microfinance and social entrepreneurship support to specific groups, including vulnerable persons. The data provided corresponds to natural persons.

- Evaluation of the ESF/YEI support to youth employment ⁽¹⁹⁾;
- Evaluation of the ESF support to employment and labour mobility (Thematic Objective 8 excluding support to youth employment) ⁽²⁰⁾;
- Evaluation of ESF support to social inclusion (Thematic Objective 9) ⁽²¹⁾; and
- Evaluation of ESF to education and training (Thematic Objective 10) ⁽²²⁾.

Their key findings were presented in the Programme Statement for Draft Budget 2022.

In 2022, DG EMPL will carry out an evaluation and a study in preparation to the ESF ex post evaluation, namely:

- The evaluation of the CRII and CRII+ initiatives, which will focus on the relevance of ESF support and specifically on whether the ESF has been able to provide the necessary type of support to the right target groups in a timely manner or not. The related Staff Working Document will be finalised by the second quarter of 2023.

The meta-analysis of ESF evaluations, which will attempt to generalise national ESF evaluations’ findings through statistical methods. It will be finalised by the end of 2022.

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived

The key findings of the latest evaluation (SWD(2019)148) ⁽²³⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statement accompanying the Draft Budget 2020.

In 2022, Managing Authorities of FEAD operational programmes type I (i.e. providing food and/or basic material assistance and accompanying measures) shall carry out a structured survey on end recipients, to be reported to the Commission in 2023.

According to Article 18 of FEAD Regulation, the Commission shall carry out an ex post evaluation to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the fund and the sustainability of results obtained, as well as to measure the added value of the fund. This ex post evaluation shall be completed by 31 December 2024.

Employment and Social Innovation programme

The EaSI programme’s mid-term evaluation covered the implementation period 2014-2016 ⁽²⁴⁾ and the findings were included in the Programme Statement for Draft Budget 2020.

In 2021, the EaSI ex post evaluation, covering the overall implementation period 2014-2020, and the European Progress Microfinance Facility final evaluation have been launched. The two evaluations will be completed by December 2022. As part of the evaluations, the Commission launched an online open public consultation (October - December 2021) seeking the views of the EaSI and European Progress Microfinance Facility stakeholders.

The 3rd EaSI performance monitoring report covering the activities 2017 and 2018 was published in March 2020 ⁽²⁵⁾ and the conclusions were presented in the Programme Statement accompanying Draft Budget 2022.

The next performance monitoring report on the period 2019-2020 will be published in the first quarter of 2022. As for the previous performance monitoring reports, surveys have been held to obtain the views of stakeholders as well as organisations who were beneficiaries of EaSI grants, but also from persons who took part in events organised by projects using EaSI financing.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Policy area - Employment and labour mobility

Indicator 1: Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final

⁽¹⁹⁾ [Evaluation of the ESF/YEI Support to Youth Employment](#)
⁽²⁰⁾ [Evaluation of ESF Support to Employment and Labour Mobility](#)
⁽²¹⁾ [Evaluation of ESF Support to Social Inclusion](#)
⁽²²⁾ [Evaluation of ESF to Education and Training](#)
⁽²³⁾ [FEAD Mid-Term Evaluation](#)
⁽²⁴⁾ [EaSI Mid-Term Evaluation](#)
⁽²⁵⁾ [EaSI Performance Monitoring Report](#)

Are we on track :	
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of result indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical success rates reported by Member States in the current 2014-2020 programming period. The ESF result indicators refer to the outputs directly. E.g. 'participants in employment' can be expressed as a direct function of 'unemployed' and 'inactive' in percentages. The historical success rates are adjusted downwards or upwards, if necessary, on the basis of assumptions. In line with the Common Provisions Regulation, the result indicators will not have milestones. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes sub mission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Unemployed, including long-term unemployed, participants reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Inactive participants reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Number of participants 55 years of age and above reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Young people aged 18-29 years reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects

	most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: Policy area - Education

Indicator 1: Participants with lower secondary education or less (ISCED 0-2) reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	An almost equivalent indicator ('with primary (ISCED 1) or lower secondary education (ISCED 2)') was followed in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Participants with tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8) reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of result indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical success rates reported by Member States in the current 2014-2020 programming period. The ESF result indicators refer to the outputs directly. The historical success rates are adjusted downwards or upwards, if necessary, on the basis of assumptions. In line with the Common Provisions Regulation, the result indicators will not have milestones. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Participants in education or training upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of result indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical success rates reported by Member States in the current 2014-2020 programming period. The ESF result indicators refer to the outputs directly. The historical success rates are adjusted downwards or upwards, if necessary, on the basis of assumptions. In line with the Common Provisions Regulation, the result indicators will not have milestones. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Policy area - Social inclusion, including contributing to poverty eradication and health

Indicator 1: Participants considered as part of disadvantaged groups reached (Participants with a foreign background, minorities including participants from the Roma community, third country nationals)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									

	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve social fairness and in particular focus on vulnerable target group.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	An equivalent indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Participants with disabilities reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve social fairness and in particular focus on vulnerable target group.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of children below 18 years of age reached

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of children (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.

Link to the objective	Improve social fairness and in particular focus on vulnerable target group.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period the indicator was followed but for 'below 25 years of age'. With the increased focus on combatting child poverty, this additional age break-down has been included among the indicators.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Total number of participants reached in actions promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve social fairness and in particular focus on vulnerable target group
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period, this indicator was monitored in FEAD.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of all EU-level output indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical unit costs reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. In line with Article 15 of the ESF+ Regulation, the baseline of the output indicators is 0. Their milestones at EU level will be estimated on the basis of historical trends. If the rate of implementation in time shows similar patterns over programming periods, the milestone will represent the same proportion of the target in the post 2021 programmes as in the 2014 programmes. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Improve workers' mobility and employment opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of result indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical success rates reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. The ESF result indicators refer to the outputs directly. The historical success rates are adjusted downwards or upwards, if necessary, on the basis of assumptions. In line with the Common Provisions Regulations, the result indicators will not have

	milestones. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Monetary value of distributed food and goods (directly or through vouchers)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	EUR (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period, this indicator was monitored in FEAD.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of result indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical success rates reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. The historical success rates will be adjusted downwards or upwards, if necessary, on the basis of assumptions. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Quantity of food distributed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tons (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period, this indicator was monitored in FEAD.
Other methodological comments	For the estimation of result indicator targets, DG EMPL will use historical success rates reported by Member States in the 2014-2020 programming period. The historical success rates will be adjusted downwards or upwards, if necessary, on the basis of assumptions. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Number of end-recipients receiving food support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
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	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of end recipients (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period, this indicator was monitored in FEAD.
Other methodological comments	Baseline, milestones and targets will not be set but only reference values. These should be adjusted based on data from similar interventions. They will be set by the Member States based on the negotiations with the Commission and also budget allocated to this specific objective and programme(s). Reference values should be set for a limited number of result indicators. The selection of indicators should be based on the intervention logic as the selected indicators ought to measure the main deliverables to be achieved in the specific objective. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Number of end-recipients receiving material support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of end recipients (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period, this indicator was monitored in FEAD.
Other methodological comments	Baseline, milestones and targets will not be set but only reference values. These should be adjusted based on data from similar interventions. They will be set by the Member States based on the negotiations with the Commission and also budget allocated to this specific objective and programme(s). Reference values should be set for a limited number of result indicators. The selection of indicators should be based on the intervention logic as the selected indicators ought to measure the main deliverables to be achieved in the specific objective. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 10: Number of end-recipients benefiting from vouchers/cards

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of end recipients (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	Baseline, milestones and targets will not be set but only reference values. These should be adjusted based on data from similar interventions. They will be set by the Member States based on the negotiations with the Commission and also budget allocated to this specific objective and programme(s). Reference values should be set for a limited number of result indicators. The selection of indicators should be based on the intervention logic as the selected indicators ought to measure the main deliverables to be achieved in the specific objective. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 11: Number of children below 18 years of age benefiting from food, material or voucher support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of children (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	ESF+ Managing Authorities from the Member States.
Link to the objective	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or basic material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the 2014-2020 period, this indicator was monitored in FEAD.
Other methodological comments	Baseline, milestones and targets will not be set but only reference values. These should be adjusted based on data from similar interventions. They will be set by the Member States based on the negotiations with the Commission and also budget allocated to this specific objective and programme(s). Reference values should be set for a limited number of result indicators. The selection of indicators should be based on the intervention logic as the selected indicators ought to measure the main deliverables to be achieved in the specific objective. With the adoption of the Regulations by June 2021 only and with the Member States' focus on programming and implementing CRII, REACT-EU as well as RRF resources, the ESF+ programmes submission is only starting beginning of 2022. DG EMPL expects most programmes to be adopted by the end of 2022. These programmes will show the thematic focus chosen by Member States and allow the Commission to estimate indicative EU level targets in 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Policy area - Employment and social innovation

Indicator 1: Number of analytical activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of activities
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Administrative and quantitative data from the European Commission.
Link to the objective	Develop high-quality comparative analytical knowledge in order to ensure that policies are based on sound evidence and are relevant to needs, challenges and local conditions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link. The new regulation introduces a monitoring based on the number of activities (output), which is new. For the 2014-2020 EaSI programme, the analytical activities were monitored based on inputs and outcomes. Therefore, data cannot be compared as there is no continuation.
Other methodological comments	The performance monitoring framework of the preceding Employment and Social Innovation programme 2014-2020 as well as the mid-term and (upcoming) ex post evaluations will form the basis for establishing the new performance framework with updated baselines, milestones and targets. First estimations will be available in the second semester of 2022 and adjusted in 2023. The average number of activities implemented during the previous programming period will be used as baseline with the target to at least maintain this number. Examples of activities covered: · surveys, studies, statistical data, methodologies, classifications, micro-simulations, indicators and support for European-level observatories and benchmarks; · social experimentation evaluating social innovations; · monitoring and assessment of the transposition and application of Union law.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of information-sharing and mutual learning activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of activities
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Administrative and quantitative data from the European Commission.
Link to the objective	Facilitate effective and inclusive information sharing, mutual learning, peer reviews and dialogue in order to assist the design of appropriate policy measures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link. The new regulation introduces a monitoring based on the information-sharing and mutual learning activities (output), which is new. For the 2014-2020 EaSI programme, the information-sharing and mutual learning activities were monitored based on inputs and outcomes. Therefore, data cannot be compared as there is no continuation.
Other methodological comments	The performance monitoring framework of the preceding Employment and Social Innovation programme 2014-2020 as well as the mid-term and (upcoming) ex post evaluations will form the basis for establishing the new performance framework with updated baselines, milestones and targets. The average number of activities implemented during the previous programming period will be used as baseline with the target to at least maintain this number. Eligible actions: mutual learning through exchange of good practices, innovative approaches, results of analytical activities, peer reviews, and benchmarking.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of social experimentations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of experimentations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Administrative and quantitative data from the European Commission.
Link to the objective	Increase in social innovation uptake and effect on policies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.

Other methodological comments	The performance monitoring framework of the preceding Employment and Social Innovation programme 2014-2020 as well as the mid-term and (upcoming) ex post evaluations will form the basis for establishing the new performance framework with updated baselines, milestones and targets. The average number of activities implemented during the previous programming period will be used as baseline with the target to at least maintain this number. Eligible actions: Social experimentation actions (a policy intervention that aims to provide an innovative response to social needs, implemented on a small scale and in conditions that enable its impact to be measured, prior to being implemented in other contexts including geographical and sectorial ones, or implemented on a larger scale, if the results prove to be positive).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Number of capacity building and networking activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of activities
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Administrative and quantitative data from the European Commission.
Link to the objective	Effect on stakeholders.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	The performance monitoring framework of the preceding EaSI programme as well as the mid-term and (upcoming) ex post evaluations will form the basis for establishing the new performance framework with updated baselines, milestones and targets. The average number of activities implemented during the previous programming period will be used as baseline with the target to at least maintain this number. Eligible actions - capacity building, in particular of: • networks at Union level related to the policy areas set out in Article 4(1); • national contact points providing guidance, information and assistance related to the implementation of the EaSI strand; • the national administrations, social security institutions and employment services responsible for promoting labour mobility, of microfinance institutions and institutions providing finance to social enterprises or other social investment actors, as well as networking; • stakeholders in view of transnational cooperation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Job placements effected as a result of recruitment and placement activity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of effected job placements
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EURES performance measurement system.
Link to the objective	Effect on labour mobility and access to employment.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	The performance monitoring framework of the preceding Employment and Social Innovation programme 2014-2020 as well as the mid-term and (upcoming) ex post evaluations will form the basis for establishing the new performance framework with updated baselines, milestones and targets. The EURES performance measurement system that is based on a Commission implementing act, as foreseen under the EURES Regulation, provides the necessary baseline, milestones and targets for the Targeted Mobility Scheme based on its ultimate objective: the number of placements. First estimations will be available in the second semester of 2022 and adjusted in 2023. Eligible actions: recruitment and placement activities.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

Specific Objective 3 :Promote employment and social inclusion by increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable people who wish to start up a micro-enterprise as well as for existing micro-enterprises, and by increasing access to finance for social enterprises (Microfinance Axis)

Indicator 1: Number of businesses created or consolidated that have benefitted from EU support

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
EaSI Microfinance Guarantee										
2012	Milestones									2020
			21 000				41 000			41 000
	Actual Progress									Final
		416	12 743	25 830	44 780	69 770	97 271	131 769		
Are we on track :	On track									
EaSI Social entrepreneurship Guarantee										
2012	Milestones									2020
			500				1 100			1 100
	Actual Progress									Final
			63	250	864	2 020	3 337	4 783		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Business, Micro-enterprises and Social enterprises taken together on cumulative basis.
Cut-Off Date	30/09/2021
Data source	2021 EASI Guarantee Financial Instrument and Funded Instrument Operational Report, European Investment Fund.
Narrative	The milestones and targets have been based on the past experience with Progress Microfinance. There was no such support offered by the European Commission to social enterprises in the past.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, this part of the EaSI programme will not be included in the ESF+ EaSI strand, therefore DG EMPL will not continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme Statement.ent.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The target has been exceeded.

Previous Program 2: European Social Fund (ESF)

Specific Objective 1: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

Indicator 2: Participants (unemployed or inactive) in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2023
					24%		24%			24%
14%	Actual Progress									Final
	7,7%	10,30%	16,50%	17,10%	24,17%	23,19%	29,11%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Ratio
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual Implementation Reports from the Member States.
Narrative	Baseline: Employment result estimate for participants in activities in 2007-2013 period. For the period 2014-20, success rates were reported for participants in all investment priorities until reporting year

	2017. While reporting the absolute number of participants in employment for the whole ESF remains relevant and continues to be reported in the ESIF Open Data Platform, for reporting success rates (number of job placements compared to unemployed + inactive participants at entry to ESF) it is more relevant to report the value for the employment objective only. The break in the series starts from 2018 onwards.
Methodology	Employment results depend on the nature of investment priorities (IP) and interventions. For comparative purposes, in Employment, results for participations in 'Access to Employment' activities during 2007-2013 period were 28%, while for 'Human capital and Social Inclusion' activities employment results made up 10% and 26% of all reported results and correspondingly lower employment rates. However, especially in the education (TO10) and in the institutional capacity-building (TO11) thematic objectives, and to a lesser extent, in social inclusion (TO9) too, placement into job is not among the typical, intended outcomes of the operations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, DG EMPL will continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme Statement.
Other methodological comments	Data reliability: intended to improve data reliability, the official platform for exchanging data on the programme implementation between the Member States, SFC2014, has applied automatic validation rules based on the definition of the indicators. Moreover, plausibility checks have been carried out horizontally and by the geographical desks. Potential issues have been raised to the authorities before the Annual Implementation Report adoption as well as during performance data reliability audits.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator reached its target in 2018 and only slightly decreased in 2019 and 2020. The decrease experienced in 2020 may be due to the COVID situation. During the pandemic the focus of the actions funded under the programme has been more on maintaining jobs (for the employed) and providing services on the other target groups (including the inactive), rather than on pure activation measures. Moreover, based on the past programming period experience, the achievement of results linked to multiannual projects occurs late in the period and the project selection rate suggests that the target will be achieved.

Specific Objective 2: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Indicator 2: Inactive participants engaged in job searching upon leaving

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2023
							16%			16%
	Actual Progress									Final
	1,40%	5,50%	6,80%	12,20%	16%	14,4%	14,2%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of inactive participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual Implementation Reports from the Member States
Narrative	The indicator shows the percentage of inactive participants engaged in job searching after receiving support from the ESF. It has been selected because they are an important target group and helping them back into employment is a relevant outcome of a number of ESF operations.
Methodology	This indicator had not existed in the previous programming period. The evidence from the current programming period shows that the target had to be revised. Under-reporting has to be taken into account too in the interpretation of the achievement: in operations where the intended outcome is other than job-search, data on job-search may not be collected in some operations. Another element to be considered is that in many cases there may have been a change in the target groups and only those who are most difficult to reach have remained. Depending on the level of difficulty of the target group, the fluctuation of this success rate indicator is normal, as it is a cumulative figure since 2014. One contributing factor for a temporary decrease may also be the performance review in 2019, which provided a strong incentive to Member States to increase outputs. Proper analysis will be drawn after the ex post evaluation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, DG EMPL will not continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme Statement; it will report on the number of participants engaged in job searching upon leaving.
Other methodological comments	Data reliability: intended to improve improving data reliability, the official platform for exchanging data on the programme implementation between the Member States, SFC2014, has applied automatic validation rules based on the definition of the indicators. Moreover, plausibility checks have been carried out horizontally and by the geographical desks. Potential issues have been raised to the authorities before the Annual Implementation Report adoption as well as during performance data reliability audits.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator reached its target in 2018 and only slightly decreased in 2019 and 2020. The decrease

	experienced in 2020 may be due to the COVID situation. During the pandemic the focus of the actions funded under the programme has been more on maintaining jobs (for the employed) and providing services on the other target groups (including the inactive), rather than on pure activation measures. Moreover, based on the past programming period experience, the achievement of results linked to multiannual projects occurs late in the period and the project selection rate suggests that the target will be achieved.
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Specific Objective 3: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and life-long learning

Indicator 2: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving under this thematic objective

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2023
					48%		23%			23%
	Actual Progress									Final
	18,8%	20,4%	21,1%	22,3%	24,38%	23,95%	25,73%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Ratio
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual Implementation Reports from the Member States.
Narrative	More than 4.3 million participants gained a qualification with support of ESF investments with an education objective, while another 1.2 million participants were in education / training upon leaving the intervention.
Methodology	The target was revised based on the evidence of the 2016, 2017 and 2018 reporting years. The original target estimation was based on 2007-2013 data. However, in that programming period common indicator definitions did not exist and the reporting of results was not so reliable. As planned in the beginning of the 2014-2020 MFF, all Programme Statement targets were revised following the operational programmes' performance review, on the basis of the achievements until 2018.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, DG EMPL will not continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme Statement; it will report on the number of participants gaining a qualification upon leaving under all ESF+ specific objectives.
Other methodological comments	Data reliability: intended to improve data reliability, the official platform for exchanging data on the programme implementation between the Member States, SFC2014, has applied automatic validation rules based on the definition of the indicators. Moreover, plausibility checks have been carried out horizontally and by the geographical desks. Potential issues have been raised to the authorities before the Annual Implementation Report adoption as well as during performance data reliability audits.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator has already reached its target and will continue its positive evolution.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting specific support to young NEETs (15-24)

Indicator 3: Unemployed participants in education/training, gaining a qualification or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the YEI supported intervention

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
			347 000				1 100 000			1 100 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	8 843	74 052	266 754	622 687	876 937	1 155 541	1 373 011			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual Implementation Reports from the Member States.
Narrative	The indicator has been selected because it represents some of the main intended outcomes of YEI interventions.
Methodology	This indicator is not a direct subset of another indicator as it may also include participants who did not complete the intervention.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, DG EMPL will not continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme

	Statement.
Other methodological comments	Data reliability: intended to improve data reliability, the official platform for exchanging data on the programme implementation between the Member States, SFC2014, has applied automatic validation rules based on the definition of the indicators. Moreover, plausibility checks have been carried out horizontally and by the geographical desks. Potential issues have been raised to the authorities before the Annual Implementation Report adoption as well as during performance data reliability audits.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator has already reached its target and has shown a steady increase since 2016.

Indicator 5: Inactive participants not in education or training in education/training, gaining a qualification or in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving the YEI supported intervention

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
			107 000				260 000			260 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	2 395	23 439	79 320	153 788	203 964	243 106	263 639			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual Implementation Reports from the Member States.
Narrative	The indicator has been selected because it represents some of the main intended outcomes of YEI interventions
Methodology	This indicator is not a direct subset of another indicator, as it may also include participants who did not complete the intervention. The target and the 2020 milestone have been reviewed downwards on the basis of the implementation results of the previous years. Moreover, YEI-supported participants are typically the farthest away from the labour market and therefore more difficult to be reached.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, DG EMPL will not continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme Statement.
Other methodological comments	Data reliability: intended to improve data reliability, the official platform for exchanging data on the programme implementation between the Member States, SFC2014, has applied automatic validation rules based on the definition of the indicators. Moreover, plausibility checks have been carried out horizontally and by the geographical desks. Potential issues have been raised to the authorities before the Annual Implementation Report adoption as well as during performance data reliability audits.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator achieved the target and its value has been growing steadily since 2017. Moreover, based on the past programming period experience, the achievement of results linked to multiannual projects occurs late in the period and the project selection rate suggests that the target will be exceeded.

Previous Program 3: Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived

Specific Objective 1: Alleviating the worst forms of poverty in the Union by providing non-financial assistance to the most deprived persons

Indicator 1: Number of persons receiving assistance from the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0	8	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7			12.7
	Actual Progress									Final
	8.19	13.76	15.92	12.92	12.85	12.5	16.97			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of persons receiving assistance from the Fund reported annually (in million).
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual Implementation Reports from the Member States.
Narrative	The number of persons receiving assistance from the Fund represents the main result of the operations financed from the fund.
Methodology	FEAD was a new fund in the 2014-2020 period, hence with a baseline at 0. The figures used in the framework of the food assistance programme are established through a methodology which does not

	yield figures that could be comparable to the one of the new FEAD, thus they cannot be used as a baseline. In 2014, the Commission and the Member States agreed on a common set of output and result indicators on which the Member States report annually (in the Annual Implementation Reports) from 2015 to 2024 for both OP I type of programmes (food aid and/or basic material assistance) and OP II type of programmes (social inclusion support). The reporting is performed at programme level. In terms of target and milestones, there is no requirement in the FEAD performance framework for Member States. The Commission made an adjusted forecast of 12.7 million annually based on the actual performance between 2014-2017, as stated also in FEAD mid-term evaluation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the period 2021-2027, DG EMPL will not continue reporting on this indicator in the Programme Statement.
Other methodological comments	A person may be recipient of multiple forms of FEAD support and thus reported for more than once.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator surpassed its target. On average, the FEAD supported 13.3 million persons each year between 2014 and 2020 and almost 17 million in 2020 alone.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
0.22	0.22	1075.00	1075.00	1075.00	1075.00	1075.00	1075.00	6450.22	7%
REACT EU Climate contribution	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
	1 202.18								1 202.18

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Climate change expenditure within ESF can be tracked through the ESF secondary theme 01 'Supporting the shift to a low-carbon, resource efficient economy' indicated in the Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014. The intervention fields in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 215/2014 match the ESF investment priorities defined in Article 3 of the ESF Regulation. Unlike for the ERDF categories of intervention, which have the support to climate objectives as their primary objective, one cannot establish ex ante an automatic link between one ESF investment priority and the impact on climate objectives.

Climate actions can be undertaken under the majority (if not all) of the ESF investment priorities (whether it is in the context of SME support, vocational education and training systems, life-long learning, youth employment measures, etc.). It is for this reason that the Commission decided to use for the ESF an additional dimension to track climate change expenditure: the ESF secondary theme. All expenditure under the ESF secondary theme has a 100% coefficient.

For the programming period 2014-2020, Member States have earmarked in their operational programmes EUR 1.6 billion (EU allocation) for the shift to a low-carbon and resource efficient economy. This represents a conservative estimate based on Member States' declarations in their operational programmes.

Here, Member States set estimates for the EU share and not for the EU and national share together. However, reporting is done solely on the basis of total costs (EU and national share together). In order to follow the progress towards the target, the ESIF-related DGs of the Commission have created a report that allows for the systematic application of the co-financing rate from the programmes to the information declared in the financial data. It provides a more accurate picture of the ESF contribution (EU only) to low-carbon, resource efficient economy and allowed for comparison with the amounts programmed.

At the beginning of 2022, Member States detailed programming intentions for 2021-2027 operational programmes are not yet known. DG EMPL calculated the estimates by extrapolating the climate-related expenditure allocated on the ground under the 2014-2020 ESF operational programmes. For this purpose, DG EMPL used the amounts earmarked with the ESF Secondary Theme 01 'Supporting the shift to a low-carbon, resource efficient economy' reported by the Member States. According to Member States' reports, the climate-related allocation under the 2014-2020 period is up to 8% of the total ESF envelope. The 8% was applied to the ESF+ allocation after deduction of technical assistance at Member States disposal (4% of ESF+ allocation). The resulting amount was spread equally on the years of the programming period from 2022 to 2027, as there was no implementation in 2021 (no programme has been adopted by the end of 2021 and only few have been formally submitted to the Commission). This estimation will be updated in the Programme Statement for Draft Budget 2024 with the actual programmed contribution to climate objectives after all the ESF+ programmes are submitted to the Commission (2022).

As for REACT-EU, the 8% was applied to the REACT-EU 2021 allocation to ESF (EUR 15.1 billion), which resulted in the expected climate contribution of EUR 1.2 billion.

6.1.3. Key achievements

European Social Fund 2014-2020

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019 (million EUR)	Budget 2020 (million EUR)
Climate actions under ESF investment priorities	1 600	2 133

Following the ECA Special Report on Climate in 2022, the Commission has corrected and revised the estimated contribution for the period 2014-2020, also using the most up-to date information available. Based on the latest estimates available, the ESF (including YEI) contributes to climate objectives with approximately EUR 7 035 million, through support to a wide range of projects. For example, in Sardinia, Italy, thousands of jobseekers have been taking training courses designed to help them find work in Europe's green and blue economy. Training is provided by accredited vocational education and training professionals. Courses are split into two sets: one set is designed to strengthen people's skills and knowledge in a subject area with job coaching, internships, and training leading to certification, and the second set is designed to help people to start up their own business. Thanks to an ESF contribution of EUR 56.5 million, over 5 000 people have participated in the project since its start in 2016.

6.1.4. Performance

European Social Fund 2014-2020

By end of December 2021, already more than EUR 7 billion of eligible ESF expenditure declared (EU share) was reported by Member States as having contributed to the shift to a low carbon, resource efficient economy. This represents 437% of the amount set in the operational programmes. In terms of projects selected, the EU share was already EUR 13.4 billion, which is significantly above the amount set in the programmes.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %					0.00 %

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
REACT EU Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared REACT EU total implementation and programming	0.00 %			0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	0.00 %	

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The ESF+ contributes to green skills and jobs and the green economy by:

1. Supporting the labour force by enhancing knowledge and skills and matching skills to develop, produce, use and apply new efficient and low-carbon technologies in a broad range of sectors.
2. Offering support to the labour force to alleviate any negative impact on employment as a result of shifting to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, i.e. jobs cuts in energy-intensive industries.

Through this type of investments, the programme may also partially support the development of biodiversity-relevant skills and jobs. However, the contribution of the ESF+ to biodiversity is only marginal, compared to the broader Contribution to climate mainstreaming, and cannot be tracked as such tracking is not foreseen in the Regulation.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0*: 143.1

Score 1: 0

(*Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender mainstreaming is a horizontal principle of the ESF+. It needs to be taken into account throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all ESF+ programmes.

ESF+ Shared management strand: score 1

Under the ESF+ shared management, Member States have the obligation to programme targeted actions aimed at increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment and all ESF+ selection criteria and procedures must ensure gender equality. It is also important to underline that all ESF+ personal data and indicators will be broken down by gender (female, male, 'non binary'). For all these reasons, in order to estimate the contribution of the ESF+ under shared management to gender equality, a 40% marker (score 1 in the table above) has been applied for the entirety of the programme. Once information from programming and implementation becomes available, and in line with the tracking by the Member States through the dedicated Common Provisions Regulation gender equality dimension code, score 2 will be applied to those amounts related to specific targeted actions.

To strengthen gender equality in the 2021-2027 partnership agreements and programmes, DG EMPL has given dedicated presentations on this topic in several technical webinars and meetings addressed to the managing authorities of all Common Provisions Regulation funds. DG EMPL requested all Member States to include a strong commitment in their partnership agreements that they will respect this horizontal principle. It also asked the Member States for more specific information in each Common Provisions Regulation programme to make sure that gender mainstreaming is taken into account at all stages of programming and implementation. Specific questions on this topic have been included in the partnership agreements and programme internal checklists to ensure that this is assessed by all geographical desk officers. The arrangements set out by managing authorities are also assessed in the context of the Charter horizontal enabling condition for which a dedicated procedure was set up, which involves all relevant Commission services both at technical and Cabinet levels.

The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected people in our society including women, in particular single mothers, the low skilled, those with a migrant background or with a disability as well as older women living in institutional care. Member States have been invited to pay particular attention to the needs of these groups when programming the additional resources provided for through the funding instruments aiming to support the repair and recovery from the crisis, including REACT-EU and ESF+.

Given the late adoption of the ESF+ Regulation (June 2021) and the priority given by the Member States' authorities to other instruments to tackle the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak (REACT-EU, Recovery and Resilience Facility and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative CRII and CRII+), the adoption of the ESF+ programmes was delayed to 2022 and the 2021 tranche of the allocation re-programmed. As a result, no expenditure was adopted, estimated or programmed in 2021 under the ESF+ shared management strand. The table above will therefore be updated following the adoption of all ESF+ programmes.

ESF+ Direct management strand: score 0*

Gender equality is a horizontal priority also for the direct management strand of ESF+ and should be taken into account in all activities. To identify to what extent the Employment and Social Innovation strand is successful in mainstreaming horizontal principles in EaSI-supported activities, the Performance Framework of the strand includes an indicator on the percentage of stakeholders who declare that the activities funded through EaSI promote gender equality and non-discrimination. This indicator is directly linked to SDG 5 ⁽²⁶⁾.

European Social Fund 2014-2020

Gender mainstreaming is a horizontal principle of the ESI Funds. The Member States and the Commission must promote it throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the operational programmes. Moreover, under ESF, Member States have the obligation to programme targeted actions aimed at increasing the sustainable participation and progress of women in employment. In the period 2014-2020, the dual approach (i.e. gender mainstreaming and specific actions) is being pursued together with other requirements, such as a dedicated investment priority on gender equality and relevant general ex ante conditionalities. The strong emphasis of the ESF on gender equality has been maintained and even reinforced for the period 2021-2027.

The ESF has a dedicated investment priority for equality between men and women in all areas, including in access to employment, career progression, reconciliation of work and private life and promotion of equal pay for equal work. Member States have earmarked EUR 1.4 billion for 2014-2020 (EU share) under this priority.

Specific targeted actions can yet be programmed under any other ESF investment priority. Across all investment priorities, the indicative amount for targeted actions for gender equality captured through the ESF secondary theme in programmes was EUR 5.4 billion (EU share).

In their operational programmes, Member States set a target for the EU share and not for the EU and national co-financing. However, reporting is done solely on the basis of total costs (EU and national share together). In order to follow progression

⁽²⁶⁾ More information is available below in the section on SDGs, under SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

towards the target, the ESIF-related DGs have created a report ⁽²⁷⁾ that allows for the systematic application of the co-financing rate from the programmes to the information declared in the financial data. It provides a more accurate picture of the ESF contribution (EU only) to gender equality.

By end of December 2021, the volume of the projects supported under the dedicated gender equality investment priority (EU share) was EUR 846 million of declared EU eligible expenditure. In total, EUR 2.3 billion under the ESF have effectively been dedicated to projects for gender equality between 2014 and 2020 across all investment priorities (EU expenditure declared). In terms of selected projects, EUR 3.4 billion have been committed to gender equality projects across all investment priorities.

It is also important to underline that all ESF personal data (annex I ESF Regulation) is broken down by gender. The participation of women and men in ESF supported activities is almost equally distributed at EU level (48% men and 52% women). There are however some differences between the Member States depending notably on the types of activities at stake. In terms of reporting, all personal data will continue to be broken down by gender (female, male, 'non binary') under the ESF+ shared management strand in the 2021-27 programming period.

Gender equality aims at ensuring that all people regardless of their gender have access to equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Gender equality mainstreaming implies that the interests, needs and priorities of all genders are taken into consideration, recognising the diversity of different groups of genders. The ESF+ can be used as a tool to support gender-relevant policies, and specific interventions to address gender gaps and differences in the areas of social inclusion, education and employment for all in the EU. Women in particular still remain underrepresented in the labour market and are at greater risk of social exclusion, unemployment and low-quality jobs. Women also remain, on average, slightly more likely to be unemployed than men with the same level of education. The challenges and risks women typically face are addressed through the ESF as follows:

- At programming level: by involving all relevant stakeholders, including gender equality bodies, in the preparation of the partnership agreements and programmes. For the 2021-2027 period, a specific enabling condition is also provided for and needs to be fulfilled throughout all the stages of implementation of ESF+ investments. Moreover, ESF+ specific objective 3 clearly refers to the promotion of a gender-balanced labour market.

- At implementation level: by involving partners in monitoring committees notably to assist with a range of tasks such as approving the methodology and criteria used for the selection of operations, examining the implementation of the programmes and the fulfilment of enabling conditions.

Implementing specific additional training measures for staff within the managing authority or providing targeted support and guidance to beneficiaries to sufficiently integrate a gender equality perspective in their projects are some of the specific actions taken to integrate the gender perspective in ESF programmes and projects. To support Member States in their efforts to mainstream gender equality at all stages of the programme, the European Community of Practice on gender mainstreaming, supported by the ESF, developed by end 2013 a gender mainstreaming standard ⁽²⁸⁾ in view of the future programming period.

Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived 2014-2020

Article 5(11) of the FEAD Regulation obliges Member States to ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are taken into account during the various stages of programme implementation. In their Annual Implementation Reports, Member States have to report information on and assessment of the actions which take into account the principle set out in Article 5(11) of the FEAD Regulation. Also, the common result indicators on food support and basic material assistance distributed are broken down by gender.

In 2020, the overall profile of end recipients of FEAD support remained unchanged. As in previous years, just about half (47%) of all those supported - were women. In the majority of cases, the most deprived individuals are identified on the basis of economic criteria, which prevent discrimination in access to aid based on gender, origin, religion or belief, disability or sexual orientation. The specific needs attached to each gender are also considered. For example, in some Member States such as Hungary and Poland, women, notably pregnant ones are explicitly targeted. In Sweden, FEAD focuses on women's health.

Non-discrimination is, however, a general principle applied across the implementation of the programme and it is not relevant to produce estimates of budget contributions.

Employment and Social Innovation programme 2014-2020

EaSI is expected to contribute to strengthening ownership of EU objectives among policy-makers at all levels to the extent that horizontal issues, such as gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion of vulnerable groups, are regularly taken into account.

Horizontal issues have been addressed in designing, implementing and reporting on the activities. For instance, the terms of reference for all procurement under the programme should describe how those issues should be considered in the objectives and how to include them in the tasks to be performed.

⁽²⁷⁾ [ESIF 2014-2020 categorisation ERDF-ESF-CF planned vs implemented](#)

⁽²⁸⁾ [Gender mainstreaming standard](#)

EaSI funded projects have mainstreamed gender equality, non-discrimination and inclusion as shown by the project ‘EQW&L-Equality for work and Life’, aiming to elaborate and test a set of strategies, a new model of intervention and a toolkit to facilitate the access to labour market of unemployed persons (women, but not only) who are hindered from getting and keeping a job by their work-life balance needs (project implemented between February 2018 – February 2021, with EUR 862 014.73 from EaSI). Another relevant example is the project ‘MASP - Parenting as a Master in a new ‘work-life’ synergy perspective’ that helped strengthen existing corporate commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment with an explicit ambition to help reduce and redistribute the responsibility for unpaid care work (project implemented between February 2019 - March 2021, with EUR 1 368 322 from EaSI).

The integration of horizontal principles during the MFF period shows an increasing trend. The results of the latest EaSI Stakeholder Survey (2021) highlights that two of the most mainstreamed horizontal objectives integrated by the programme are ‘promoting equality between women and men, including through gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting’ (79%) and ‘combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation’ (77%).

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

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

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

European Social Fund and Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived 2014-2020

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Sustainable development is embedded in the ESF's and FEAD's mission. More specifically, FEAD promotes social cohesion, enhances social inclusion and ultimately contributes to achieving the EU2020 poverty reduction target. FEAD contributes to the specific objective of alleviating the worst forms of poverty by providing non-financial assistance to the most deprived. In all programmes, FEAD strives to offer pathways out of poverty to the most deprived, according to the target groups of the programme.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the French Food Banks Network experienced an increase of almost 20% in the demand for food aid (from March to June 2020). By the end of 2020, around 7 million people in France were estimated to be experiencing food deprivation. The health crisis worsened the conditions for existing vulnerable people in receipt of FEAD support, while new groups – such as students - also sought food aid. The project ‘Distribution of food parcels to students’, that ran from March 2020 to December 2021 with a budget of EUR 1.4 million co-funded by FEAD, identified and targeted the most disadvantaged students in third-level education in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of France. As the crisis persisted, its remit was broadened in October 2020 to young people aged 15-30 in precarious circumstances with a new scheme called ‘Rebound for youth’. Depending on the week, between 800 and 1 400 students receive food parcels and in total, nearly 52 000 packages have been distributed to date.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Both the ESF and FEAD contribute directly to ending hunger across the EU. The funds invest in measures promoting job creation, quality employment, education and measures combating social exclusion and discrimination, which also target the most marginalised members of European societies.

For example, in Hungary an ESF-funded project has been offering tailored employment support for people with disabilities. Through coaching and support activities for people with chronic health conditions or disabilities, it aims to find sustainable,

worthwhile employment that is tailored to the participants' specific needs. The project involves local businesses that are interested in employing people with disabilities, also due to financial incentives. Backed by EUR 41.2 million of ESF support, the project is running until end 2022, and by end 2021 has already supported over 19 000 people and helped over 14 000 people find a job.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The ESF also contributes to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages by investing in projects promoting job creation, quality employment, education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning, and combating social inclusion and discrimination. FEAD focuses on support to the most vulnerable groups. For example, in Sweden the 'Pentru Tine - För Dig' (For You) project provides health and social information to mobile EU citizens living in vulnerable conditions in four different cities. Through the provision of community and health information, the project aims to increase autonomy and reduce vulnerability among these citizens, as well as decreasing the risks associated with exploitation, ill health and hate crimes. The long-term goal is to improve health and increase inclusion and empowerment through increased knowledge of their rights, opportunities and obligations in Sweden, their home country and the EU. Due to the COVID-19 related crisis, the project adapted the health information provided including ways to prevent the spread of the virus and how to seek healthcare for symptoms or illness. A number of other measures were taken, including: updating the target group on restrictions and adjustments in Sweden, Romania and Bulgaria; pausing some group activities and focusing on outdoor outreach activities; holding all planning meetings online; and using a car for outreach activities, minimising the use of public transport. The project ran between March 2019 and June 2021 with a total amount of funding of EUR 1.2 million. The outreach teams have provided information to approximately 1 600 individuals through over 5 000 meetings. An internal user survey of participants found that 99% of participants agreed they had benefitted from the information received, with 98% feeling that the conditions for taking care of their own health and hygiene have improved.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

ESF investments under the education thematic objective contribute to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. For example, thanks to ESF funding, people in north-east Italy could take a number of free training courses to develop and improve their digital skills. Some EUR 4.5 million from the ESF allowed participants to adapt to the constantly changing work environment, including the new business models and new ways of working that are required in a digital economy. In total, over 5 000 people benefited from 505 training courses in the field of lifelong learning. The project ran from 2017 to 2021.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Importantly, the ESF Regulation strongly reflects the EU's commitment to eliminate inequalities between women and men following a combined approach of gender mainstreaming and specific activities for women in different fields. The principle of equality between the sexes is a key horizontal one of ESF programmes, thus contributing to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

For example, in Sweden an ESF-funded project helped newly arrived migrant women between 25 and 65 years old to speed up the process of finding work or training while also breaking down gender stereotypes. Practical aspects to the programme included individual coaching from a personal mentor as well as networking events and study visits with potential employers. With an ESF contribution of EUR 1.6 million, the project ran from 2016 to 2019 and benefited around 700 participants.

In Croatia, an ESF-funded project delivered free training on permaculture and urban horticulture to women and young people of school age. Backed by EUR 95 529 of ESF funding, the project ran from 2018 to 2020 and provided free training to 49 unemployed women, covering not only practical gardening knowledge but also wider employability skills. By the end of their training, women were qualified to work in the relevant industries and had also gained the extra knowledge, motivation and confidence needed to apply for jobs.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

ESF investment in the adaptation of workers and reskilling is crucial. While jobs may be created, other jobs will be lost, and thus other jobs will require different skills as they are 'greened' in order to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8) and make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG11). For example, the Finnish University of Vaasa is developing a project, with funding from the ESF, which will offer a framework and digital app to help businesses manage staff wellbeing. Its innovative crisis management tools should also help companies respond better to COVID-19 pandemic. With an ESF contribution of EUR 1 million, the project, running until 2023, will help managers to recognise wellbeing development needs, set targets, use relevant tools and build management systems for workplace wellbeing, supported by an innovative digital app for smartphone and laptops.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

ESF investments under education thematic objective contribute to building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (SDG 9), by supporting the development of necessary skills in the transition to a low carbon economy. The transition will have consequences for the labour market, for employment and for the skills required for the new 'green' jobs and the greening of existing jobs in the future. For example, in Croatia an ESF-funded project provided training covering practical gardening knowledge and wider employability skills for women and young people. By the end of their training,

participants were qualified to work in the relevant industries and had the extra knowledge, motivation and confidence needed to apply for jobs. With an ESF contribution of around EUR 97 000, the project ran from 2018 to 2020 and benefited 139 participants.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The ESF is the EU's main fund to reduce the gap in living standards between regions and between people and to promote economic and social cohesion across Europe thus aiming to reduce inequality within and among countries.

The FEAD finances specific actions to promote the social inclusion of the end recipients through dedicated outreach to specific target groups. In Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden, where FEAD support funds social inclusion measures, the homeless and impoverished migrants are the primary target groups, thereby aiming to reduce inequalities and unequal access to social services. For example, in Denmark, the Kompasset (Compass) project provides services for hard-to-reach and destitute EU mobile citizens, many of whom struggle to access low-threshold services due to marginalisation, mental health issues or substance abuse. Kompasset is a FEAD-funded project with a budget of EUR 2 million, which started in 2016 to address the challenge of an increasing number of migrants experiencing homelessness on the streets of Copenhagen. Kompasset seeks to build relationships with marginalised, homeless migrants and connect them with services that can support them in their daily life: providing them a place to get some sleep indoors, health clinics, counselling and legal assistance. It also aims to create a welcoming and friendly environment for migrants who arrive in Copenhagen. Kompasset has provided support to people from approximately 55 countries: 75% EU citizens and 25% third-country nationals, reaching over 800 participants in 2019 and 2020.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

See under SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The European Social Fund can support efforts to strengthen sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG 12) and action to combat climate change and its impacts (SDG 13) at all stages of life from raising children's awareness in schools, to supporting trainings for green skills and green entrepreneurship and also social inclusion through green careers. For example in Belgium (Wallonia) training centres designed in response to local socio-economic needs provide training in a variety of sectors. Thanks to ESF support, three of these centres, representing the food chain industry "from field to fork", offered professional training courses for unemployed people. Backed by EUR 8.4 million of ESF co-financing, the project ran from 2014 to 2020 and supported 13 182 participants.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

See above.

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

The ESF contributes to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (SDG 16) through investment under the Institutional Capacity Thematic Objective. The ESF finances the strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration regarding reforms, better regulation and good governance, especially in the economic, employment, education, social, environmental and judicial fields through measures mainly consisting of training for public institutions. For example, thanks to an ESF contribution of over EUR 8.5 million, in Bulgaria, in the last four years, the e-Government Agency has introduced more than 859 online services, which are already making life easier for thousands of citizens and businesses. Documents are submitted securely and instantly, without the need to travel. Upgrading horizontal e-government systems allows digital, remote and secure access to the databases of various administrations, which has enabled more efficient and effective public services and reduced administrative burden for citizens and businesses. The project will run until 2023.

Employment and Social Innovation programme 2014-2020

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Fighting poverty is at the heart of EaSI, which does this by analytical work as well as via projects. Such projects seek to improve service provision, offer education and training, as well as hands-on support to bring people (back) to employment as one of the main means to take them out of poverty. For example, 'FEBA - Reducing poverty through food redistribution 2020 actions', funded with EUR 250 172 for a duration of one year (2020) with the key objective of strengthening the activity of the European Food Banks Federation and its members, contributed to the reduction of poverty and social exclusion through the redistribution of food in partnership with charitable organisations that assist the most deprived in Europe.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The project 'Strengthening Action on Health and Social Equity in the EU – EuroHealthNet Proposal for 2020' has been funded by EaSI with EUR 561 668 (January 2020 – December 2020). Coordinated by EuroHealthNet, it provided input on how different policy initiatives (European Semester, the development of an Action Plan for the EU Pillar of Social Rights, the emergence of the

Recovery and Resilience Funds and the programmes of the multiannual financial framework, including ESF+) could be designed and applied to maximise impact on health and well-being and reduce health inequities across the EU.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

As part of the promotion of high quality and sustainable employment, EaSI supported actions aiming at upskilling and reskilling the workforce, notably helping national authorities devise adequate policies through the upskilling pathways calls.

EaSI also contributed to develop the multilingual classification system for skills, competences, qualifications and occupations, ESCO, that are relevant for the EU labour market and education and training.

EaSI funded with EUR 308 080 (April 2019 – March 2021) the project ‘Blueprints for basic skills development in Slovakia’ coordinated by the State Vocational Education Institute and Centre for Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The project (i) initiated national-level discussions on the issues related to adult literacy, (ii) mapped the current landscape of basic skills such as literacy, numeracy and digital skills of the Slovak adult population, focusing mainly on low-skilled individuals, (iii) developed tools and methodologies for identification of the needs of low-skilled job seekers and (iv) trained individuals involved in dealing with issues related to basic skills of the adult population.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

This is achieved indirectly by the fact that EaSI, in pursuing its general objectives, aims to equally fulfil its horizontal objectives, one of them being targeted at promoting equality between women and men, including through gender mainstreaming and, where appropriate, gender budgeting.

EaSI funded with EUR 1 368 322 the project ‘MASP - Parenting as a Master in a new ‘work-life’ synergy perspective’ that was implemented between February 2019 and March 2021 and helped strengthen existing corporate commitments to gender equality, women's empowerment, and the Sustainable Development Goals with an explicit ambition to help reduce and redistribute the responsibility for unpaid care work.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

EaSI work programmes contribute to the implementation of a number of legislative and non-legislative measures such as the proposal for a Council Recommendation on Integration of the long term unemployment, the New Skills Agenda for Europe, the Labour Mobility Package, the review of the EU Health and Safety Legislation, and to the European Pillar of Social Rights.

EaSI funded with EUR 256 025 (April 2020-March 2021) the project ‘Euclid Network – Empowering Social Enterprises for a vibrant social enterprise finance market 2021’. Coordinated by EUCLID Network and with eight participating countries (Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) the project (i) improved the access to social finance for social enterprises supporting the implementation of the European policies in the social enterprise finance market, with a focus on the demand side, (ii) reinforced the capacity of Euclid Network members to empower social enterprises to access the social finance market and to repay social finance thanks to a sustainable business model, (iii) voiced the concerns and expectations of social enterprises and potential future social entrepreneurs, including from disadvantaged groups, and (iv) provided high-quality data and research on developments on social enterprises finance with a focus on the demand side.

The Network supported and strengthened the capacity of the demand side of the social finance market across Europe, focusing on the frontline organisations that could benefit from this investment. These include social enterprises and their support structures such as national federations, networks, universities, social funds, accelerators and incubators.

It launched the Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise Initiative, celebrating women in the SE sector, spotlighting their impact journey and achievements, connecting them to learn from and inspire each other.

It also launched the European Social Enterprise Monitor in 2020, a cross-country survey, to uncover social enterprise insights for evidence-based policymaking and investor decision-making. A total of 1 990 responses were collected from social entrepreneurs, which were presented and launched at the European Commission European Social Economy Summit on 26 May 2021. In total, nine monitor reports are expected to be produced.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

EaSI contributes to the implementation of several principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education, and access to goods and services available to the public.

EaSI funded with EUR 415 612 (January 2020 - December 2020) the project ‘ERGO - Roma included in Social Europe 2020’. The work programme aimed to ensure that EU social policies work for Roma, Europe’s largest and most discriminated ethnic minority. The main beneficiaries were the Roma people in the EU whose needs were better taken into account in policy processes and who were represented by a more effective civil society.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Several EaSI financed projects have a ‘green’ component by developing the role of social enterprises in the circular economy.

EaSI has a crucial role to play in promoting the involvement of civil society through financial support for the key EU-level NGO networks. The programme supports these networks with the aim of boosting their capacity to participate in and influence decision-making and policy implementation at both EU and national levels. Furthermore, such involvement fosters the accountability and transparency of authorities and increases the relevance of policy responses.

The project ‘Developing the role of Social Enterprise in the Circular Economy’, funded with EUR 273 025 from EaSI and coordinated by RE-USE and Recycling European Union Social Enterprises in 2020, included within its objectives to (i) inform and improve the effectiveness of EU funding mechanisms in supporting the establishment and development of social enterprises active in re-use, repair and recycling, and (ii) to contribute to the fulfilment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by monitoring and influencing the development and implementation of policy proposals under the EU Commission's Circular Economy Package. Green Agenda is growing in importance in Europe. The green and circular priorities of the Commission, coupled with the Social Economy action plan, instil a sense of optimism that the society is moving in the right direction. However, what is also evident is that ensuring social value is retained as an intrinsic part of the green and digital transitions need more action. 2020 has seen a particular surge in interest in tackling fast fashion and over-consumption in textiles and RE-USE will continue supporting social enterprises active in this sector, following a number of policy proposals and interventions.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Erasmus+****Lead DG: EAC**

Associated DGs: EMPL

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

Erasmus+ is the EU's flagship programme to support and strengthen education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

For over three decades, Erasmus+ and its predecessors have been offering opportunities to close to 12.5 million youth, students and adults to study, train, gain work experience, and volunteer abroad, in Europe or beyond.

In a fast-changing world – with rapid demographic, societal and technological changes - there is a clear need to provide individuals with the right set of knowledge, skills and competences, with a lifelong learning perspective, to make them more resilient and sustain current standards of living, support high rates of employment and foster social cohesion. Closing the skills and competences gap is a crucial challenge.

Challenges include social exclusion, driven by family, social, and physical environments that can hinder access to quality education and the chances to successfully complete education and training programmes. Social exclusion is at the same time the result and the cause of education poverty, a vicious circle perpetuated from one generation to the next. Learners with fewer opportunities remain over-represented among the low achievers on basic skills, show high rates of early school-leaving and low higher education completion.

Another important challenge is a widespread lack of awareness and understanding of the EU's basic functioning, objectives, 'raison d'être', as well as of the EU's added value for its citizens. This can lead to misinformation and hinders the development of informed opinions on EU actions.

COVID-19 resulted in millions of Europeans depending on digital tools to communicate with their loved ones, however, many lack the skills or material needed to stay connected and fully depend on solidarity actions.

Millions of Europeans also depended on distance and online learning and teaching. The crisis did reveal several challenges for educators and learners across sectors, including

- lack of digital capacity and of distance learning systems,
- lack of adequate pedagogical methods and insufficient guidance and skills of educators and youth workers, e.g. in the context of delivering high quality online courses/content and to carry out on-line assessments,
- lack of robust online learning support and guidance, safeguarding equity, quality and privacy.

The digital and green transitions require adequate means to deliver in an impactful manner. Schools, training institutions, higher education institutions, and youth/ sports organisations need to constructively engage young people and the wider community on

changes that need to take place for a successful transition. The actions supported by the programme contribute to the overall climate and biodiversity objective, both by the prioritisation of the green transition in the cooperation activities, and by the promotion of green practices at the level of projects throughout the programme. Erasmus+ contributes to enhance the knowledge of learners and young people and raise awareness regarding sustainability and environmental challenges.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the Erasmus+ Programme is to support, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport. This applies to Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, quality jobs and social cohesion, to driving innovation, and to strengthening European identity and active citizenship.

As such, the Programme shall be a key instrument for building a European Education Area, supporting the implementation of the European strategic cooperation in the field of education and training, with its underlying sectoral agendas, advancing youth policy cooperation under the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 and developing the European dimension in sport.

Within this context, the European added value of the programme is uncontested. The latest mid-term evaluation found that in the absence of the programme, the mobility of learners and staff, as well as European cooperation in the sectors covered by the programme, would be substantially reduced.

The Programme has a key role in strengthening European identity and values and in contributing to a more democratic Union; it can reach out and engage many different actors in our societies through its activities and sectors, in order to raise awareness of European common values, history and culture from an early age on.

Moreover, the programme continues to strengthen its innovation dimension and promote transformation by rolling out initiatives such as the European Universities and the Centres of Vocational Excellence, the Erasmus+ Teacher Academies, the Digital Education Hub and by increasing investments in forward-looking study subjects.

To contribute to building a more digitally prepared Europe, the programme supports students, school pupils, young people, teachers, educators, youth workers and learners of all ages in adapting to digital ways of teaching and learning.

To make Erasmus+ greener, the programme offers more opportunities for learners and organisations to develop knowledge and skills in sustainability related matters and to develop environmental-friendly approaches, while acting more sustainably.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme has the following specific objectives:

1. Promote learning mobility of individuals and groups, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion and equity, excellence, creativity, and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training;
2. Promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of youth;
3. Promote learning mobility of sport staff, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of sport organisations and sport policies.

1.4. Public intervention context

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the EU has the competence to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States in the field of education, vocational training, youth and sport.

In accordance with Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Member States have the exclusive competence over the content of the teaching and the organisation of their education systems. The mission of the European Union in this field is to encourage cooperation among Member States and to support and supplement their actions where necessary.

To fulfil its mission and achieve its objectives, the EU supports Member States in their efforts to provide the best education and training for their citizens, setting joint goals and sharing good practices.

The Erasmus + programme is a cornerstone for the implementation of the priorities and activities set out in the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan, the European Skills Agenda and the European strategy for universities. The programme contributes to the European Pillar of Social Rights and is preparing Europe to face a green transition.

At Member State level, countries participating in the Erasmus+ programme continue implementing reforms of their education and training systems, in accordance with their needs, simultaneously benefiting from the policy support of the new European Education Area's framework.

In line with the Digital Education Action Plan priorities, the programme will develop accessible and high-quality digital learning, foster the capacity of teachers, trainers, youth workers, etc. to use digital tools, services, platforms and content, and to test and

promote distance and blended learning. The mobility and cooperation actions of the programme will provide an increased number of opportunities to build knowledge and help acquire and develop digital skills.

In line with the European Green Deal, the programme supports the green transition and sustainability of education and training systems, youth work and sport by providing incentives to green travel, resources for networking, and support to creative approaches.

Erasmus+ is also instrumental for the implementation of the European Skills Agenda that aims to support the development of the skills needed to ensure a prompt recovery and take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the green and digital transitions, and to the New European agenda for adult learning.

The programme is also advancing youth policy cooperation and the European Youth Work Agenda under the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, while contributing to develop and foster the European dimension of sports.

1.5. Actions

The objectives of the Programme shall be pursued through the following three key actions:

1. Key action 1: Learning mobility
2. Key action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions
3. Key action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation

The objectives shall also be pursued through Jean Monnet actions, which support teaching, learning, research and debates on European Integration matters, including on the Union’s future challenges and opportunities.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Erasmus+ programme is implemented under the leadership of the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), in co-operation with DG Employment Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) for the parts of the programme which concern skills and qualifications policy, adult learning and vocational education and training.

The programme’s activities are implemented through direct and indirect management. Direct management is used by the European Commission services in both DG EAC and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The Erasmus+ National Agencies operate under indirect management, which brings the programme closer to its target audience, adapts to the diversity of national education systems, and offers the possibility to align the Erasmus+ activities with national priorities. DG EAC bears the overall responsibility for the supervision and coordination of the agencies in charge of implementing the Programme.

Some actions under Key Actions 2 and 3 in the fields of adult education, vocational education and training as well as skills and qualifications are partly or fully co-delegated to the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL). Some actions under Key Action 3 related to multilingualism are co-delegated to the Directorate-General for Translation (DGT). In the implementation of certain international actions, DG EAC liaises with external action DGs, notably the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Delegations of the European Union in the third countries not associated to the Programme. Some actions are also indirectly managed by Pillar Assessed international organisations via the conclusion of contribution agreements.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Domain	Education & Training				Sport	Youth
	Higher Education	Vocational Education and Training	School Education	Adult Education		
Programme	Erasmus+					
	Strands					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key action 1: Learning mobility - Key action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions - Key action 3: Support to policy development and cooperation - Jean Monnet 					
Management Mode	Direct: Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), DG EAC, DG EMPL					
	Indirect: National Agencies in programme countries					

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	24 574.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	2 663.0	3 401.7	3 560.5	3 487.1	3 676.0	3 868.6	4 518.4	25 175.4
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	256.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	256.0
Total	2 919.0	3 401.7	3 560.5	3 487.1	3 676.0	3 868.6	4 518.4	25 431.3

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Based on lessons learned from the previous programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 is more inclusive and accessible, more forward-looking, more digital, simpler and greener, more international, while continuing to support lifelong learning and innovative education and training in Europe and beyond.

It offers reinforced opportunities for transnational learning mobility and cooperation, including new mobility opportunities for school pupils, adult learners and sport staff. The programme gives more attention to fields that are strategic to Europe's knowledge creation and sustainable growth, by targeting mobility and cooperation projects in strategic forward-looking sectors (climate change, sustainability, clean energy, digitisation, artificial intelligence, bioscience, etc.) thus contributing to crucial skills development, increasing Europe's innovation capacity, tackling societal challenges and promoting equal opportunities.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

These websites offer an entry point to the programme opportunities and architecture and provide an overview of the funded projects results:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects_en

In the field of sport, all updates concerning the policy framework and financing options are available at the following website:

https://ec.europa.eu/sport/node_en

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	2 812.2	25 372.7	11%
Payments	1 842.2		7%

Erasmus+ has an estimated budget of around €26.2 billion for the period 2021-2027, nearly doubling the funding compared to its predecessor programme (2014-2020), complemented by around €2.2 billion from EU external cooperation instruments.

This programme is the cornerstone for the implementation of the ambitious policy agenda of the European Education Area, Digital Education Action Plan, European Skills Agenda, but also the EU Youth Strategy and the EU Work Plan for Sport. It also contributes to other EU initiatives such as the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, the EU equality agenda or the New European Bauhaus.

Out of this financial envelope, 70% supports mobility opportunities in a lifelong learning perspective. The remaining 30% is invested in cooperation projects and policy development activities, allowing organisations to gain experience in international cooperation, strengthen their capacities, produce innovative approaches, exchange of good practices and network.

The programme is not only more inclusive and innovative, it mobilises the education, training, youth and sport sectors for a rapid post-pandemic recovery and helps steer the European Union's economic model towards more sustainability, with green and digital transitions as drivers of transformation. The inclusiveness dimension of the programme will make it more accessible to people with fewer opportunities and for smaller organisations and newcomers to the programme. This is done through appropriate financial mechanisms, targeted communication and outreach measures, as well as actions that offer enhanced flexibility adapted to the needs of staff and learners who face obstacles in participation, for example the new small-scale cooperation partnerships, flexible mobility formats (short term, group, or blended mobility).

Nevertheless, continuity remains the watchword. The Erasmus+ programme builds on the success of the previous programme and retains all of its strengths – including the integration of all sectors of formal, informal and non-formal education and youth and sport into a single programme, while providing opportunities for lifelong learning, as well as the articulation in three key actions.

Inclusion is an overarching principle: the programme aims to improve access to the learning opportunities offered by rolling out dedicated inclusion measures covering all fields of education, training, youth and sport. A Commission decision on the framework of inclusion measures for Erasmus+ adopted in October 2021¹ outlines a set of measures to be implemented over the 7-year period in order to improve outreach and facilitate the participation of people with fewer opportunities. The National Agencies translate this European framework into the needs in their local, regional and national contexts, building on these general measures to rollout specific actions on the ground. Finally, the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy provides practical guidance on how to implement these measures for those carrying out Erasmus+ and activities. Furthermore, the programme aims to support more and better projects focussing on inclusion and diversity, opening doors to enhanced participation of newcomers and to small grassroots organisations, notably through the launch of simpler actions that more accessible.

Under the programme 2021-2027, main novelties include opportunities for mobility for school pupils and adult learners possible directly under Key Action 1. Furthermore, simplification measures – such as the extended use of simplified grants² and the reinforced use of mobility accreditation processes (Charters) - will enhance the inclusiveness and accessibility of the programme.

In line with the Digital Education Action Plan in particular, but also the European Education Area, the European strategy for universities, the renewed EU Youth Strategy, the Updated Skills Agenda and the **digital dimension** are part of the programme's design, activities and underlying processes. Concretely, digital transformation incentives are mainstreamed throughout all sectors and key actions, and dedicated initiatives are supported. The digital dimension of the programme ranges along the following lines: mobility and cooperation projects, thematic priorities across the sectors, continued support to IT platforms, communities and tools, policy support, as well as digitalisation of the programme's implementation.

The Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027 includes, among others, the following actions funded by Erasmus+: launching a strategic dialogue with Member States in order to prepare two possible proposals for Council Recommendations: one on the enabling factors for successful digital education and another one on the provision of digital skills in education and training; implementing the Council Recommendation on Online and Distance Learning for Primary and Secondary Education; creating a European Digital Education Content Framework and launching a targeted European exchange platform to promote cooperation between higher education institutions.

At the same time, the programme **raises awareness and promotes knowledge and understanding of the Union and of European values**. In order to strengthen European identity and active citizenship, young people are encouraged to participate in democratic life, like during the European Year of Youth in 2022.

¹ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/commission-decision-framework-inclusion-2021-27>

² Commission decision https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/erasmus/guidance/ls-and-unit-cost-decision_erasmus_en.pdf

The programme is a key instrument for the building of knowledge, skills and attitudes on **climate change and sustainable development** both within the European Union and beyond. It increases the number of mobility opportunities in green forward-looking fields, which foster the development of competences, enhance career prospects and engage participants in subject areas, with special attention to rural development (sustainable farming, management of natural resources, soil protection, bio-agriculture) all of which are strategic for the sustainable growth of our planet. To promote green transition in line with the Green Deal, the programme promotes the integration of green practices in all projects and support measures, and reinforces its support projects aimed at developing skills in various sectors related to sustainable development, environmental and climate issues. The programme also builds on policy initiatives such as the proposal for a Council Recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability, which supports Member States to cooperate and develop stronger policies on education for the green transition, and the European sustainability competence framework, that provides common ground for education stakeholders on the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to live, work and act more sustainably.

The programme raises awareness and supports the use of innovative practices to learners and educators across the sectors into real agents of change. Erasmus+, with mobility at its core, should strive for carbon-neutrality by promoting sustainable transport modes and more responsible behaviour, and activities such as DiscoverEU are leading by example. The Education for Climate Coalition as a community-led participatory initiative, gathers students, teachers and stakeholders to co-create innovative approaches to sustainability education and to cooperate on concrete participatory challenges to support the green transition.

The environment and the fight against global warming is a horizontal priority for the selection of projects. **Priority is given to projects aimed at developing competences in various environmental sustainability-relevant sectors**, including those within the framework of contribution from education and culture to sustainable development goals, developing green sectorial skills strategies and methodologies, future-oriented curricula that better meet the needs of individuals, as well as initiatives that support the planned approaches of the participating organisations regarding environmental sustainability.

2021

The first year of implementation of the Erasmus+ programme has been exceptionally challenging in terms of budget management. The late adoption of the programme Regulation has pushed forward the start of the activities (calls, selection, contracts, payments) to the second part of the year, affecting the budget management in 2021 and shifting some payments initially planned in 2021 to 2022.

As a result, a very close monitoring approach, namely towards National Agencies, allowed to promptly return the unnecessary payment appropriations detected in the revision of forecasts and ensured to fully use the remaining available payment appropriations in EU budget at year end. Moreover, this exceptional situation had no influence on the funding absorption capacity of the Erasmus+ programme, for which all the commitments appropriations of the 2021 EU voted budget have been implemented. In 2021, more than 65% of the budget committed (€2.812 billion) has already been paid (€1.842 billion)

2022

The total programmed adopted EU budget for Erasmus + in 2022 represents an amount of €3.402 billion, a further amount of €364,41 million will constitute the external instruments' contribution to the programme.

In 2022's programming (excluding the external dimension), indirect management (mainly through National Agencies) will represent around 75% of the operational budget. As regards direct management, EACEA will implement around 22%, leaving 3% to be implemented centrally by the Commission.

The implementation of the external component will have a slightly different breakdown, with indirect management representing 49% of the operational budget, and EACEA taking the remaining 51%.

The 2022 payment appropriations will be used on one hand to cover the payments on the 2022 commitments, as well as the payments on ongoing projects from 2021, including some payments initially planned in 2021 and shifted to 2022 for the reasons exposed above.

2023

The total EU budget requested for 2023 amounts to € 3.548 million, which represents an increase of 4,3% compared to 2022, fully aligned with the financial programming (2021-2027).

In 2023's initial estimated programming , indirect management through National Agencies) will represent around 83% of the operational budget. As regards direct management, EACEA will implement around 14%%, leaving 3% to be implemented centrally by the Commission.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020: Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
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Commitments	14 958.1	14 958.1	100%
Payments	14 179.3		95%

With a total financial envelope of around €14.96 billion under Heading 1 and €1.7 billion under Heading 4 to support its strong international dimension, the implementation of Erasmus+ started successfully in 2014.

The programme is implemented under indirect management (approximately 78% through National Agencies) and direct management modes (20% through the Executive Agency for Education, Audiovisual and Culture and 2% mainly through DG EAC). Despite Heading 4 funds being only available at the end of 2014, delaying the launch of some international actions such as capacity building in higher education and international credit mobility, the programme was able to achieve a full budget absorption capacity.

The total C1 credits for the period 2014-2020 amounted to €14 958 095 673 and were implemented at 100%. During the period 2014-2021, the total payments amounted to €14 179 309 909. The programme has managed to consume almost all of its payment appropriations, reaching a cumulative implementation rate of 95 per cent. Therefore, only 5% of the previous programming period still remains to pay on the completion budget lines which demonstrate the fast implementation of the programme.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Erasmus+ is not only one of the EU flagship programmes, it is also one of the best known by citizens.

Over more than 30 years of existence, the programme has increased its scope, involving more and more citizens to reach about **940 000 individual mobility opportunities** in 2019 for a total of close to 12.5 **million** mobility periods since 1987.

It is important to note that 2021 was a very atypical year for for the Erasmus+ programme. The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency.

Given the delay in the negotiation of the external instruments and the adoption of the legal basis, only a limited number of Heading 6 funded international actions were made available in the Erasmus+ 2021 Annual Work Programme (e.g. Capacity in Youth and Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges, as well as a top-up for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters). The whole range of international actions (including new actions such as capacity building in VET and sport) have become available as of the 2022 Erasmus+ calls.

Finalised and consolidated data will thus only become available at a later stage regarding this year.

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic still had a strong impact on mobility opportunities, and the programme implementation had to be adapted accordingly; this was translated in budgetary terms as an overall reduction of the mobility budget foreseen under Key Action 1, to the benefit of partnerships under Key Action 2. Moreover, the budget profile was overall less favorable in 2021 compared to 2020, the budget increase at programme level having more impact on annual funding in subsequent years (2022-2027).

The programme should be in a position to support a resumed demand for mobility in 2022, after the restrictions it suffered in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and provided that the sanitary situation allows for it.

It accompanies thus the recovery, builds on the lessons learnt to increase the implementation flexibility and prepare European Society for the future, including the major priorities of the EU. It is also mobilised to contribute to the European Year of Youth 2022.

The Erasmus+ programme will also contribute to address the arrival in the EU of millions of refugees, including many children and young people, compelled to flee Ukraine as a consequence of the Russian invasion. As underlined by the Commission Communication adopted on 23 March 2022, Erasmus+ will play a key role to help the education and training systems to cope, supporting learners and teachers, schools, vocational education and training institutes and higher education institutions, as well as youth organisations and NGOs, in order to ensure continued learning.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Building on the success of the programme in the period 2014-2020, Erasmus+ strengthens its efforts to increase the opportunities offered to more participants and to a wider range of organisations, focusing on its qualitative impact and contributing to more inclusive and cohesive, greener and digitally fit societies.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, access to education is proving, more than ever, to be essential to ensuring a swift recovery, while **promoting equal opportunities for all**.

As part of this recovery process, the Erasmus+ programme takes its inclusive dimension to a new horizon by supporting opportunities for personal, socio-educational and professional development of people in Europe and beyond, with the aim of leaving no-one behind.

To increase the qualitative impact of its actions and ensure equal opportunities, the programme will reach out more and better to people of different ages and from diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

It is at the heart of the programme to come closer to those with fewer opportunities, at risk of discrimination or exclusion, including people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic and racial minorities, as well as European Union citizens living in remote areas and/or facing socio-economic difficulties. In doing so, the programme will also encourage its participants, in particular young people, to engage and learn to participate in civic society, raising awareness about European Union common values; .

In order to implement this dimension, Erasmus+ will support easier access to funding for a wider range of organisations. To improve outreach to more participants with fewer opportunities, the programme did also set up a framework for those projects which intend to work on inclusion, equality and diversity related issues³. Erasmus+ increases investment in initiatives that support learning opportunities for all, educational equity and increase participation rates of people with fewer opportunities, through flexible and simple participation formats, more help prepare and accompany participants in their Erasmus+ learning adventure, but also through financial support for those who thought Erasmus+ is not for them.

Furthermore, developing digital skills and competences, and skills in forward-looking fields, such as combating climate change, clean energy, artificial intelligence, robotics, big data analysis, etc. is essential for Europe's future sustainable growth and cohesion.

The COVID-19 crisis shed light on the importance of digital education for the digital transformation that Europe needs. In particular, it emphasised the increased need to harness the potential of digital technologies for teaching and learning and to develop digital skills for all.

In line with the strategic priorities of the Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)⁴, the programme aims to support this endeavour to engage learners, educators, youth workers, young people and organisations on the path to a digital transformation. The programme will continue to focus on two strategic priorities (fostering the development of a high performing digital ecosystem and enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation). These include further implementation of the Digital Education Hub (established in Q1 2022) - including support to the work of the network of National Advisory Services - the support to Digital Opportunity Traineeships and the development of digital transformation plans of education institutions , the rolling out of a different implementation model of the Digital Education Hackathon, the launching and rollout of a targeted European exchange platform to promote cooperation and interoperability between higher education institutions and dedicated policy experimentations on digital education.

Physical mobility remains key to the success of the programme, yet blended intensive programmes, which allow for groups of higher education institutions to jointly develop blended mobility curricula and activities for students as well as academic and administrative staff, will be strongly supported.

Many people are reluctant, or face difficulties, in actively engaging and participating in their communities or in the European Union's political and social life. Strengthening European identity and the participation of young people in democratic processes is of paramount importance for the European Union's future. This issue can also be targeted through non-formal learning activities, which aim at enhancing the skills and competences of young people as well as their active citizenship, such as the youth participation activities launched in 2021.

In line with the objectives of the European strategy for universities, the programme supports and enables universities to adapt to changing conditions, to thrive and to contribute to Europe's resilience and recovery.

Some key achievements include:

Education and training

2021 was a year of action, turning the **European Education Area (EEA)** vision into first tangible results. The Commission successfully concluded negotiations with the Member States on the new framework for European cooperation in education and training for the next decade. With a view to effectively contributing to the achievement of the European Education Area by 2025, seven EEA Strategic Framework Working Groups have been launched in November 2021 as part of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030). The overall objective is to promote mutual learning on policy reform of national education systems and through tangible outputs support the EU Member States and the Commission to make the European Education Area a reality in tune with the Digital Education Action Plan, the European Skills Agenda, the Union of Equality and other EU policy flagships in education, training and skills.

³ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/commission-decision-framework-inclusion-2021-27>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/education/education-in-the-eu/digital-education-action-plan_en

Throughout 2022 and 2023, a monitoring upgrade will be developed and tested for the majority of EU-level target domains. Following a new approach that was endorsed in late 2021, the Standing Group on Indicators and Benchmarks (SGIB) will advise on supporting indicators. In addition, indicator development continues throughout 2022 and 2023 in the area of inclusion and equity, the teaching profession and education for environmental sustainability.

The **European Universities initiative** is paving the way for higher education transformation, by building the universities of the future; so far 41 European Universities were selected under Erasmus+.

The initiative on **Centres of Vocational Excellence** aims to be a driving force for reforms in the Vocational Educational and Training (VET) sector, ensuring high quality skills and competences that lead to quality employment and career-long opportunities, meeting the needs of an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy.

European Student Card Initiative aims at making it as easy as possible for students across Europe to be mobile. Through its key components, the Erasmus+ Mobile App, the European Student Card and the digitalisation of the student mobility management, the initiative constitutes a real revolution for the simplification of the way universities manage the student mobility. By the end of 2021, the **Erasmus+ Mobile App**, had been downloaded more than 138 800 times and more than 2 600 000 European Student Cards were produced by higher education institutions/student card issuers.

In 2021, much progress was made with the **Erasmus Without Paper** network that aims to switch to digital mobility management and enable transfer of Erasmus+ participant data between different higher education institutions in Europe. By the end of the year, there were 2376 nodes in production network corresponding to individual higher education institutions enabling the connecting of their IT systems to the EWP Registry, 1847 of which are ready to exchange Online Learning Agreements and 2246 universities ready to exchange Interinstitutional Agreements. The deadline for connecting and starting exchanging has been set for December 2022.

The Commission provides support to the Member States for putting in place the conditions that will make **automatic mutual recognition** possible by 2025. The Commission also implemented the European Parliament Preparatory Action Expert network on recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad in general upper secondary education which aimed to and support to the development of automatic recognition of long term mobility of pupils.

Higher education institutions also had to reapply for the **Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)** to participate in the new programme. Institutions who were awarded the Charter have committed to reach out to underrepresented groups in mobility through inclusion strategies, to ensure green practices in organising Erasmus+ activities, the implementation of digitalisation through the European Student Card Initiative, as well as the commitment to enhance the civic engagement of mobile students.

In the fields of **School Education, Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education**, a modernised accreditation system was successfully introduced and the first organisations were accredited to participate in the new programme. The Erasmus+ accreditation confirms that organisation has set up a plan to implement high quality mobility activities and to use them to improve its education and training offer.

In 2021, DG EAC started the implementation of the **Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027, building on the achievements of the previous plan**. One of the main actions led by DG EAC was the publication and award of an open call for support services for the Digital Education Hub, which will see its full roll out in 2022. Other key actions were the extension of the successful SELFIE self-reflection tool to teachers (SELFIE for Teachers) to help them further develop their digital skills; and the Digital Education Hackathon, which took place on 9-10 November for a third year in more than 50 locations across 32 countries globally, engaging almost 2 500 participants from education stakeholders (schools, higher education institutions, research centres, innovation labs, private sector).

The 2021 call for **Erasmus Mundus** included major changes, in order to make its Joint Masters more attractive, sustainable, inclusive and international, and to simplify its application process and management. These changes are symbolised in the move from the Erasmus+ Key Action 1 to Key Action 2, highlighting the component of cooperation between higher education institutions while still maintaining the mobility of students. The new lot created, Erasmus Mundus Design Measures, proved the demand for such bridging activity, with 148 applications received, including 41 from third countries not associated to the programme.

In 2021 the new **Jean Monnet** activities for other levels of education and training were launched for the first time: 20 Jean Monnet Teacher Training activities and 2 Jean Monnet Networks for other levels of education and training could be selected for funding under the Erasmus+ call for 2021. In the Erasmus+ call 2022 the third element, Jean Monnet Learning EU Initiatives completed the new programme architecture aiming at promoting better teaching and learning about the EU in schools and VET institutions.

Youth

The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 was rolled out and adapted to take into account the major impact of COVID-19 on the youth sector. The EU Youth Report 2021 was adopted on 14 October, it takes stock of progress on the implementation of the EU Youth strategy during 2019-2021, including the Council Work plan and national plans. The report confirms that the Strategy provides a strong and impactful roadmap to foster cooperation and support youth policies both at EU and national level.

Despite the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the youth sector could rely on the instruments developed over the last years, and in particular on the key European youth programmes, to implement the strategy.

The Council has adopted a review of the 2008 Council recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the EU, to remove obstacles and to further support opportunities for mobility and volunteering. This review is relevant and timely in the context of the pandemic and its emerging priorities (health and safety of volunteers, inter-generational solidarity), and explores **new forms of volunteering including digital volunteering**.

DiscoverEU was heavily impacted by the pandemic. The three application rounds (planned in March and November 2020 as well as March 2021) had to be cancelled. Travellers awarded under the 2019 November round got an extension of their travel period up until summer 2022. After the forced break of the action, the call in October 2021 saw an overwhelming success with three times more participants (over 330 000) and nearly as many young people as in the previous four rounds together. The 60 950 selected participants included exceptionally also the birth years who turned 18 in 2020 and who were not able to apply. They will travel between March 2022 and end February 2023. The spring call 2022 will be rolled out for the first time under Erasmus+ conditions and rules.

Youth Exchanges bring together young people from different countries to exchange and learn outside their formal educational system. The action enabled more than 763 000 young people to take part and acquire or further develop skills, competences and European values. Since the start of Erasmus+ in 2014, Youth Worker Mobility has also offered opportunities for over 280 000 youth workers to develop their key competences through transnational training courses and seminars, contact-making events, study visits and job shadowing, contributing to the development of quality youth work and enriching the work of almost 80 000 organisations involved. With an average mobility project grant of €25 000 and more than 200 000 organisations involved, the programme demonstrated its capacity to reach out and impact a large number of young participants and organisations working with them, through grassroots projects. Erasmus+ Youth puts also particular emphasis on promoting equal opportunities, inclusion and fairness and involving some 400 000 participants in youth mobility activities of which 39% had fewer opportunities.

The programme financed projects promoting quality, innovation and recognition of youth work, as well as projects supporting empowerment and active citizenship of young people, thus contributing to the Youth Work Agenda and the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. The Sub-Group on Youth Work was launched in November 2021 to accompany and advise on the process of creating and implementing a dedicated digital platform on youth work with the aim to share information, knowledge and good practices, engage in cooperation and peer-learning.

The **European Youth Portal** offers European and national information and opportunities that are of interest to young people who are living, learning and working in Europe. It encourages participation of young people in democratic life notably via the EU Youth Dialogue and other initiatives to engage with young people to influence policymaking. The European Youth Portal was thoroughly revamped, with a view to adapting its layout to reflect today's user expectations. A dedicated **European Year of Youth** section was also launched on the European Youth Portal, which will be the main communication hub of the Year and which will provide young people across Europe with information on opportunities and activities available in the context of the Year.

In 2021, the tenth edition of **the European Youth Week** was organised virtually due to the COVID-19 situation and no central event took place. The theme of the 2021 European Youth Week was 'Our future in our hands'. Under this topic, young people and stakeholders were invited to organise and engage in activities on a variety of topics. These included active participation in society with its digital dimension, inclusion and diversity, climate change, environmental protection and sustainability, and health and recovery. The European Year of Youth is taking place in 2022, which means that plenty of activities will be organised at local, regional, national and European level throughout 2022.

On 15 September 2021, during the State of the Union address, President von der Leyen stated that the Commission would propose to make 2022 a **European year of Youth**. With the Year's positive and uplifting spirit, it is a key moment to fully dedicate 2022 to a generation that has suffered so much from the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall objective of the European Year is to boost the efforts of the European Union, the Member States, regional and local authorities together with civil society actors to enable, honour, support and engage with young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with a view to having a long-term positive impact for young people.

In 2021, more than 200 project proposals for **Capacity building** in Youth were received, out of which 45 were retained. These cover two regions, namely the Western Balkans and the South Mediterranean.

Building on the 2018-2020 pilot with the Southern Mediterranean, the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchanges in Higher education and Youth became a full-fledged action under the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme with a broader geographical coverage (Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, Russia, South Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan Africa).

Sport

2021 marked a new phase in EU sport policy with the adoption of the Fourth **EU Work Plan for Sport** (2021-2024). Following the adoption, the European Commission launched two expert groups on Recovery from COVID-19 and Green Sport. In addition to this, two Peer Learning Activities were organized by Bulgaria and Germany. The Bulgarian Ministry of Youth and Sports organised a conference that took place on 30-31 August 2021 with the following title: Collaborate to Innovate: Boosting Innovation in Elite and Grassroots Sport in Europe. The German Federal Institute of Sport Science organised a conference on 16-17 September 2021 named Sustainability of Sports Facilities: Ecological, Economical and Social Aspects.

On 23 September 2021, Commissioner Gabriel launched the **HealthyLifeStyle4All** initiative, aiming to build on the successful Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle. Moreover, the High-Level Group on gender equality in sport has gathered in six meetings and various working sessions over 2021 in order to deliver recommendations on more gender balanced sport sector in Europe.

The **European Week of Sport** saw national coordinating bodies and partners organising 42 620 events all over Europe and beyond. The #Beactive Awards supported projects and individuals dedicated to promoting sport and physical activity across Europe. To highlight inspiring examples of promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion in sport, DG EAC, with the support of EACEA, launched a new edition of the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards.

The SHARE initiative published new background documents on how sport and physical activity could contribute to the **New European Bauhaus** initiative as well as opportunities for the sport sector within the Next Generation EU package.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Erasmus+ is the EU programme in the fields of education, training, youth and sport, projecting a positive image of the Union, well beyond its borders.

The 2014-2020 Erasmus+ programme has built on the experience of previous programmes that have been, for the first time, brought together under the name of Erasmus+, bringing massive simplification of the transnational support for education and training, youth and sport. Through immersive learning experiences, Erasmus+ has contributed to developing skills and competences, while offering - over the last three decades - life-changing experiences to close to **12.5 million people** to study, train or learn abroad. Along the years, the programme has demonstrated an outstanding track record not only in terms of numbers, delivering constantly up to or above expectations across fields and actions, but also in terms of social impact.

After a learning exchange abroad, participants declare that they feel more prepared to take on new challenges, have better career prospects, and are more aware of the benefits the EU brings to their daily lives. The programme has not only contributed to building a stronger European identity, but also enhancing active citizenship as Erasmus+ participants are more likely to vote in the European elections than peers in their age group. The programme has had a concrete, positive effect on the professional, social, educational and personal development of the beneficiaries by improving employability, developing new knowledge, skills and competences, closing skills and competency gaps; improving the quality of education, helping confidence-building and independence, creating a greater open-mindedness and curiosity about new challenges, boosting innovation and entrepreneurship and enhancing tolerance and understanding towards other people.

The Erasmus+ programme has therefore proven to be an important contributor to preparing future generations of Europeans to evolve in a changing world of work, to contribute to tackling climate challenge, to be ready for the digital transformation of our societies, as well as to strengthen solidarity.

The main positive achievements and effects of the programme encompass the unique combination of actions targeted at the individual, organisation and system levels in education and training, youth and sport, the support for key competences, basic and transversal skills development, active citizenship, increased employability or career development, but also increased opportunities for networking and mutual learning for organisations involved. The programme is perceived as sufficiently flexible to allow for adaptation to emerging policy challenges, while its integrated architecture and management modes are considered appropriate and fit for purpose.

In particular, a cross-cutting priority over the past years was to ensure that the Erasmus+ programme was an important instrument for inclusion.

The programme also highlighted the key role of formal and non-formal education in the development of the values and attitudes underlying active citizenship, in line with the Paris Declaration, the Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education, and the European Dimension of Teaching.

The programme has already exceeded its target of supporting 4 million learning mobilities. With the capacity to **fully absorb funds** and an **error rate below 2%**, the programme was well placed to upscale further in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Harmonized reporting tools, analytics and business intelligence support the steering of the programme in tight collaboration with the different stakeholders, in particular the Education and Culture Executive Agency and 60 National Authorities, present in the 27 Member States and 7 Partner Countries.

To respond to the emergency in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, maximum flexibility and support measures within the applicable legal framework were applied to the participants and beneficiary organisations to adapt to the extraordinary circumstances. These included amongst others:

Priorities were reshaped with the aim of protecting the beneficiaries and participants and to support Member States and third countries associated to the programme to communicate and exchange practices needed for the immediate response, but also in view of setting new and innovative policies in education and training, youth and sport.

International actions with partner countries were more severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic than those affected in Europe. Some reasons include the closing of borders, the disruption of air routes, the limited functioning of consulates and the difficulties to obtain visas. **Flexibility arrangements** for the participant **Higher Education Institutions and individuals** were put

in place, students have been allowed to keep their Erasmus+ grants while completing their course through remote studying arrangements and/or in case they still have expenses linked to their stay in the destination country such as rent.

In addition, in August 2020, the Erasmus+ programme announced two new calls for proposals, each providing €100 million to respond to the educational challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The call on digital education readiness supports projects in school education, vocational education and training, and higher education. It aims to enhance online, distance and blended learning, support teachers and trainers, and ensure inclusivity in digital learning opportunities, in line with the strategic objectives of shaping Europe’s digital future as set in the European Commission’s ‘A Europe fit for the digital age’ and the Digital Education Action Plan.
- The second call related to funding for partnerships for creativity support projects in the fields of youth, school education and adult education, aimed to develop skills and competences that encourage creativity, boost quality and innovation, while linking education, training and youth organisations with the cultural and creative sectors.

The two calls received a total of 4430 applications, out of which 1201 projects were contracted.

EACEA produced a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemics on the Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters Degrees action:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/news-events/coronavirus-impact_en

3.2. Key achievements

2.6 million	138 800 downloads	280 higher education institutions	5 200	270 000
European Student Cards were produced by higher education institutions/student card issuers by the end of 2021	of the Erasmus+ Mobile App	higher education institutions took part to the European Universities initiative by the end of 2021.	institutions hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)	awarded short term mobilities between Programme and Partner countries under the 2014-2020 programme
1.2 million	1 million	36 000	900 000	42 620
Erasmus+ participants took an online language course as part of their mobility	teachers, headmasters and other school staff registered in eTwinning by the end 2021.	school participations in school strategic partnerships	VET learner mobilities were awarded under the 2014-2020 programme	number of events at the European Week of Sport (23-30 September 2020)
760 000	Nearly 290 000	39%	94%	400 000
young people involved in Youth Exchanges under the 2014-2020 programme	youth workers involved in youth workers mobility activities	of participants in youth mobility activities with fewer opportunities under the 2014-2020 programme	of participants in youth mobility activities having declared that they have increased skills under the 2014-2020 programme	young people engaged in Youth Dialogue projects with decision makers

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The programme actively builds positive attitudes towards the European Union and contributes to the development of a European identity across all sectors funded, while improving knowledge and understanding of the EU through the Jean Monnet strand. The mid-term evaluation found a positive association between participation in the programme and the feeling of belonging to the EU across all sectors and all forms of participations. The current programme supports more disadvantaged young people than its predecessors (11.5% of the total number of participants and up to one third in the Youth strand). Nevertheless, more needs to be done to reach out to the more vulnerable in society and to facilitate the participation of smaller-size organisations. The mid-term evaluation also recommended that procedures and IT management tools should be made easier to use to reduce the administrative burden on implementing bodies and beneficiaries.

These findings and recommendations have guided the programme implementation over the last few years, while constituting a solid basis for proposing new actions and ambitious measures for the programme 2021-2027. The mid-term evaluation, complemented by the results of a broad public consultation, fed into the 2021-2027 Erasmus+ programme impact assessment⁵

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018SC0277>

The interim evaluation of the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme starts in 2022, and it will be accompanied by a final evaluation of the 2014-2020 programme. The results of this evaluation are expected by the end of 2024. The interim evaluation of the programme will assess the overall effectiveness and performance of the programme, including the new initiatives, as well as the delivery of the inclusion and simplification measures.

The Education and Training Monitor offers a comprehensive yearly analysis on developments in education and training in Europe. With its international comparison and country analysis, the Monitor informs the debate on priority themes for education and training and informs national education reform debates. The country profiles of the Monitor also feed into the analytical work under the European Semester process. The 10th edition of the Monitor was released on 9 December 2021 at the Fourth European Education Summit. It presented the progress towards the EU-level targets as adopted in the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021 – 2030)⁶. The Monitor also gives an account of the developments of investment in education and analyses in detail a specific topic. In 2021, the Monitor examined the topic of well-being in education. It also provided an overview of how Member States will make use of the Recovery and Resilience Facility to support the modernisation of education and training systems. The 11th edition of the Monitor is scheduled for publication in late 2022.

A range of studies in the area of quality and relevance of higher education were conducted. The study on enhancing relevance of higher education aimed to define relevance and unpick the different components of it in order for institutions to be able to address them. This study informed the initiation of the questionnaire for the European graduate survey and its findings also led to the design of another study on performance-based funding of higher education based on performance indicators related to the quality and relevance of higher education. A separate study on admission systems in higher education looked at the effect admission policies have on the success of students and the study on quality assurance systems provided an overview of policy developments in this area and fed into the Bologna communiques, in addition to the regular Bologna Implementation Report.

In 2019, the results of two new Erasmus+ Impact studies were communicated and disseminated: Erasmus+ makes students more successful in their personal and professional lives, and Erasmus+ helps universities to become more innovative.

In 2021, a study demonstrated and illustrated how the Erasmus+ programme contributes to achieving policy objectives in the field of early childhood education and care (ECEC)⁷; e.g. through the professionalisation of ECEC staff.

In the field of Youth, two studies were launched and finalised in 2019: one on the landscape of youth representation in the EU and another on removing obstacles to cross-border solidarity activities. Furthermore, the results of the Eurobarometer survey ‘How do we build a stronger, more united Europe? The views of young people’ was released in April 2019, showing that young people consider that protecting the environment and fighting climate change, along with education and training; and fighting poverty and social inequalities should be the top priorities for the EU in the years to come.

In 2020, ten different impact studies were produced for each of the Erasmus+ regions involved in the Capacity Building for Higher Education action since 2015: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2014-2020/erasmus/capacity-building-field-higher-education-2020_en

Moreover, a Mapping study on the fight against anabolic steroids and human growth hormones in sport was published on 12 July 2021. The study maps EU legislation on performance enhancing drugs and formulates recommendations at EU but also national level. The third edition of the Physical Activity Fact Sheets are the result of the collaboration between Member States, WHO and the EC. The fact sheets provide a snapshot of the epidemiology of physical activity in EU and related supportive policy initiatives.

In relation to learning for environmental sustainability, several studies were conducted in 2021. A [mapping of curricula, policies and other measures in the Member States](#), including a literature review, national and policy research mapping, a review of school curricula, teacher survey, cases studies and focus groups looked at how education and training policies and practices related to sustainability are implemented across the EU. A [mapping of Erasmus+ projects](#) related to learning for environmental sustainability provided policy pointers and good practice examples on effective learning for environmental sustainability across all education and training levels. A study on education and training for sustainable development addressed the impact of COVID-19 on learning for the green transition.

In 2020, in the field of higher education, a study mapped and analysed [student-centred learning and teaching practices](#), in order to provide guidance to higher education institutions for more inclusive and high-quality higher education. Another study analysed [community engagement trends, practices and policies in higher education](#). The arguments present in both studies are relevant to policymakers and university leaders developing plans for the recovery and development of higher education in the post-COVID-19 period. A third study investigated the road [towards a European approach to micro-credentials](#), proof of the learning outcomes that a learner has acquired following a short, transparently-assessed learning experience. Finally, another study scrutinized the [impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education](#), focusing on the impact on teaching and learning, the social dimension of higher education and international student mobility. In 2021, also in the field of higher education, main studies starting included a study on the state and effectiveness of national funding systems, a study on the road towards a European degree, a study on the necessity and feasibility of a legal statute for alliances of universities, a study on the impact and the transformational potential of the European

⁶ [Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area \(EEA\) and beyond \(2021-2030\) \(2021/C 66/01\)](#)

⁷ [Erasmus+ and Early Childhood Education and Care \(ECEC\) - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#)

Universities initiative, and a study on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on Promoting Automatic Mutual Recognition of Higher Education and Upper Secondary Education and Training Qualifications and the Outcomes of Learning Periods Abroad. These studies are still ongoing.

Studies were also undertaken on gender equality: a study on [Gender differences in tertiary education](#) explained STEM participation, and an on-going study on Girls’ career aspirations in STEM stresses the importance of providing support for co-design and co-delivery of guidance and mentorship programmes focusing on pathways to the job market, focusing on female students in engineering and ICT fields of study.

EACEA, with the support of the Eurydice network, published a study which presents the state of play and the lessons learned from the delivery of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMD) in the Erasmus+ Programme Countries.

End of 2021, in the youth field, a study of the existing Support Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities (SALTOs) was launched through an external consultancy to review the evolution of the SALTOs and reflect new priorities for the new programme period 2021-2027. The conclusions are expected by end of July 2022.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Promote learning mobility of individuals and groups, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion and equity, excellence creativity, and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training

Indicator 1: Number of participants in learning mobility activities in the Education and Training strand of the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
HE learners										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	250 000	330 000	400 000	430 000	460 000	480 000	600 000			2 950 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
VET learners										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	125 000	142 000	180 000	190 000	205 000	215 000	270 000			1 327 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
School learners										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	100 000	125 000	132 000	136 000	140 000	145 000	200 000			978 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Adult learners										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	10 000	11 000	13 500	14 500	15 500	16 000	19 500			100 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
HE staff										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	58 000	60 000	62 000	65 000	68 000	71 000	80 000			464 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										
VET staff										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	18 000	31 000	33 000	35 000	37 000	39 000	48 000			241 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

track :										
School staff										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	27 000	60 000	65 000	68 000	70 000	73 000	85 000			448 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Adult staff										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	6 400	31 000	36 000	38 000	40 000	42 000	50 000			243 400
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The provision of Erasmus gives opportunities for learners and staff to be equipped with the skills to thrive in a society which is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Based on lessons learned from the past programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible, more forward-looking, more digital, simpler and greener, more international, while continuing to support lifelong learning and innovative education and training in Europe. Reporting will continue on this indicator in the new Programme. Apart from adjustments in the Programme's implementation that could lead to changes for some actions, the absence of methodological change will ensure the continuity of the performance monitoring.
Other methodological comments	Estimations will be based on the forecasts provided by organisations during the application phase of the projects. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts)". The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 programming was characterised by a strong focus to cooperation rather than mobility, to cope with Covid-19 impact on mobility opportunities – this strategy has been reversed in 2022 and following years. The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 2: Number of participants in virtual learning activities under key action 1 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	20 000	30 000	31 500	32 400	33 400	34 400	42 600			224 300
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary Module and e-Grants.
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ should contribute to delivering on the Digital Education Action Plan and respond to the necessary digital transformation of education and training, youth and sport.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is new
Other methodological comments	This indicator will report only on the blended mobility periods (having a share of virtual activities). It is consequently a subset of mobility periods already counted in the 'Number of participants' indicator. Number of users of online platforms (list to be revised annually) is not linked to blended mobility and is reported in another indicator under Key action 2.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised

and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 3: Number of people with fewer opportunities taking part in activities under key action 1 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
HE										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	24 000	35 000	37 000	39 000	41 000	43 000	55 000			274 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
VET										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	15 000	17 000	18 000	19 000	20 000	21 000	26 000			136 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
School										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	12 000	15 000	16 000	17 000	18 000	19 000	25 000			122 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Adult										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	9 000	9 900	12 150	13 000	13 450	14 400	17 550			89 450
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of funded participants indicated as participants with fewer opportunities (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	Promote learning mobility of individuals and groups, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion and equity, excellence, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of education and training.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Fewer opportunities was already a core performance indicator of the previous programme. Organisation of the Programme's activities has still to be defined and could lead to methodological changes in the calculation of this indicator.
Other methodological comments	Estimations will be based on the forecasts provided by organisations during the application phase of the projects. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 4: Share of participants that consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility activities under key action 1 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%			95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing a positive answer to survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The provision of Erasmus gives opportunities for learners and staff to declare the benefits which contribute to the skills to thrive in a society which is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The formulation of the indicator has been revised from 'Percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their key competences' to the actual form.
Other methodological comments	The information is available once all participants have filled in a survey following their mobility. Estimations will be provided and updated once full data becomes available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 5: Share of participants that consider they have an increased European sense of belonging after participation in activities under key action 1 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	60%	60%	64%	66%	68%	70%	70%			70%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing a positive answer to survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The provision of Erasmus gives the opportunity for learners and staff to get to know Europe and European projects better and thus increase their sense of belonging to a place which has provided them with learning and development opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The information is available once all participants have filled in a survey following their mobility. Estimations will be provided and updated once full data becomes available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 6: Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme for the Education and training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
KA1										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	30 000	50 000	53 000	55 000	57 000	59 000	75 000			75 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA2										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	14 500	15 000	16 000	16 500	17 000	17 500	20 000			20 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA3										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	1 800	2 000	2 100	2 200	2 300	2 400	3 000			3 000
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations' participations (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Online Registration System, Project Management Module, PDM URF, eGrants
Link to the objective	An increase in the number of organisations demonstrates the achievement of inclusion, collaboration and synergies for providing opportunities for learning mobilities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The number of organisations' participations was monitored in the previous MFF (14-20). No methodological change is expected in the calculation, allowing continuity for the analysis.
Other methodological comments	The number of organisations' participations in contracted projects is counted. As a consequence, an organisation participating several times will be counted multiple times. The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 7: Share of organisations and institutions that consider they have developed high-quality practices as a result of their participation in key action 2 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	65%	65%	67%	69%	71%	73%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of organisations providing a positive answer in their final report (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	A high share of organisations demonstrates the achievement of increased innovation in education. The sharing of best practices ensures that high quality becomes ingrained in educational offerings.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	New metric. Data will be captured from projects final reports once projects are closed.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 8: Number of users of virtual cooperation platforms supported under key action 2 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
SEG										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	111 000	127 000	143 000	159 000	175 000	191 000	207 000			207 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									
EPALE										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	107 000	140 000	170 000	200 000	230 000	260 000	300 000			300 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

eTwinning										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	1 030 000	1 130 000	1 260 000	1 390 000	1 520 000	1 650 000	1 800 000			1 800 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants registered on an online platform (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	eTwinning, the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE), the School Education Gateway (and its successor the European School Education Platform), the European Youth Portal and Erasmus Virtual Exchanges. List will be revised annually.
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ should contribute to delivering on the Digital Education Action Plan and respond to the necessary digital transformation of education and training, youth and sport
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible, more forward-looking, more digital, simpler and greener, more international, while continuing to support lifelong learning and innovative education and training in Europe.
Other methodological comments	School Education Gateway platform will be replaced by the "European School Education Platform"
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Number of newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under key actions 1 and 2 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
KA1										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	4 200	5 000	5 300	5 500	5 700	5 900	6 500			6 500
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA2										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	1 000	1 000	1 100	1 150	1 190	1 230	1 400			1 400
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Online Registration System, Project Management Module, PDM URF, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Inclusion is a clear objective. The programme aims at eliminating barriers for organisations with a lower organisational capacity to take-part, which never received funding from the programme or with little or no experience in transnational cooperation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible.
Other methodological comments	The number of unique organisations in contracted projects is counted. The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries' budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 10: Number of small-scale partnerships supported under key action 2 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027

0	1 800	900	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200			8 700
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of partnerships (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions - Achievement of simplification of procedures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 11: Share of organisations and institutions that consider that the procedures for taking part in the Programme are proportionate and simple for the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	60%	60%	61%	62%	63%	64%	65%			65%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of organisations providing a positive answer to selected questions in their final report
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Higher share reflects the achievement of simplification of procedures through the grant management process.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions.
Other methodological comments	As the information is extracted from projects' final reports, it will only be available once all projects of the call are closed (2-4 years after call). Estimations will be provided where possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 12: Share of activities addressing climate objectives under key action 1 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	15%	15%	15%	17%	18%	19%	20%			20%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of KA1 activities contributing to the climate priority (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Commission recalled that Erasmus+ remains instrumental in achieving the objectives for quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, and in preparing Europe to face the digital and green transitions.

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The methodological approach to assess contribution will be based on KA1 contracted projects mapping to the climate priority using content provided by the organisations at application phase.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 13: Share of projects addressing climate objectives under key action 2 of the Education and Training strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	15%	15%	15%	18%	20%	22%	25%			25%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of projects contributing to climate priority (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Commission recalled that Erasmus+ remains instrumental in achieving the objectives for quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, and in preparing Europe to face the digital and green transitions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The methodological approach to assess contribution is based on KA2 contracted projects mapping to the climate priority using content provided by the organisations at application phase (indirect and direct management).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Specific Objective 2: Promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of Youth.

Indicator 1: Number of participants in learning mobility activities in the Youth strand of the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Learners										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	120 000	140 000	160 000	170 000	180 000	185 000	230 000			1 185 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Staff										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	30 000	40 000	50 000	55 000	60 000	65 000	80 000			380 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	Promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people.

	Provide young learners and staff with opportunities to be equipped with the skills to thrive in an increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital society.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Based on lessons learned from the past programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible, more forward-looking, more digital, simpler and greener, more international, while continuing to support lifelong learning and innovative education and training in Europe. Reporting will continue on this indicator in the new programme. Apart from adjustments in the programme's implementation that could lead to changes for some actions, the absence of methodological change will ensure the continuity of the performance monitoring.
Other methodological comments	Estimations will be based on the forecasts provided by organisations during the application phase of the projects. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts). The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 2: Number of participants in virtual learning activities under key action 1 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ should contribute to delivering on the Digital Education Action Plan and respond to the necessary digital transformation of education and training, youth and sport.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator is new
Other methodological comments	Blended activities as such are not available in 2021 in the youth field. Virtual / blended mobilities are not foreseen for the time being in the Youth strand (possibility to finance hybrid / blended activities is under discussion)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 3: Number of people with fewer opportunities taking part in activities under key action 1 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	25 000	30 000	35 000	40 000	46 000	68 000	78 000			322 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of funded participants indicated as participants with fewer opportunities (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	Promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of youth.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Fewer opportunities was already a core performance indicator of the previous programme. Organisation of the Programme's activities has still to be defined and could lead to methodological changes in the calculation of this indicator.
Other methodological comments	Estimations will be based on the forecasts provided by organisations during the application phase of

	the projects. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. This target represents 20% of learners mobilities in 2022 and 30% in 2027 – this does not include DiscoverEU.

Indicator 4: Share of participants that consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility activities under key action 1 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	90%	90%	91%	92%	93%	94%	95%			95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing a positive answer to survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	Promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people. Provide young learners and staff with opportunities to be equipped with the skills to thrive in a society which is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The formulation of the indicator has been revised from 'Percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their key competences' to the actual form.
Other methodological comments	The information is available once all participants have filled in a survey following their mobility. Estimations will be provided and updated once full data becomes available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Too early to report. Data will be captured from projects final reports once projects are closed.

Indicator 5: Share of participants that consider they have an increased European sense of belonging after participation in activities under key action 1 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	60%	60%	60%	62%	64%	66%	68%			68%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing a positive answer to survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	Erasmus + gives learners the opportunities to get to know Europe and European projects better and thus increase their sense of belonging to a place which has provided them with learning and development opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The information is available once all participants have filled in a survey following their mobility. Estimations will be provided and updated once full data becomes available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Data will be captured from projects' final

reports once projects are closed.

Indicator 6: Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme for Youth activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
KA1										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	13 000	16 000	17 000	18 000	19 000	20 000	22 000			22 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA2										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	3 500	4 000	4 500	4 800	5 100	5 400	6 000			6 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA3										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	80	90	95	100	105	110	135			135
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations' participations (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module
Link to the objective	Promote cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of youth.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The number of organisations was monitored in the previous MFF (14-20).No methodological change is expected in the calculation, allowing continuity for the analysis.
Other methodological comments	The number of organisations' participations in contracted projects is counted. As a consequence, an organisation participating several times will be counted multiple times. The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries' budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 7: Share of organisations and institutions that consider they have developed high-quality practices as a result of their participation in key action 2 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	65%	65%	67%	69%	71%	73%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of organisations providing a positive answer in their final report (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	A high share of organisations demonstrates the achievement of increased innovation in education. The sharing of best practices ensures that high quality becomes ingrained in educational offerings.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	New metric. Data will be captured from projects final reports once projects are closed.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Data will be captured from projects final reports once projects are closed.
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Indicator 8: Number of users of virtual cooperation platforms supported under key action 2 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	400 000	450 000	500 000	550 000	600 000	650 000	700 000			700 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants registered on an online platform (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	European Youth Portal. List will be revised annually.
Link to the objective	Promote non-formal and informal learning mobility and active participation among young people, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of youth.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible, more forward-looking, more digital, simpler and greener, more international, while continuing to support lifelong learning and innovative education and training in Europe.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Number of newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under key actions 1 and 2 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
KA1										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	1 800	1 900	2 200	2 300	2 400	2 500	2 700			2 700
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA2										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	1 600	1 700	1 900	2 000	2 100	2 200	2 400			2 400
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Online Registration System, Project Management Module, PDM URF, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Inclusion is a clear objective. The programme aims at eliminating barriers for organisations with a lower organisational capacity to take-part, which never received funding from the programme or with little or no experience in transnational cooperation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be more inclusive and accessible
Other methodological comments	The number of unique organisations in contracted projects is counted. The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries' budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national

	authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.
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Indicator 10: Number of small-scale partnerships supported under key action 2 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	400	450	500	500	500	500	500			3 350
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of partnerships (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions - Achievement of simplification of procedures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Based on stable budget of 20 million euro per year.

Indicator 11: Share of organisations and institutions that consider that the procedures for taking part in the Programme are proportionate and simple for the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	60%	60%	62%	66%	66%	68%	70%			70%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of organisations providing a positive answer to selected questions in their final report (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Higher share reflects the achievement of simplification of procedures through the grant management process.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions.
Other methodological comments	As the information is extracted from projects' final reports, it will only be available once all projects of the call are closed (2-4 years after call). Estimations will be provided where possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Data will be available once all projects of the call are closed.

Indicator 12: Share of activities addressing climate objectives under key action 1 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	15%	15%	16%	17%	18%	19%	20%			20%
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of KA1 activities contributing to the climate priority (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Commission recalled that Erasmus+ remains instrumental in achieving the objectives for quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, and in preparing Europe to face the digital and green transitions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The methodological approach to assess contribution will be based on KA1 contracted projects mapping to the climate priority using content provided by the organisations at application phase.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 13: Share of projects addressing climate objectives under key action 2 of the Youth strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	15%	15%	17%	19%	21%	23%	25%			25%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of projects contributing to green priority (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Commission recalled that Erasmus+ remains instrumental in achieving the objectives for quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, and in preparing Europe to face the digital and green transitions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The methodological approach to assess contribution is based on KA2 contracted projects mapping to the climate priority using content provided by the organisations at application phase (indirect and direct management).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Specific Objective 3: Promote learning mobility of sport staff, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of sport organisations and sport policies.

Indicator 1: Number of participants in learning mobility activities in the Sport strand of the programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0		0	2 500	4 000	5 000	6 000	7 500			25 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The provision of Erasmus gives opportunities for staff to be equipped with the skills to thrive in a

	society which is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	All activities under KA1 for sport are new and will be introduced around 2023. Therefore there is no link with the previous MFF.
Other methodological comments	Estimations will be based on the forecasts provided by organisations during the application phase of the projects. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts). The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting begins in 2024 as the key action 1 activities in Sport is planned to start in 2023.

Indicator 2: Number of participants in virtual learning activities under key action 1 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	100	160	200	240	300			1 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ should contribute to delivering on the Digital Education Action Plan and respond to the necessary digital transformation of education and training, youth and sport.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator is new. All activities under KA1 for sport are new and will be introduced around 2023.
Other methodological comments	This indicator will report only on the blended mobility periods (having a share of virtual activities).It is consequently a subset of mobility periods already counted in the 'Number of participants' indicator. Number of users of online platforms (list to be revised annually) is not linked to blended mobility and is reported in another indicator under Key action 2
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting begins in 2024 as the key action 1 activities in Sport is planned to start in 2023.

Indicator 3: Number of people with fewer opportunities taking part in activities under key action 1 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	250	400	550	660	900			2 760
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of funded participants indicated as participants with fewer opportunities (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and eGrants
Link to the objective	Promote learning mobility of sport staff, as well as cooperation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of sport organisations and sport policies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	All activities under KA1 for sport are new and will be introduced around 2023. Therefore there is no link with the previous MFF.
Other methodological comments	Estimations will be based on the forecasts provided by organisations during the application phase of the projects. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual

	Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting beings in 2024 as the key action 1 activities in Sport is planned to start in 2023.
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Indicator 4: Share of participants that consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility activities under key action 1 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0%	75%	80%	85%	90%	95%			95%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing a positive answer to survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The provision of Erasmus gives opportunities for learners and staff to declare the benefits which contribute to the skills to thrive in a society which is increasingly mobile, multicultural and digital.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	All activities under KA1 for sport are new and will be introduced around 2023. Therefore there is no link with the previous MFF.
Other methodological comments	The information is available once all participants have filled in a survey following their mobility. Estimations will be provided and updated once full data becomes available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting beings in 2024 as the key action 1 activities in Sport is planned to start in 2023.

Indicator 5: Share of participants that consider they have an increased European sense of belonging after participation in activities under key action 1 of the the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0%	0%	55%	60%	65%	68%	70%			70%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing a positive answer to survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The provision of Erasmus gives the opportunity for learners and staff to get to know Europe and European projects better and thus increase their sense of belonging to a place which has provided them with learning and development opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	All activities under KA1 for sport are new and will be introduced around 2023. Therefore there is no link with the previous MFF.
Other methodological comments	The information is available once all participants have filled in a survey following their mobility. Estimations will be provided and updated once full data becomes available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting beings in 2024 as the key action 1 activities in Sport is planned to start in 2023.

Indicator 6: Number of organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme for the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
KA1										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	500	600	720	840	960			960
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA2										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	600	820	900	900	1 000	1 100	1 200			1 200
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA3										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	40	40	40	40	40	40	40			40
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations' participations (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Online Registration System, Project Management Module, PDM URF, eGrants
Link to the objective	An increase in the number of organisations demonstrates the achievement of inclusion, collaboration and synergies for providing opportunities for learning mobilities. Organisations collaborate to create new policies, assess / develop existing policies and measure the inclusive implementation of the Programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	For KA1, this is an entirely new activity that will start around 2023. For KA2, due to the specificity of eGrant system, the data on actual progress will be available later in 2022. This action is expected to be on track and to continue in the current MFF similarly as in the previous one. Nonetheless, due to the specificity of eGrant system the data on actual progress will be available later in 2022. For KA3, the figures will be available at a later stage.
Other methodological comments	The number of organisations' participations in contracted projects is counted. As a consequence, an organisation participating several times will be counted multiple times. The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 7: Share of organisations and institutions that consider they have developed high-quality practices as a result of their participation in key action 2 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%			65%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of organisation providing a positive answer in their final report (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	A high share of organisations demonstrates the achievement of increased innovation in education. The sharing of best practices ensures that high quality becomes ingrained in educational offerings.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	New metric. Data will be captured from projects final reports once projects are closed.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting starts in 2023-24 following the availability of data provided at the end of projects.
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Indicator 8: Number of newcomer organisations and institutions taking part in the Programme under key actions 1 and 2 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
KA1										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	500	100	120	140	160			160
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
KA2										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	130	160	165	165	190	200	215			215
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Online Registration System, Project Management Module, PDM URF, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Inclusion is a clear objective. The programme aims at eliminating barriers for organisations with a lower organisational capacity to take-part, which never received funding from the programme or with little or no experience in transnational cooperation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	For KA1, this is a new activity that will start around 2023. For KA2, due to the specificity of eGrants system, the data on actual progress will be available later in 2022. This action is expected to be on track and to continue in the current MFF similarly as in the previous one. Nonetheless due to the specificity of eGrants system the data on actual progress will be available later in 2022.
Other methodological comments	The number of unique organisations in contracted projects is counted. The current targets include only EU27 budget. Other programme countries' budget and the international part of Erasmus+ will be added in 2023 when known.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. As regards KA1, reporting begins in 2024 as the key action 1 activities in Sport is planned to start in 2023. As regards KA2, data for 2021 not available yet.

Indicator 9: Number of small-scale partnerships supported under key action 2 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	120	165	175	175	195	205	220			1 255
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of partnerships (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Project Management Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions - Achievement of simplification of procedures.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions.

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 10: Share of organisations and institutions that consider that the procedures for taking part in the Programme are proportionate and simple for the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	55%	61%	55%	57%	59%	61%	63%			63%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of organisation providing a positive answer to selected questions in their final report (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	Higher share reflects the achievement of simplification of procedures through the grant management process.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator. Based on lessons learned from the current programme, Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will offer simpler and more accessible Actions.
Other methodological comments	As the information is extracted from projects' final reports, it will only be available once all projects of the call are closed (2-4 years after call). Estimations will be provided where possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. The dip in 2023 takes into account the start of the new action on sport mobility which is expected to run on a new IT system with new procedures that sport stakeholders are not expected to be familiar with.

Indicator 11: Share of activities addressing climate objectives under key action 1 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0%	0%	15%	16%	17%	18%	20%			20%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of KA1 activities contributing to the climate priority (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Commission recalled that Erasmus+ remains instrumental in achieving the objectives for quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, and in preparing Europe to face the digital and green transitions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The methodological approach to assess contribution will be based on KA1 contracted projects mapping to the climate priority using content provided by the organisations at application phase.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Reporting will start in 2024 as the key action 1 in Sport is planned to start in 2023.

Indicator 12: Share of projects addressing climate objectives under key action 2 of the Sport strand

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	10%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%			15%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of projects contributing to climate priority (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary Module, e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Commission recalled that Erasmus+ remains instrumental in achieving the objectives for quality and inclusive education, training and lifelong learning, and in preparing Europe to face the digital and green transitions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The methodological approach to assess contribution will be based on KA2 contracted projects mapping to the climate priority using content provided by the organisations at application phase (indirect and direct management).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Data not yet available.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1 : The Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport (Erasmus+)

General Objective 1 :The Programme shall contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy, including the headline education target; the objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ("ET 2020"), including the corresponding benchmarks; the sustainable development of partner countries in the field of higher education; the overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018); the objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the Union work plan for sport; and the promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

Indicator 5: Number of staff supported by the Programme, by country and by sector

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
HE										
2013	Milestones									2020
46	49		50				70			70
	Actual Progress									Final
	43	45	47	55	65	76	78			
Are we on track :	On track									
VET										
2013	Milestones									2020
9	23		11				15			15
	Actual Progress									Final
	20	17	18	18	20	22	22			
Are we on track :	On track									
Schools										
2013	Milestones									2020
13	21		15				20			20
	Actual Progress									Final
	18	18	21	29	36	49	49			

Are we on track :	On track									
Adult										
2013	Milestones									2020
2	6			3				5		5
	Actual Progress									Final
	5	4		4	6	8	12	12		
Are we on track :	On track									
Youth										
2013	Milestones									2020
16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26			26
	Actual Progress									Final
	34	31	29	32	34	40	42			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of staff participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Detailed breakdown can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report.
Narrative	
Methodology	The number of participants is extracted from the forecasts provided by the organisations on project awarded.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be monitored and reported in a different way in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of participants is extracted from estimations provided by organisations and related to call years. In 2020 and in relation to COVID-19, organisations received more flexibility for the organisation of projects and forecasted less participants.

Indicator 6: Number of participants with special needs or fewer opportunities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total										
2013	Milestones									2020
8	15			15			40			40
	Actual Progress									Final
	19	22	24	30	36	33	24			
Are we on track :	On track									
Youth										
2013	Milestones									2020
18.7	47			21.6			37			37
	Actual Progress									Final
	26	31	37	43	44	39	19			
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Detailed breakdown can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report.
Narrative	
Methodology	Calculation method has been improved in 2019 and is now based on realised mobility periods. All EU28 past values have been recalculated. Values covering recent year might not include all numbers: these will be updated once projects are closed.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be monitored and reported in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	This data is extracted from actual mobility data. The decrease in 2019 and 2020 is mostly due to COVID 19 (mobility periods take place between one and three years after project stars), projects deadlines have been extended for 2019/2020 calls to allow postponed mobility periods to take place. Results will be updated once all projects are closed and final numbers available. For youth, the decrease is also related to the creation of the European Solidarity Corps under which voluntary activities are now carried out from 2019.

Indicator 7: Number and type of organisations and projects, by country and by action

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
National Agencies										
2014	Milestones									2020
Projects: 11/Organisations: 32	11 994									
	Actual Progress									Final
	18/69	19/67	20/73	21/80	23/90	24/73	25/82			
Are we on track :										
EACEA										
2014	Milestones									2020
Projects: 0.8/Organisations: 4	11 994									
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.7/2.2	0.9/3.9	1.1/5.6	1.0/4.4	1.3/4.9					
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of projects/Organisations taking part in the programme (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	EACEA data and Project monitoring tool from EAC
Narrative	
Methodology	Projects/Organisations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be monitored and reported in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Numbers include all programme countries
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Values for centralised activity (EACEA) will be available later

Specific Objective 1 :to improve the level of key competences and skills, with particular regard to their relevance for the labour market and their contribution to a cohesive society, in particular through increased opportunities for learning mobility and through strengthened cooperation between the world of education and training and the world of work;

Indicator 1: Percentage participants declaring that they have increased their key competences

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
0.81		0.83		0.85			0.88			0.88
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.93	0.93	0.94	0.91	0.93	0.94	0.94			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants with positive answers to a survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Erasmus participant surveys
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with MFF 2021-2027. In the new programme, there is a new indicator (i.e., “Share of participants that consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility activities...”) that demonstrates what percentage of the participants have stated that they have benefited from their participation through questions in the participant surveys where declarations of improved language levels, learning to learn, cultural awareness, certification and other relevant benefits from the key competences framework
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The weighted average over the total population (Education & Training, Youth) is 95% compared to a 88% target.

Indicator 2: The number of pupils, students and trainees participating in the Programme, by country, sector, action and gender

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
HE										
2013	Milestones									2020
260	236	239	248	270	319	356	412			412
	Actual Progress									Final
	234	239	267	296	314	332	350			
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
VET										
2013	Milestones									2020
41	78	78	80	87	99	121	131			131
	Actual Progress									Final
	90	96	105	127	137	153	150			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (thousands, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Project monitoring tool from EAC (Eplus Link)
Narrative	
Methodology	The number of participants is extracted from the forecasts provided by the organisations on project awarded.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be monitored and reported in a different way in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Detailed breakdown can be found in the Erasmus+ Annual Report. Milestones foreseen - In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Actual results - EU28 preliminary results calculated for awarded projects in a given call year.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of participants is extracted from estimations provided by organisations and related to call years. In 2020 and in relation to COVID-19, organisations received more flexibility for the organisation of projects and forecasted less participants, as more budget was allocated to KA2.

Specific Objective 3 :to promote the emergence and raise awareness of a European lifelong learning area designed to complement policy reforms at national level and to support the modernisation of education and training systems, in particular through enhanced policy cooperation, better use of Union transparency and recognition tools and the dissemination of good practices;

Indicator 1:Percentage of participants who have received a certificate, diploma or other kind of formal recognition of their participation in the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
HE										
2013	Milestones									2020
100%		100%		100%			100%			100%
	Actual Progress									Final
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			
Are we on track :	On track									
VET										
2013	Milestones									2020
65%		68%		70%			75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
	71%	74%	73%	76%	75%	75%	91%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants with positive answers to a survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link with MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Milestones foreseen - In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020. Result indicator: the final results can only be provided when all the formal recognitions have been delivered (year N=3).

Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The weighted average over VET and Youth populations is 91% compared to a 69% target (excluding HE as it is always at 100%).

Specific Objective 4 :to enhance the international dimension of education and training, in particular through cooperation between Union and partner-country institutions in the field of VET and in higher education, by increasing the attractiveness of European higher education institutions and supporting the Union's external action, including its development objectives, through the promotion of mobility and cooperation between the Union and partner-country higher education institutions and targeted capacity-building in partner countries.

Indicator 1:The number of partner country higher education institutions involved in mobility and cooperation actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
1 000		1 000	1 100		1 200		1 300			1 300
	Actual Progress									Final
	1	1 094	1 269	1 033	1 093	1 148	1 235			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participating organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	According to Erasmus+ annual report.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link with MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	International actions were only launched at the end of 2014. These figures come from the numbers of non EU HEIs having participated in Erasmus Mundus (EM) and Tempus from 2009 to 2013. Figures reported centralised actions only.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of higher education institutions covers only actions managed by the EACEA.

Indicator 2:The number of higher education students receiving support to study in a partner country, as well as the number of students from a partner country coming to study in a Programme country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Going to a partner country										
2014	Milestones									2020
	0	3.8	4	4.3	3.6	3	3.9			3.9
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	9	13	16	18	22	25			
Are we on track :	On track									
Coming from a partner institution										
2014	Milestones									2020
	0	15	16	17	14	15	15			15
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	19	23	25	28	33	37			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Higher education students and staff going to or coming from a partner country or institution in thousand (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	EAC mobility tool
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link with MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The increasing trend of actual results mirrors the increasing trend of the annual budget available over

	the programme period.
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Specific Objective 5 :to improve the teaching and learning of languages and to promote the Union's broad linguistic diversity and intercultural awareness;

Indicator 1:Percentage of participants in long-term mobility declaring that they have increased their language skills

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
HE										
2010	Milestones									2020
0.94		0.95		0.96	0.96		0.98			0.98
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96			
Are we on track :	On track									
VET										
2010	Milestones									2020
0.81				0.87	0.87		0.9			0.9
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.95			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants with positive answers to a survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Data is extracted from completed participant surveys.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with MFF 2021-2027. In the new programme, there is a new indicator (i.e., “Share of participants that consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility activities...”) that demonstrates what percentage of the participants have stated that they have benefitted from their participation through questions in the participant surveys where declarations of improved language levels, learning to learn, cultural awareness, certification and other relevant benefits from the key competences framework.
Other methodological comments	In order to compare data, "long-term" mobility is considered here as from 2 months and over across all sectors. Milestones foreseen - In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The weighted average over HE and VET populations is 96% compared to a 98% target.

Specific Objective 6 :to promote excellence in teaching and research activities in European integration through the Jean Monnet activities worldwide

Indicator 1:Number of students receiving training through Jean Monnet activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2007	Milestones									2023
120 000	215 000	235 000	260 000	285 000	310 000	335 000	360 000			360 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	246 000	267 000	286 000	307 000	311 000	359 000	432 000			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (Cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	EACEA monitoring tools (Pegasus)
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link with MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	A high number of applications have been received and selected compared to the previous years. The increasing trend of actual results mirrors the increasing trend of the annual budget available over the

	programme period.
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Specific Objective 7 :to improve the level of key competences and skills of young people, including those with fewer opportunities, as well as to promote participation in democratic life in Europe and the labour market, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and solidarity, in particular through increased learning mobility opportunities for young people, those active in youth work or youth organisations and youth leaders, and through strengthened links between the youth field and the labour market;

Indicator 1:Percentage of participants declaring that they have increased their key competences

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
75%			77%				80%			80%
	Actual Progress									Final
	94%	94%	94%	94%	95%	95%	96%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants with positive answers to a survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Erasmus participants surveys
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No direct link with MFF 2021-2027. In the new programme, there is a new indicator (i.e., “Share of participants that consider they have benefited from their participation in learning mobility activities...”) that demonstrates what percentage of the participants have stated that they have benefited from their participation through questions in the participant surveys where declarations of improved language levels, learning to learn, cultural awareness, certification and other relevant benefits from the key competences framework.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The weighted average over the total population (Education & Training, Youth) is 95% compared to a 88% target.

Indicator 3:The number of young people engaged in mobility actions supported by the Programme, by country, action and gender

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
59	69	70	70	77	92	107	124			124
	Actual Progress									Final
	84	92	102	110	105	117	117			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of youth participants (thousand, yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	EAC project monitoring tool
Narrative	
Methodology	The number of participants is extracted from the forecasts provided by the organisations on project awarded.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be monitored and reported in a different way in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The decrease in results observed in 2017 and 2018 is due to the transfer of funds for the volunteering activities to the new spending programme – European Solidarity Corps. The new regulation was adopted in October 2018. The number of participants is extracted from estimations provided by organisations and related to call years. In 2020 and in relation to COVID-19, organisations received more flexibility for the organisation of projects and forecasted less participants.

Specific Objective 9 :to complement policy reforms at local, regional and national level and to support the development of knowledge and evidence-based youth policy as well as the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, in particular through enhanced policy cooperation, better use of Union transparency and recognition tools and the dissemination of good practices.

Indicator 1:Percentage of participants who have received a certificate 'for example a Youthpass', diploma or other kind of formal recognition of their participation in the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010	Milestones									2020
26%		35%		45%			65%			65%
	Actual Progress									Final
	77%	78%	81%	82%	86%	85%	91%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants with positive answers to a survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Erasmus participant surveys
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link with MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Milestones foreseen - In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The weighted average over VET and Youth populations is 91% compared to a 69% target.

Specific Objective 10 :to enhance international dimension of youth activities and the role of youth workers and organisations as support for young people in complementarity with the Union's external action, in particular through the promotion of mobility and cooperation between the Union and partner-country stakeholders and international organisations and through targeted capacity-building in partner countries.

Indicator 1:The number of youth organisations from both Programme countries and partner countries involved in international mobility and cooperation actions

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2011	Milestones									2020
5 300	5 500		5 600		5 800		6 000			6 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	9 179	6 179	7 374	8 286	5 925	6 338	6 984			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	EAC project management tool
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be monitored and reported in a different way in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 12 :to promote and support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes;

Indicator 1:Percentage of participants who have used the results of cross-border projects to improve good governance and dual careers

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2009-2013	Milestones									2020

0%	9%			50%			75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
	40%	35%	45%	55%	65%	70%	75%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants with positive answers to a survey (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	21/12/2021
Data source	Erasmus participant surveys
Narrative	New EU action, no baseline available.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link with MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	In line with DG EAC Strategic Plan 2016-2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	169.43							169.43	1%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Erasmus+ is a powerful instrument to reach out to and engage with a wide spectrum of players in our society (schools, universities, VET providers, youth and sport organisations, NGOs, local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, etc.), contributing with its own instruments (mobility, cooperation, policy support) to reaching the Green Deal objectives, as well as the overall target of 30% climate spending in the EU budget.

Regarding climate spending, the programme contribution will be monitored through dedicated indicators set in the legal basis in line with the programmes main objectives of skills, development and young people mobility. For these purposes, we will increase our efforts to monitor the share of activities addressing climate objectives under key action 1 and the share of activities addressing climate objectives under key action 2. Additional indicators will be developed in the context of a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Erasmus+, with mobility at its core, will strive for carbon-neutrality by promoting sustainable transport modes and more responsible behaviour. The European Year of Rail 2021 was an excellent platform to promote the efforts to green Erasmus+ and encourage participants to choose rail or other low-carbon means of transport.

Environment and fight against global warming will be a horizontal priority for the selection of cooperation projects. Projects will support the creation of networks and partnerships of various actors in the field of education, including schools and the local communities and industries, working together on raising awareness of environmental issues, teaching and practicing what is taught (for example social responsibility; waste reduction; clean transport etc.). Platforms such as the European School Education Platform (successor of the School Education Gateway), eTwinning and EPAL will continue to produce support materials and facilitate the exchange of effective educational practices and policies on environmental and sustainability matters.

The Erasmus+ programme will help develop knowledge, skills and attitudes on climate change and sustainable development and support whole-institution approaches to education for environmental sustainability. The programme will increase the number of mobility opportunities in green forward-looking fields, i.e. those study periods abroad, traineeships, youth or classrooms exchanges, etc. which foster the development of competences, enhance career prospects and engage participants in subject areas, with special attention to rural development (sustainable farming, management of natural resources, soil protection, bio-agriculture) all of which are strategic for the sustainable growth of our planet.

The programme will as such contribute to the implementation of the proposal for the Council Recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability, which was adopted in January 2022.

6.1.3. Key achievements

41 European Universities have now been selected under Erasmus+; these are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. They will work on a challenge-based approach, meaning that students cooperate with academics, researchers and companies from various disciplines, and cities, regions, civil society organisation and countries to tackle big societal challenges, addressing sustainable development at large, including climate change. For example, the **ENLIGHT European University** will inter alia focus on the impact of climate change on regional ecosystems. ENLIGHT will use its local environments (cities and regions) across Europe as living laboratories for lifelong learning and research in this area.

The **Centres of Vocational Excellence** have supported various projects in the field of Green Skills. These include: GREENOVET fostering the development of Vocational Excellence in Green Innovation across Europe enabling an innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy. It provides a platform to interconnect the European VET schools at regional, national and transnational level together with key partners in the local innovation and skills ecosystem. Some examples include:

- EPLUG a European Platform for Urban Greening aiming to increase the knowledge and skills required to address biodiversity, climate adaptation and well-being in the urban green living environment, and to broaden the expertise among professionals in Europe;
- 3LOE addressing the challenges of energy, climate and environmental protection, 3LoE establishes Centres of Vocational Excellence on green economy and implements a wide range of vocational education, training and higher education measures concerning green economy, digitalisation and entrepreneurship.

In 2023 the **Alliances for Innovation** will continue to foster cooperation between Higher Education, Vocational Education and Training and enterprises in order to boost innovation and entrepreneurship. The action has proved popular in the previous years, with Lot One, the Alliances for Education and Enterprises, having only a 8% success rate in 2021. Lot Two, the Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation in Skills, will continue to support future-proof skills development, including both green and digital skills, and entrepreneurship competences of graduates and the co-designing of curricula between industry - including SMEs - and higher education institutions in the strategically important industrial sectors identified in the updated industrial strategy.

The aim of the youth workers training ‘**Green living in the rural area**’ is to empower youth workers and their organisations to support social and environmental responsibility, saving and optimising resources. The project trains youth workers to reuse and recycle materials and provide them with the competences to act as multipliers in their own organisations. The main objectives are to raise awareness of participants on sustainable development of rural areas and on reusing and recycling of materials; provide participants with knowledge, skills and competences regarding the reusing of wood and other materials for a tree-house construction; stimulate the spirit of entrepreneurship of the participants; encourage creativity, leadership skills, innovative attitude and environmental responsibility of participants, to act as multipliers of the knowledge acquired in the training course.

Several Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees work directly on Climate Change issues, for example the Master of Urban Climate and Sustainability - MURCS 1.5 (€4.4 million) or the EMJMD Renewable Energy in the Marine Environment REM+ (€3 million). Building on the success and lessons from MURCS, the aim of the new Master of Urban Climate and Sustainability 1.5 (MURCS1.5) is to produce high calibre graduates to understand, assess and manage climate resilience in cities to live within a 1.5°C warmer world. The Master in Renewable Energy in the Marine Environment (REM+) is an MSc Joint Degree coordinated by the University of the Basque Country in partnership with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, École Centrale de Nantes and the University College, Cork. The Programme has been tailored to meet companies’ needs in the area of Offshore Renewable Energy, and will have an international orientation underpinned by the direct participation, as Associate Partners, of world-renowned Research Centres, SMEs, and Large enterprises within industry.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %					0.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3. Contribution to gender equality

6.3.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 2 663							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender equality between men and women is a broad EU objective, and is explicitly stated in the Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating the access to participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers, whenever disadvantage limits or prevents participation in transnational activities for reasons such as social obstacles caused by discrimination based on gender. In the field of higher education, provisions supporting gender equality through Erasmus+ have strong synergies with the European strategy for universities, which aims to address persistent gender gaps in higher education. The programme aims to building more inclusive higher education systems, fostering gender balance in higher education institutions, across fields of study and in leadership positions.

In the field of higher education, provisions supporting gender equality through Erasmus+ have strong synergies with the European strategy for universities, which aims to address persistent gender gaps in higher education. The programme aims to building more inclusive higher education systems, fostering gender balance in higher education institutions, across fields of study and in leadership positions.

In the field of Youth, Erasmus+ supports non-formal learning for young people and equips youth workers with the necessary competences to better work with them, with the objective to engage and empower young people to become active citizens, connect them to the European project as well as to help them acquire and develop competences for life and their professional future. Projects supported are particularly suitable to strengthen European values and breaking down prejudices and stereotypes, raise awareness about socially relevant topics such as gender equality and make young people actors of change.

In addition, Erasmus+ supports projects dealing with the issue of gender equality; e.g. focusing on changing mentalities through reflection and the exchange of best practices, sensitising children to gender and diversity and by developing new and innovative methods to break down barriers for young girls in science and technology education. Erasmus+ supported initiatives aimed at addressing the underrepresentation of women in the area of STEM education, contributed to reinforcing quality early childhood education and care through actions such as fighting gender stereotypes from an early age and addressing underrepresentation of men in this field. The youth strand of Erasmus+ activities contributes to the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 with the objective 'Ensuring equality of all genders and gender-sensitive approaches in all areas of life of a young person'.

In the period 2014-2020 Erasmus+ funded over 3 100 projects addressing gender equality.

Erasmus+ has funded several Strategic Partnerships and Capacity building Projects on gender equality in STEM in higher education. In addition, forward-looking cooperation projects also focus on STEAM education, such as the project 'Innovating STE(A)M in Higher Education with Transdisciplinary Talent Programs', '[EU STEAM](#) Towards a European STE(A)M Platform' and '[ArtIST](#) Integrated Interdisciplinary Education Module on Art, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Science'. The projects promote innovative and cross-disciplinary approaches to STEAM curricula and teaching in higher education. The common cross-cutting objectives of these projects are to: i) contribute to increasing the participation of girls and women in STEM fields of study and jobs and; ii) reinforce cooperation between schools, higher education institutions, non-academic partners and businesses.

The Youth mobility project 'Soul has no gender: Working together to promote gender equality and end violence towards women' brought together young people from different countries for the purpose of addressing human rights, gender equality and violence against women in their home communities. Young participants were given the opportunity to actively participate in non-formal activities and to engage in a dialogue about gender equality and gender roles in their social environment. Their perception of the gender roles were challenged and they were provided with tools to combat gender discrimination, contribute to raise awareness and trigger behavioural changes around them.

In the field of sport, in addition to the regular activities, the programme contributed to cooperation with the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Health Organisation and the National Football Information Points (NFIP) network, with dedicated projects to tackle key issues such as gender equality, match-fixing and violence in sport.

The [Erasmus Mundus Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies](#) (GEMMA) has been funded with a total budget of €4.5 million.

[GEMMA Master's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies](#) provides high quality academic education and professional competencies in the areas of Women's Studies, Gender Studies and Equal Opportunities across Europe and beyond. It collects the best offer from the humanities, social sciences and health sciences, making it attractive to students worldwide and offering a wide range of options. GEMMA's mission is to form much needed gender experts who will be able to contribute to greater equality between men and women, taking into account the intersections of ethnicity, race, class and sexuality and contributing to citizenship in the broadest sense of the word. The consortium consists of six universities in Spain, Italy, Poland, Netherlands and UK.

The [Young Man Interested in Early Childhood Education \(YOMAI\)](#) project aims to make working with children, up to the age of 10 attractive to men to encourage them to start a job or training in early childhood education. The targeted professions are educators, teachers and social workers.

6.4. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Through its activities to achieve social inclusion through education, Erasmus+ contributes to achieving Goal 1 of the SDGs, in particular its target of reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 1, the European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC European University) will focus its activities inter alia on post-industrial challenges and diversity, taking into account also the needs of socio-economical disadvantaged areas.

The [ASEAN Network for Green Entrepreneurship and Leadership \(ANGEL\)](#) aims to build the capacity necessary in eleven ASEAN Universities for balancing the high potential economic growth and innovation in partner countries. These partner countries lack capacities in green entrepreneurship as well as resolving entrenched issues and challenges in relation to poverty, low quality jobs in the informal sector, digital divide and leadership gaps.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 2, the selected European University of Technology (EUT) will work on sustainable agriculture from a technological point of view.

Capacity Building for Higher Education (CBHE) project [Enhancing Food Safety in the Mediterranean](#) (FoSAMED) (€0.9 million)

The [FoSaMed project](#) brings together Moroccan HEIs promoting inclusive education through curriculum development and teacher education on Food Safety. It aims to train teachers within the framework of a new Master on Food Safety, to enable students to develop and upgrade their knowledge and technical skills on food safety issues. This will allow them to acquire new methodological and technical abilities to face the upcoming challenges in the Food Industry sector. The project foresees training of teachers in four Moroccan HEIs, which will have upgraded food safety labs for hands-on training of teachers and students.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Through its education, training and sport activities, Erasmus+ promotes healthy habits and well-being, particularly among youth, hence contributing to SDG 3. The HealthyLifestyle4All, a follow-up to the Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle, is a 2-years' campaign that aims to link sport and active lifestyles with health, food and other policies. Launched by Commissioner Gabriel at the Opening of the 2021 European Week of Sport the HealthyLifeStyle4All showcases the Commission's commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles for all, across generations and social groups, noting that everyone can benefit from activities that improve health and well-being.

The initiative is shaped around three pillars:

- increased awareness for healthy lifestyles across all generations;
 - easier access to sport and physical activities, with special focus on inclusion and non-discrimination to reach disadvantaged groups;
 - teaming up for a holistic approach to food, health, well-being and sport.
- The initiative is open to all organisations interested in contributing to a healthy lifestyle, including the sport movement, civil society, national, local and regional authorities and international bodies.
 - A Pledge Board, unveiled at the time of launch of the initiative on 23 September 2021 collects the pledges of Member States, international organisations and civil society,

The HealthyLifeStyle4All promotes the intergenerational dimension of sport and contribute among other to the Gender Equality Strategy, the Health Union and the "EU beating Cancer" initiatives.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 3, the European University Alliance for Global Health (EUGLOH) will have a special focus on global health.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Much like the Sustainable Development Goal 4, the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) is designed to support Member States in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and in promoting life-long learning opportunities for all. The European Education Area priorities, reflected in the EU-level targets, have a direct influence on the Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus + provides funding to support initiatives such as social inclusion through education and training, promoting inclusive practices in early childhood education and care, addressing early school-leaving and low achievement in reading, mathematics, science and digital competences; fostering employability of graduates and adult participation in learning, and enhancing democratic citizenship, social, civic and intercultural competences and common EU values.

On the international scene, the EU has an active policy supporting cooperation in education and training with third countries by promoting peer-to-peer learning and comparing education systems worldwide. In particular, the EU's Erasmus+ mobility and inter-university cooperation programme is an invaluable instrument for establishing lasting academic and cultural ties, also promoting the EU in partner countries. Overall Erasmus+ funding for third countries will support around 200 000 mobility exchanges of university students and staff, 1 000 capacity building in higher education projects and around 27 000 scholarships and teaching staff

within Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees, primarily for partner countries across the world. Support is also provided to higher education in Africa through the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 4, the EUNICE - European University for Customised Education will have a special focus on customised education and life-long learning for part-time and non-traditional students.

[Supporting Social and Emotional Competences of Pre-School Children from Disadvantaged or Culturally Different Environments](#). Pre-school and kindergarten classrooms are among the earliest social environments that a child encounters outside the family. For young children with different cultural backgrounds and social disadvantages, this transition can be a challenging one. Five partner organisations from four European countries have teamed up to develop and implement innovative methodology of inclusive pre-school education to support children with special needs, especially those coming from socially disadvantaged or culturally different environments.

[New didactical models for initial VET training of young disadvantaged persons to reduce drop out](#). The NEW-D project set out to develop an innovative didactical model to be used in the VET training of disadvantaged young learners (the final beneficiaries of the project) - in order to keep them in or, even, to bring them back into initial VET.

[Teacher's training to the inclusion of the children of foreigners](#). The aim to exchange inspiring experience for professionals of partner organisations, and create a common, practical, freely available tool for teachers/workers who have to adapt their teaching practice to include children of foreigners.

The Education for Climate Coalition is a bottom-up, co-created initiative aiming to engage the education community at EU, national and local level and will be a key instrument for effectively capturing and sharing initiatives and projects of the educational community in support of the transition to climate neutrality, particularly in relation to green skills development and change in behaviour. By this, the Coalition supports SDG 4.7 (Education for sustainable development and global citizenship) as it enables and empowers young people to cooperate on sustainability-related projects in the field of education and training. SDG 4.7 is further supported by the [proposal for a Council Recommendation on learning for environmental sustainability](#) which aims to support Member States, schools, higher education institutions, non-governmental organisations and all education providers in equipping learners with understanding and skills on sustainability, climate change and the environment.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Erasmus+ Programme aims at removing social obstacles for participation in it for people facing discrimination because of gender, among other reasons. Strategic partnerships in the field of Youth give priority to projects that promote the empowerment of all young people, with a special focus on access to rights, autonomy and participation. The promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities is a specific objective in the field of sport.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 5, the European Space University of Earth and Humanity (UNIVERSEH European University) will focus its activities inter alia on gender equality in the space sector.

[WEMag](#) aims to help reduce the obstacles to entrepreneurship for young educated women in Tunisia and Morocco by providing them with entrepreneurial knowledge, experience and access to networks for business purposes.

The [Giritech project](#) set itself the goal of supporting the participation of women in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The project focuses on peer learning activities, getting inspired by strategies from other countries and finding out which approaches from the partner countries might be suitable for others.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 6, INnoVations of REgional Sustainability: European University Alliance (Invest European University) will focus its activities sustainable regional development, inter alia on water, energy, food and environment nexus.

CBHE project [Inow Asia: Development of innovative multilevel formation programs for the new water leading professionals in South East Asia](#) (€0.9 million).

[Inow Asia](#) will transfer to participating EU HEIs the knowledge and experience available about the implementation of innovative master programmes on water resources management. The main idea is to jointly design an innovative training programme based on modular and flexible water resources combining the on-line and problem-based methodology to complement some of the existing postgraduate programs, and also to co-design and implement water-oriented living labs in the campus of each PC HEI.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 7, Ulysseus, an open to the world, persons-centred and entrepreneurial European University for the citizenship of the future will focus its activities inter alia on energy, transport, mobility and smart cities.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

All actions of the Erasmus+ Programme contribute to increase the employability of the young people that participate in it, as shown by several studies. This is achieved through a combination of several outcomes, e.g. the acquisition of new skills, increased autonomy, increased knowledge of foreign languages, etc. The emphasis on inclusion aims to ensure that all can reap these benefits irrespective of disadvantage.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 8, the European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC European University) will focus its activities inter alia on post-industrial challenges and diversity, taking into account also the needs of socio-economical disadvantaged areas.

CBHE project [University Student Capacity Building: Towards Readiness for Sustainable Development-Oriented Regional Job Market](#) (€1 million)

The aim of the project is to develop a generation of globally-exposed higher education graduates, equipped with essential character, social and cognitive skills blended with academic competencies, with a higher degree of readiness for the fast-evolving community and job market, and who are capable to integrate effectively in multi-cultural, diverse eco-system.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

CBHE project [strENGtHening skills and training expertise for TunisiAN and MorroCan transition to industry 4.0 Era](#) (€0.8 million)

This project focuses particularly on Production, Maintenance and Quality engineering processes, which represent key industrial business processes that need attention, investment and improvement. The overall objective is to contribute to strengthening the skills and training expertise of both Tunisian and Moroccan universities in the three targeted topics for inciting and assisting the Partner Countries (PC) transition to industry 4.0 era.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 9, the European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance (EELISA European University) will focus its activities inter alia on sustainable and smart industry.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

In general, the Erasmus+ Programme aims at promoting equity and inclusion by facilitating access to it to participants with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities compared to their peers. More specifically in the field of Youth, an Inclusion and Diversity Strategy has been designed as a common framework to support the participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 10, the European Digital UniverCity (EDUC European University) will focus its activities inter alia on justice, inequality and inclusion.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 11, the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU European University) will focus its activities specifically around SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

CBHE project [Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia: curricula, capacity, ICT and stakeholder collaboration to support green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions](#) (€1 million)

The project aims to promote green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions (GBI&NBS) for resilient, climate-friendly and liveable cities in Indian and Mongolia through ICT-enhanced tertiary education linked to labour markets and wider stakeholder circles.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 12, The European University Alliance on Responsible Consumption and Production (Eureca-Pro) will focus its activities on responsible consumption and production.

CBHE project [Development of Higher Education Content Aimed to Support Industries for Sustainable Production of Qualitative Agri-food](#) (€0.9 million)

The project aims to modernise HE content for promotion of development of such national agro-food production systems, where farm-enterprises will apply internationally recognised good agricultural practices and sustainable agro-business management principles and approaches, thus increasing agro-food production industry effectiveness and competitiveness.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 13, the ENLIGHT European University will inter alia focus its activities on the impact of climate change on regional ecosystems. ENLIGHT will use its local environments (cities and regions) across Europe as living laboratories for lifelong learning and research in this area.

CBHE project [New Courses in Geospatial Engineering for Climate Change Adaptation of Coastal Ecosystems](#) (€0.8 million)

The youth mobility project 'Green Light' aims to raise awareness among young people on waste and to foster reflection about their shopping habit and focuses on environmental pollution, more specifically on the household waste recycling. The program draws attention to the importance of environmentally conscious lifestyle. The purpose is to show young people that a conscious consumption and creative waste management is easy to implement in daily habits.

The project activities will deliver the following main results: developed and accredited innovative regional joint interdisciplinary MSc program (120 ECTS, 2-year duration) in the field of Maritime Environmental Protection and Management (MEP&M) in English language at Partner countries (PC) HEIs; enhanced human capacities in the field of MEP&M and e-learning methodology through tailored trainings at PC HEIs; enhanced technical capacities of PC HEIs through installed new e-learning platform; increased networking among PC HEIs, governmental institutions, Blue economy sector companies and NGOs in order to act regionally to prevent and cope with consequences of global climate change and local/regional marine pollution.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 14, the European University for Smart Urban Coastal Sustainability (EU-CONEXUS) will focus its activities on blue Growth, bio-economy, environmental protection, sustainable tourism, Coastal civil engineering, Sustainable aquaculture and Marine biotechnology.

CBHE project [Building a Comprehensive Mechanism for Preserving Marine Ecosystems and Life from the negative consequences of Climate Change and the disposal of Plastic Debris](#) (€0.9 million)

The project involves the development of a comprehensive mechanism combining capacity building and institutional development for marine ecosystem monitoring, capitalizing on the relevant expertise and know-how from EU higher education institutions and organisations.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 15, the 4EU+ European University will focus its activities inter alia on biodiversity and sustainable development.

CBHE project [Developing Curricula for biodiversity monitoring and conservation in Tanzania](#) (€0.8 m)

The project aims at building a network of HEIs and natural science museums in the EU and the three major Partner Country HEIs to implement state-of-the-art HE training so to boost capacity and curricula in biodiversity science, hence improving the country's HE offer.

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

One of the aims as regards students, trainees, apprentices, young people and volunteers participating in any of the mobility activities supported under Erasmus+ is a more active participation in society.

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 16, the European University in Social Science (CIVICA) will focus its activities inter alia on challenges to democracy in the 21st century.

CBHE project [The Academic Alliance for Reconciliation in the Field of Higher Education in Peace, Conflict Transformation, and Reconciliation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa](#) (€0.7 million)

The project aims at building capacity in the field of Higher Education (HE) in Peace, Reconciliation and Conflict Transformation Studies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

European Universities selected under Erasmus+ are ambitious transnational alliances of higher education institutions developing long-term structural and strategic cooperation. For example, in relation to SDG 17, the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) will focus its activities inter alia on European identity and responsibilities in a global world.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**European Solidarity Corps (ESC)****Lead DG: EAC**

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The European Union is built on solidarity, a shared value that is strongly felt throughout our European society. Solidarity is a fundamental pillar of the European integration project, providing a clear compass to guide Europe's citizens, and especially the young ones, in their aspirations for a better EU.

Community needs can be addressed by involving younger generations in solidarity activities. Many young people wish to engage in such activities and organisations are looking for motivated youngsters to help their efforts. With the right support, these organisations could offer even more to communities.

The European Solidarity Corps was initially launched in 2018, building on the experience acquired with the European Voluntary Service (included in Erasmus+). The ex-ante¹ evaluation preparing the initial launch already identified some challenges.

One of the main challenges the programme has faced is **visibility**. Therefore, improving the promotion and communication to access a more targeted audience was one of the opportunities for the current programming period.

During the **transitional** phase there has been confusion among potential participants on the role of the European Solidarity Corps, especially in relation to the underlying programmes which were part of first phase, as well as the differences with regards to the European Voluntary Service (**EVS**), under Erasmus+ or other existing programmes (such as **EU Aid Volunteers**).

Overlaps with National frameworks, initiatives and schemes, such as civic service programmes or privately run initiatives have been a further challenge in terms of communicating the added benefit of the European Solidarity Corps.

Improved and simpler procedures is a factor to be addressed in the new programme, including improved access to e-forms and simplifying them to increase the submission of project proposals by organisations.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

Against this background, the European Solidarity Corps engages young people and organisations, bringing them together to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal and humanitarian challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop themselves while at the same time providing a single entry point for solidarity activities across the EU and beyond.

The general objective of the programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond. It will address societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.

The European Solidarity Corps offers opportunities, which further energise solidarity between Europeans and mobilise young Europeans to support their local communities, bringing relief to one another during isolation or confinement, including helping older generations gain digital skills to stay connected and offering care for those hardest hit by the crisis. Overall, it enhances the European, cross-border dimension of solidarity, complementing existing national and regional public and private policies, programmes and activities without creating competition or substitution effects.

Actions to tackle socio-economic problem areas are primarily the responsibility of the Member States and regions and must be taken closest to the citizens at national and sub-national levels. The European Solidarity Corps addresses the role the EU has to play in identifying shared challenges, stimulating cooperation and transnational mobility, encouraging synergies, and promoting the sharing of good practices and mutual learning in addition to supporting a Europe-wide approach to social innovation, where there is clear value added for European solutions.

1.3. Specific objectives

The European Solidarity Corps has the following specific objectives:

1. Provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in the Union and beyond.
2. Improve and properly validate their competences as well as facilitate their continuous engagement as active citizens.
3. Encourage cooperation on environmental challenges in all sectors, while gradually striving for carbon-neutrality by promoting and facilitating the use of low-carbon means transport modes (in particular by rail) - without imposing them, however.
4. Foster digital literacy and education while developing an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0317&from=EN>

1.4. Public intervention context

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the EU has the competence to carry out actions to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States in the field of education, vocational training, youth and sport. As laid down in Article 4(4) of the TFEU, the EU furthermore has the competence to carry out activities and conduct a common policy, in the areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The exercise of that competence shall not result in Member States being prevented from exercising their competences.

The European Parliament and the Council, in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall establish the measures defining the framework within which the EU's humanitarian aid operations are to be implemented. The EU may conclude with third countries and competent international organisations any agreement helping to achieve the objectives referred to in Article 214(1) of the TFEU and in Article 21 of the TEU, without preventing Member States from negotiating in international bodies and concluding agreements.

Regarding the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, the European Parliament and the Council, acting by means of regulations in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, have determined the rules and procedures for the operation of the Corps.

1.5. Actions

In order to achieve its objectives, the European Solidarity Corps implements its Actions structured into two strands:

1) Participation of young people in solidarity activities:

- Volunteering;
- Solidarity Projects.

2) Participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities ('Volunteering under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps'):

- Humanitarian Aid Volunteering projects.

Additionally, the European Solidarity Corps supports a series of activities and measures aiming at providing high-quality solidarity activities:

- Networking activities;
- Quality and Support measures.

1.6. Delivery mode

The European Solidarity Corps is implemented under the leadership of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC), which bears the overall responsibility for the supervision and coordination.

Activities are rolled out through direct management by DG EAC and the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency, as well as through indirect management with the support of a network of National Agencies, which brings the programme closer to its target audience, adapts to the diversity of national education systems, and offers the possibility to align with national priorities.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Domain	Youth
Programme	European Solidarity Corps
Management Mode	<p>Strands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of young people in solidarity activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering Projects - Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas - Solidarity Projects - Participation of young people in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps
Management Mode	<p>Direct: Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), DG EAC</p>
Management Mode	<p>Indirect (2021 situation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme countries: Member states of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Republic of North Macedonia, Turkey - Partner countries: Norway and other countries neighbouring the EU

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/888 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014 (OJ L 202, 8.6.2021, p. 32).	2021 - 2027	1 009.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	135.7	141.4	141.2	144.0	146.9	149.8	152.9	1 012.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	11.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	11.0
Total	146.7	141.4	141.2	144.0	146.9	149.8	152.9	1 023.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The European Solidarity Corps builds on the achievements of more than 25 years of European programmes in the field of youth and solidarity, especially on the success of the European Voluntary Service implemented under the Erasmus+ Programme from 2014 to 2018, on the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and on the previous European Solidarity Corps running from 2018 to 2020.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

European Youth Portal (https://europa.eu/youth/home_en)

The website provides information on the opportunities offered by the European Solidarity Corps for both organisations and young people, project examples and testimonies as well as the necessary information and links to apply for funding.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	136.0	1 023.0	13%
Payments	75.4		7%

2021

The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

The first year of implementation of the European Solidarity Corps programme has been indeed exceptionally challenging in terms of budget management. The late adoption of the programme Regulation has pushed forward the start of the activities (calls, selection, contracts, payments) to the second part of the year, affecting the budget management in 2021 and shifting some payments initially planned in 2021 to 2022.

As a result, a very close monitoring approach, namely towards National Agencies, allowed to promptly return the unnecessary payment appropriations detected in the revision of forecasts and ensured to fully use the remaining available payment appropriations in EU budget at year end. Moreover, this exceptional situation had no influence on the funding absorption capacity of the European Solidarity Corps programme, for which all the commitments appropriations of the 2021 EU voted budget have been implemented. In 2021, about 55% of the budget committed (€136 million) has already been paid (€75,4 million).

2022

The total programmed adopted EU budget for ESC in 2022 represents an amount of €141,4 million, 4,2% increase compared to 2021.

In 2022's programming, indirect management (through National Agencies) will represent around 82% of the operational budget. As regards direct management, EACEA will implement around 15%, leaving 3% to be implemented centrally by the Commission.

The 2022 payment appropriations will be used to cover the payments on the 2022 commitments, as well as the payments on ongoing projects from 2021, including some payments initially planned in 2021 and shifted to 2022 for the reasons exposed above.

2023

The total EU budget requested for 2023 amounts to € 3.548 billion, complemented by a further amount of € 366,8 million for the external instruments' contribution to the programme, both fully aligned with the financial programming (2021-2027)

In 2023's initial estimated programming (excluding the external dimension), indirect management (mainly through National Agencies) will represent around 74% of the operational budget. As regards direct management, EACEA will implement around 25%, leaving 1% to be implemented centrally by the Commission.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

European Solidarity Corps

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	352.0	352.2	100%
Payments	276.0		78%

EU Aid Volunteers

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	89.2	89.5	100%
Payments	65.7		73%

European Solidarity Corps

The European Solidarity Corps programme started in 2018 for a period of 3 years (2018-2020).

During the period 2018-2020 the total EU budget amounted to €352 197 999 and was implemented at nearly 100% (€351 955 306). During the same period, the total payments amounted to €276 027 952, reaching about 78% of the total envelope.

The late adoption of the Regulation only in October 2018 delayed the effective start of the programme and consequently the launch of the 2018 and 2019 calls for proposals. This slow take-off impacted the implementation of the programme spread over more years than initially planned and the related payment consumption. Moreover, the COVID pandemic started in 2020 affected the solidarity activities the last year of the previous programming period. DG EAC granted extensions of the duration for on-going projects which had also a slight technical effect of reducing payments scheduled in 2021, moving them to 2022 and 2023. In some limited cases, the non-receipt of interim reports in time led to a reduced volume of payment appropriations consumed in 2021.

The payments appropriation in 2022 and 2023 will serve to support mainly last payments requests from National Agencies and final payments of projects and actions implemented by EACEA.

EU Aid Volunteers

The EU Aid Volunteers Initiative (EUAV) was managed by DG ECHO until the end of the MFF. During the period 2014-2020 the total EU budget was implemented at nearly 100% (€ 89 243 823) in terms of commitments and at about 73% (€ 65 661 635) in terms of payments

The COVID pandemic started in 2020 affected the Humanitarian Volunteering activities in the last year of the previous programming period: A call for proposals was cancelled and extensions of the duration for on-going projects were granted to beneficiaries reducing payments scheduled in 2021. The payments appropriation in 2022 and 2023 will serve to support final payments of projects and actions implemented by EACEA.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The European Union is built on solidarity, a shared value which is strongly felt throughout European society. Solidarity defines the European project and not only guides the European youth in their aspirations for a better Union but also provides the necessary unity to cope with current and future crises by holding a strong moral ground.

The European Solidarity Corps brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal and humanitarian challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop and provides a single entry point for such solidarity activities throughout the Union and beyond.

The 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps was created to merge several EU volunteering and solidarity traineeships/jobs schemes into one programme. The proposal for a Regulation was accompanied by an ex-ante evaluation, which demonstrated the need for a single EU programme acting as a "one-stop shop" for all solidarity related opportunities for young people. Thus, the European Solidarity Corps offers opportunities to further energise solidarity between Europeans and mobilise young Europeans to support their local communities, bringing relief to one another during isolation or confinement, including helping older generations gain digital skills to stay connected and offering care for those hardest hit by the crisis.

By extending its scope to cover volunteering activities in support of humanitarian aid operations, the European Solidarity Corps provides needs-based emergency aid and helps to deliver assistance, relief and protection where most needed. It thus helps addressing not only unmet societal needs in Europe but also humanitarian challenges in third countries.

The extended European Solidarity Corps also addresses current trends and new challenges that are of special interest to the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework. It directly contributes to reducing social divergences, as the projects contribute to address certain societal needs, while also providing an opportunity for young people to develop their skills, which will increase their employment prospects.

In particular, skills and competences development is at the core of the specific objective of the programme which is thus fully aligned with the way forward proposed in the Reflection Paper on the Social Dimension of Europe.

The activities of the European Solidarity Corps support the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy for 2019-2027², which encourages young people to become active citizens, agents of solidarity and positive change for communities across Europe, inspired by EU values and a European identity.

A Commission implementing decision adopted in October 2021 outlines general measures to be implemented over the 7-year period for the European Solidarity Corps³. A strategy for inclusion and diversity⁴ covering all fields of the programmes has been devised to increase the qualitative impact of the programme and to ensure equal opportunities by reaching out to people with fewer opportunities. Small-scale Partnerships is a new action designed to widen access to the programme to small-scale actors and individuals who are hard to reach. With lower grant amounts awarded to organisations, shorter duration and simpler administrative requirements compared to the Cooperation Partnerships, this action seeks to reach out to grassroots organisations, less experienced organisations and newcomers to the Programme, reducing entry barriers to the programme for organisations with smaller organisational capacity.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 consolidates efforts to have one single entry point for young people ready to engage in solidarity. It brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal and humanitarian challenges through the following actions:

Volunteering under the ‘participation of young people in solidarity activities’ strand, carried out through individual volunteering activities or activities by volunteering teams

- Individual volunteering activities are carried out as voluntary unpaid activities for a period of up to 12 months. This provides young people with the opportunity to contribute to the daily work of organisations in solidarity-related activities to benefit the communities within which the activities are carried out, either in a country other than the country of residence of the participant (cross-border) or in the country of residence of the participant (in-country)
- Activities by volunteering teams are designed to allow participants in the Corps carry out solidarity-related activities together (i.e. in teams) for a period of between 2 weeks and 2 months. Such activities contribute especially to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Corps.

Solidarity projects, further fostering the inclusiveness of the Corps and empower young people to address unmet societal challenges. They consist of bottom-up, solidarity-related activities, for a period of up to 12 months, and are set up and carried out by groups of at least five Corps participants, addressing key challenges in their communities while presenting a clear European added value.

The late adoption of the programme’s legal base delayed the publication of the 2021 call and consequently the selection of the related proposals. As a result, projects were awarded and contracted later than in a usual year. At the time of the publication of this document, it is too early to report on the performance of the programme so far.

Building on the past experience, the programme implementation scheme is evolving to become more efficient and address issues noticed in the previous MFF (see challenges section page 1).

- For the Corps’ 2021 Annual Work Programme, a specific priority was added on ‘Prevention, promotion and support in the field of health’ to mobilise volunteers in addressing the impact of the pandemic and recovery.
- “European Youth Together” 2022, the 2022 call under the European Solidarity Corps,
- The main novelty is the launch of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, a new centralised action which will allow the deployment of young volunteers in third countries. Following intense preparatory work included in the 2021 Annual Work Programme, the 2022 work programme includes the first call for proposals enabling organisations to request funding for their projects in the area of humanitarian aid.

² https://europa.eu/youth/strategy_en

³ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/commission-decision-framework-inclusion-2021-27>

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity_en

Digital

- Digital transformation is one of the transversal priorities of the European Solidarity Corps programme, pursued in its general 2021 and 2022 calls for proposals. The Corps supports projects and activities that help improve digital skills, foster digital literacy and develop an understanding of the risks and opportunities of digital technology.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

European Solidarity Corps

The European Solidarity Corps builds on the achievements of the European Voluntary Service and on the first phase of the European Solidarity Corps, launched in December 2016, whereby different Union programmes have been mobilised to offer volunteering, traineeship or job activities to young people across the EU.

In 2018, the first European Solidarity Corps Regulation⁵ created a new, coherent framework for solidarity-related activities, with a dedicated budget of €375.6 million for 2018-2020. It offered new formats and tools, with a sustained commitment to quality, in order to reach out to more young people and provide them with a valuable experience.

The European Solidarity Corps proved particularly successful in providing opportunities to address horizontal priorities such as inclusion (with more than 30% of participants with fewer opportunities) or climate change (13% of projects supported under the European Solidarity Corps address climate action, environment and nature protection).

It offered support for projects revolving around a range of solidarity (in the form of individual or team volunteering, traineeships, jobs and solidarity projects) involving young people between 18 and 30 years of age.

Traineeships and Jobs represented the biggest novelty under the European Solidarity Corps. While specific efforts were dedicated to promotion, ensuring understanding of the opportunities, reaching out to the relevant stakeholders and training the potential applicants, the Action was faced with challenges and did not take up as expected. In this regard, the number of projects and participants funded were lower than forecasted.

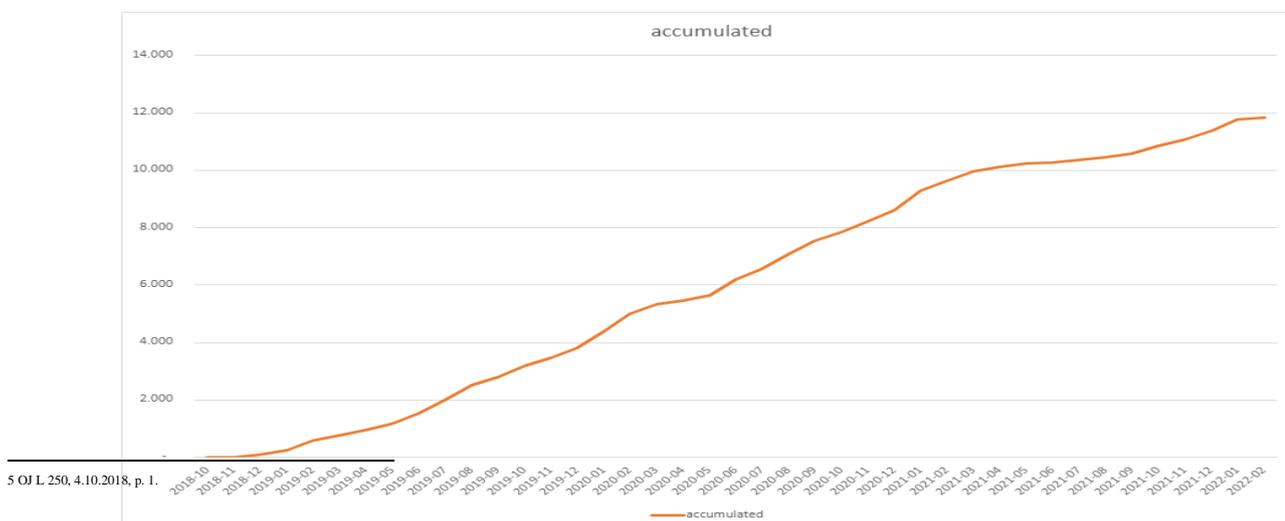
The performance targets had been designed with the expectation of a full three years of implementation over the period 2018-2020.

The short programme period (end of 2018-2020) impacted on the possibilities for successful outreach to an entirely new category of stakeholders (potential participating organisations) and the Traineeships & Job strand did not manage to carve out a niche in the relatively vast range of national or EU tools aimed at improving the employment prospects of young people. The employer/host organisations were required to pay salaries/remuneration of trainees and the Programme only supported certain associated costs, e.g. mentoring, relocation costs etc., also to minimise the risk of job substitution.

Despite the difficulties the programme has faced, including the late adoption of the legal base in October 2018 and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the projects continued to be contracted at a steady rate throughout 2019 and 2020, showing a continuous increase highlighting that interest from organisations remains stable. The implementation of the 2018-2020 programme continued into 2021 due to the design and duration of the actions, the timing of the publication of the 2020 call, and the effects of the pandemic, which resulted in a delayed start of activities.

Since December 2021, over 400 projects are still active and they will extend into 2022.

Cumulative number of projects contracted per month



⁵ OJ L 250, 4.10.2018, p. 1.

In terms of participation rates, the number of young people in volunteering projects continued to raise. Since 2021, the total number of participants in the calls 2018 – 2020 exceeded 12 000. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 alone, over 3 000 volunteering participants took part in the programme activities despite restrictions, showing the programme resilience, adaptability, and capacity to contribute to a stronger and more cohesive Union. The European Solidarity Corps continued to provide relief where possible through, for example, volunteers giving elderly people a hand with food and medical shopping or fighting loneliness.

Still, some activities had to be suspended or cancelled and the duration of projects extended to enable those young people who were prevented from taking part due to the crisis to have another opportunity to do so. This also implies that a number of deployments funded by the 2020 call took place later than initially foreseen.

The success of the Corps in terms of the uptake by young people is also a testimony of its significance as by the end of 2020, nearly 280 000 youngsters from across the EU had registered for participation in the Corps. Based on the positive reception of the initiative by young people and other stakeholders in the solidarity sector, the European Commission proposed an extension of the Corps to the programming period 2021-27.

EU Aid Volunteers Initiative

The EU Aid Volunteers Initiative (EUAV) was managed by DG ECHO until the end of the previous MFF.

After the launch of the initiative, the uptake of this new programme was below expectations. For the period 2014-2020, the EUAV Initiative was allocated €141 million to finance the training of an initial target of 4 400 volunteers and the deployment of 4 000 volunteers, the provision of technical assistance and capacity building to participating organisations, and the implementation of communication and other support activities. By end of 2020, only 1 173 deployments were financed amounting to 29% of the initial target and 788 deployments have taken place, 1 065 volunteers completed the EU Aid Volunteers training (20% of the target).

The EU Aid Volunteers initiative introduced a thorough certification mechanism that requires sending and hosting organisations to prove that they have procedures and policies in place to achieve the high volunteering standards of the programme. The certification mechanism had not existed during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed, which did not materialise in satisfactory results.

In the report on the Interim Evaluation (COM(2018) 496), the Commission acknowledged the need to improve consistency of the approach to volunteering in third countries with other EU volunteering schemes. Coherence and synergies with the European Voluntary Service and the European Solidarity Corps were to be sought, resulting in the creation of a **new humanitarian aid strand** in the new European Solidarity Corps (MFF 2021-2027) replacing the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative.

Compared to its predecessor EU Aid Volunteers Initiative, corrective measures were put in place for in the new humanitarian aid strand to improve the low take-up of EUAV. Concerning training in particular, a new and much more effective training cycle was devised. A deeper integration with the features of other ESC strands was ensured. The deadline for the 2022 humanitarian aid applications is in May and it’s therefore not yet possible to provide any assessment at this stage, the corrective measures put in place are expected to gradually ensure a significantly higher take-up compared to EUAV.

3.2. Key achievements

European Solidarity Corps⁶

456 275	55 901	41%	90%
Young people expressed interest in joining by registering with the Corps 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps programme	Opportunities for young people were created under European Solidarity Corps since October 2018 to date	Of participants involved in the 2018-2020 European Solidarity programme are young people with fewer opportunities	Of participants who finalised their activity declared being satisfied with their experience

⁶ Given the short timeframe of the programme, achievements presented refer to its entire duration (2018-2020)

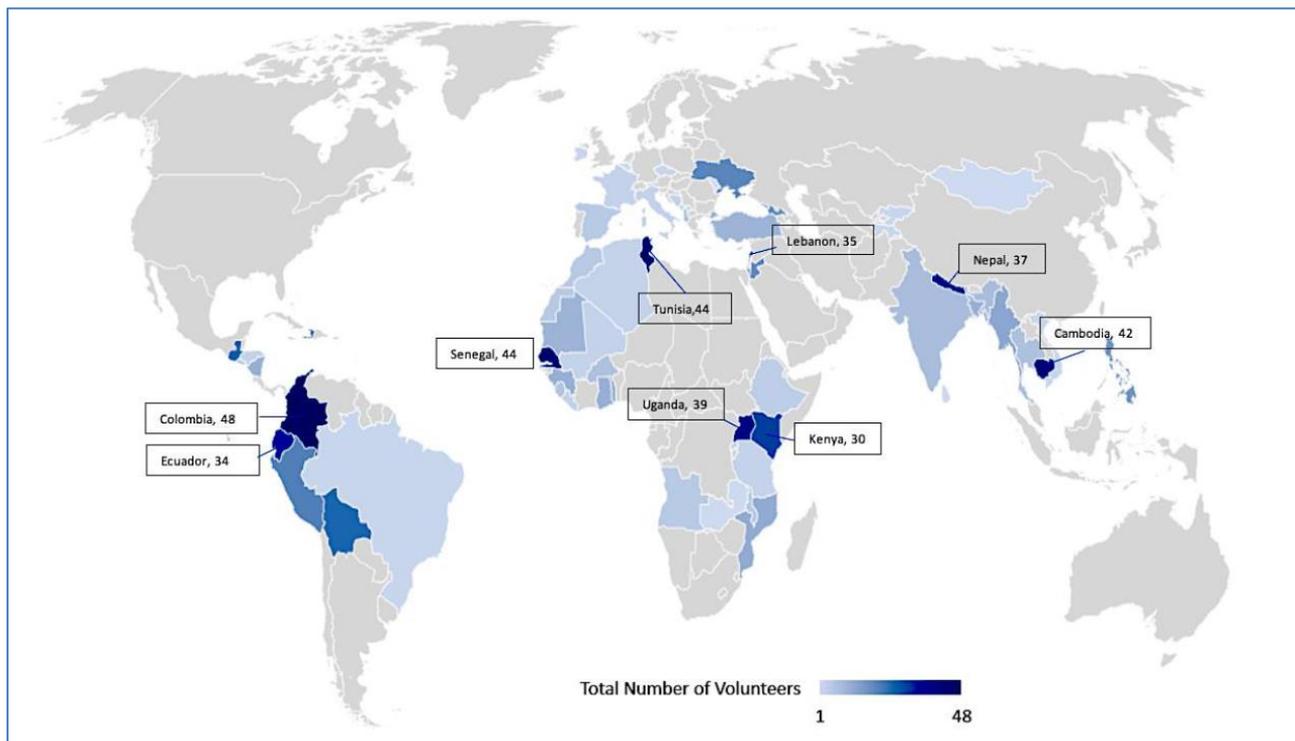
EU Aid Volunteers Initiative

1 173	200	32	72%
Deployments financed under 2014-20 EU Aid Volunteers programme throughout the overall period.	Organisations certified since 2017	Countries of origin of EU Aid Volunteers deployed (including third-country nationals who were long-term residents in the EU)	Percentage of women in the total number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed under the 2014-2020 programme

Until September 2020, 1 173 deployments have been financed and 788 have taken place, involving 705 volunteers (some of whom were deployed twice) and 1 065 volunteers have completed the EU Aid Volunteers training (24% of the target).

Overall, with regard to the certification of new sending and hosting organisations, the trend marginally increased with 63 organisations certified in 2017, 63 in 2018 and 74 in 2019.

Since the start of the initiative, the skills areas of volunteers most often requested for capacity building activities in third countries have been in communication (14%), disaster risk management (11%), project management (10%), finance and accounting (8%), monitoring and evaluation (6%), gender equality (6%), protection (5%), advocacy (5%) and community development (4%).



3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

European Solidarity Corps 2014-2020

Since the European Solidarity Corps is largely based on the previous European Voluntary Service, which was implemented under Erasmus+, the Erasmus+ mid-term evaluation provides valuable insights. The main results highlight the effectiveness of Erasmus+ in developing skills and competences; its undisputable European added value; a high degree of coherence, in particular due to the pooling of programmes and the single brand name; and its efficiency and simplicity, underscoring the cost-effectiveness of mobility actions and the reduced management cost (less than half of similar national schemes). Further findings of the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ Programme are available here:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/documents/evaluations_en

An *ex ante* evaluation for the European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 was carried out and examined challenges that may appear because of the expansion of the scope of activities and the geographical scope, as well as those identified in implementing the former European Solidarity Corps and the EU Aid Volunteers. The evaluation underlined the need for the EU to tackle a number of major challenges, challenges addressed under the new extended European Solidarity Corps. The evaluation is available here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD%3A2018%3A318%3AFIN>

In accordance with Regulation, an interim evaluation of the European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 should be carried out no later than 31 December 2024 and be accompanied by a final evaluation of the 2018-2020 European Solidarity Corps Programme. The interim evaluation of the Programme shall assess the overall effectiveness and performance of the Programme, as well as the delivery of the inclusion measures.

EU Aid Volunteers Initiative

An interim evaluation was carried out in 2017. The study prepared by an external contractor, as well the report and staff working document on the interim evaluation of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative for the period mid-2014 to mid-2017 adopted by the Commission are published on the following website: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations/thematic-evaluations_en. An ex-post evaluation of the initiative will be embedded into the interim evaluation of the European Solidarity Corps, with the same timing (completion by 31 December 2024).

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in Europe and abroad while improving and properly validating their competences as well as facilitating their employability and transition into the labour market.

Indicator 1: Number of participants in solidarity activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Participants in volunteering solidarity activities										
2021	Milestones									2030
0	15 000	16 210	15 238	15 562	15 886	16 210	16 535			110 641
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Participants in Solidarity Projects										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	9 000	9 726	9 143	9 337	9 532	9 726	9 921			66 385
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Participants in humanitarian aid related solidarity activities										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	0	550	550	550	550	550			2 750
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Participants (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.

Other methodological comments	Estimations are provided in April of Y+1. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Figures refer to contracted projects and are below the target. Awarded projects show that the actual figures will be higher (at present, 9555 and 4488 respectively). The late publication of the calls (due to late adoption of legal base and publication of the Annual Work Programme) delayed the selection process. Activities under the humanitarian aid strand are starting in 2022 and first deployments will take place in 2023.

Indicator 2: Share of participants with fewer opportunities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	34%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%			30%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of Participants (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The European Solidarity Corps aims to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in the Union and beyond.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.
Other methodological comments	Estimations are provided in April of Y+1. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of organisations holding a Quality Label

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000			21 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Number of participants who are young people with fewer opportunities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027

0	4 500	4 863	4 571	4 669	4 766	4 863	4 960			33 192
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Participants (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Beneficiary Module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The European Solidarity Corps aims to provide young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities for engagement in solidarity activities in the Union and beyond.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.
Other methodological comments	Estimations are provided in April of Y+1. Numbers will be refined once all projects are closed (between 2 to 4 years after the project starts)
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The figure refers to contracted projects and is below the target. Awarded projects show that the actual figures will be higher (at present 4423).

Indicator 5: Share of participants reporting positive learning outcomes

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%			90%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing positive answers to survey questions (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The European Solidarity Corps aims to improve and properly validate the competences of young people as well as facilitate their continuous engagement as active citizens.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.
Other methodological comments	Estimations are provided in April of Y+1. Results are measured from favourable answers to selected questions in the participant surveys (available between 2 to 4 years after project starts).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 6: Share of participants whose learning outcomes have been documented through a Union transparency and recognition tool

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%			80%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of Participants (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	

Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The European Solidarity Corps aims to improve and properly validate the competences of young people as well as facilitate their continuous engagement as active citizens.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Reporting on this indicator will continue in the new Programme. Nevertheless, the Actions covered by the new Regulation (and thus scope of this indicator) are not fully aligned with the previous programme: Traineeships and Jobs have been discontinued and Volunteering in support of humanitarian aid activities were added.
Other methodological comments	Results are measured from favourable answers to selected questions in the participant surveys (available between 2 to 4 years after project starts).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 7: Overall satisfaction rate of participants with regard to the quality of activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%			90%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	0									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of participants providing positive answers to survey questions (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey
Link to the objective	The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Results are measured from favourable answers to selected questions in the participant surveys (available between 2 to 4 years after project starts).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 8: Share of activities that address climate objectives

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	10%	11%	12%	13%	14%	15%	15%			15%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	0									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of Activities (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Project Management Module, Beneficiary module and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Degree of satisfaction of volunteers deployed in the humanitarian aid field and of participating organisations with regard to the effective humanitarian contribution of the activities on the ground

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%			50%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	0%									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of Participants and organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Participant Survey and e-Grants
Link to the objective	The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The origins of this indicator is from the previous EU Aid Volunteer Programme (Specific Objective 2, Indicator 1), representing the overall satisfaction rate of EU Aid Volunteers trained and deployed.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Activities under the humanitarian aid strand are starting in 2022 and the first deployments are expected in 2023.

Indicator 10: Number of activities in third countries that contribute to strengthening local actors and local communities and complementing volunteering under the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									2027
0	0	10	10	10	10	10	10			60
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	0									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Activities (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	The general objective of the Programme is to enhance the engagement of young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities, primarily volunteering, as a means to strengthen cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground, with a particular focus on the promotion of sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Percentage of budget to be used for complementary activities is indicative percentage used as basis for calculation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Activities under the humanitarian aid strand are starting in 2022 and first deployments are expected in 2023.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: EU Aid Volunteers initiative (EUAV)

General Objective 1: To contribute to strengthening the Union's capacity to provide needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and

maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in third countries

Indicator 1: The number of people reached by humanitarian aid provided through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and the average costs per person reached

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of people reached										
	Milestones									2020
	0	17 500	25 000	30 000	17 500	42 500	50 000			182 500
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0			8 104					
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Costs (in EUR) per person reached										
	Milestones									2020
		845	716	733	751	631	550			550
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0			158					
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The number of people reached by volunteers are based on the assumption that each volunteer reaches on average 50 persons (i.e. in 2015, 350 deployed volunteers would reach 50 persons each and therefore reach 17 500 people in total). The number indicated for the year 2018 – 8 104 persons - is the result of the first two deployment projects funded from the 2015 budget. These projects lasted 24 months and started to deploy volunteers from December 2015; the final reports from which the number 8 104 was retrieved were received end of 2018. The 2015 proposals foresaw the deployment of 44 volunteers (as indicated for the year 2015 in the programme statement). The actual deployment was in the end 55 volunteers (due to drop-outs and replacements). On average each of these volunteers reached about 147 persons (instead of 50 per volunteer as projected in the planning figures) and 8 104 in total.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 1: To contribute to increasing and improving the capacity of the Union to provide humanitarian aid.

Indicator 1: Number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed or ready for deployment with the required qualifications

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of EU Aid Volunteers trained ready for deployment with the required qualifications per year										
	Milestones									2020
		350	350	550	800	1 000	1 250			4 300
	Actual Progress									Final
			97	178	295	446	54	0		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Number of of EU Aid Volunteers deployed per year:										
	Milestones									2020
		350	350	550	800	1 000	1 125			4 300
	Actual Progress									Final
			55	162	175	368	105	90		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
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Unit of measurement	Number of EU Aid Volunteers (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA Project Database (Pegasus)
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Final figures have been captured. This indicator will no longer be reported.
Other methodological comments	The number of volunteers trained depends on the number of planned deployments as provided in the applications to the call for proposals. In 2017, six proposals were received proposing 175 deployments. As a result, 295 candidate volunteers were trained in 2018 for deployments and for the reserve list to cater for dropouts and cancellations. The call for proposals for deployment 2018 resulted in the funding of eleven projects (up from 6 in 2017) proposing the deployment of 368 volunteers. This figure is far below the MFF targets as explained in section II Implementation Update. However, this represents an increase of 110% compared to the previous year and sustains an upward trend. The average duration of a deployment was 9 months (most deployments were either 6 or 12 months deployments, average is 9 months).
Full metadata available at this address	Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 only one training cycle could be organised in 2020 and deployments were put on hold. The certification mechanisms did not exist during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed
Justification of the trend	Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 only one training cycle could be organised in 2020 and deployments were put on hold. The certification mechanisms did not exist during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed.

Indicator 2: Number of EU Aid Volunteers who have completed their contract of deployment

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
	0	315	350	550	800	1 000	1 125			4 140
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	66	178	151	107	189		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of EU Aid Volunteers (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA Project Database (Pegasus)
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Final figures have been captured. This indicator will no longer be reported.
Other methodological comments	This indicator reflects the number of volunteers who stayed the whole duration of their contract and did not end their deployment earlier than planned. If volunteers drop out, organisations can fill the remaining volunteer months with reserve candidates. It is difficult to track in the course of a project which volunteers ended their contracts earlier, if other volunteers stayed longer in their placements instead or if reserve volunteers were recruited.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The certification mechanisms did not exist during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed.

Indicator 3: Number of hosting and sending organisations participating in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative per year.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
	100		115	110	115	75	120			535
	Actual Progress									Final
	88		41	179	73	58	0	0		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA Project Database (Pegasus)
Narrative	
Methodology	

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Final figures have been captured. This indicator will no longer be reported.
Other methodological comments	This indicator reflects the work done in capacity building / technical assistance provided to organisations, which increases the capacity of the sector to provide humanitarian aid. The figure does not include the organisations active deployment projects. The lower figure in 2018 is due to a lower number of projects funded than planned in order to enable more deployments of volunteers (planned 250; result 368). Budget was therefore moved from the capacity building/technical assistance strand to the deployment strand and fewer projects than planned were funded.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	This is an annual figure relating to organisations selected through the calls for proposals. In 2020 and 2021 no calls for proposals were awarded and no new organisations selected to participate. The certification mechanisms did not exist during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed.

Specific Objective 2: Improvement of the skills, knowledge and competences of volunteers in the field of humanitarian aid and the terms and conditions of their engagement.

Indicator 1: The degree of satisfaction of the EU Aid Volunteers trained and deployed, of the sending and hosting organisations with regard to the quality of the training, level of knowledge and competences of volunteers, the fulfilment and adequacy of the standards and procedures for management of candidate and EU Aid Volunteers (overall satisfaction rate out of 100%)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
	0%	75%	80%	80%	85%	85%	85%			85%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0%	0%	88%	90%	87%	88%	74%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of Participants answering positively to the relevant questions (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2019
Data source	Participant Survey
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	A similar indicator will be captured as part of the European Solidarity Corps 2021 - 2027 "Degree of satisfaction of volunteers deployed in the humanitarian aid field and of participating organisations with regard to the effective humanitarian contribution of the activities on the ground". For the purposes of EU Aid volunteers, final figures have been captured. This indicator will no longer be reported.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The certification mechanisms did not exist during the pilot phase. Consequently, challenging targets were set in terms of certified organisations, volunteers trained and deployed/No targets set in 2021 as this programme was absorbed into the European Solidarity Corps.

Previous Program 2: European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

Specific Objective 3: To ensure that particular efforts are made to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities, in particular for the participation of young people with fewer opportunities, through a range of special measures such as appropriate formats of solidarity activities and personalised support

Indicator 1: number of participating young people with fewer opportunities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
					25%	25%	25%	34%		25%
	Actual Progress									Final
						32%	41%	57%		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
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Unit of measurement	Number of Participants
Cut-Off Date	01/03/2021
Data source	Eplus Link and Mobility Tool
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Actual participants are considered for actions ESC11, ESC13, ESC21 and ESC31. Final figures will be updated once all projects are finalised. These are provisional figures as most of the projects funded in 2018 and 2019 are still ongoing (figures provided cover about 1% of granted projects and about 10% of granted participants). A meaningful comparison of results against milestones is, therefore, not yet possible.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The Corps offers inclusive formats and support measures to reach out to young people with fewer opportunities. The milestone has been set based on a target percentage of 25% (9 275) of the forecasted participants. While the percentage of participants with fewer opportunities is much higher in 2020 (41% 7 494 participants) the actual number of participants is lower because of the underperformance in traineeships and jobs.

Specific Objective 4: To contribute to European cooperation relevant to young people and to raise awareness of its positive impact

Indicator 1: number of people supported directly or indirectly through solidarity activities

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
							150 000			150 000
	Actual Progress									Final
						5 419	646 200			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of people impacted by the programme (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	15/01/2021
Data source	Mobility Tool
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Considering the short duration of the European Solidarity Corps (end 2018-2020), targets for these indicators have been set over the entire programming period.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The 2020 number covers projects closed in 2020 (including projects 2018 and 2019). In 2019, very few projects were closed due to the late start of the programme. The target was an estimate as the indicator also relies on beneficiaries' declarations (in final reports) in terms of indirectly supported.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	15.65	16.40	16.42	16.63	16.98	17.33	17.67	117.08	12%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Europe's future will be built by young people. The European Solidarity Corps can make a meaningful contribution to the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. To contribute to the European Green Deal, the Programme aims at integrating green practices into all projects and activities as well as promoting environmentally sustainable

and responsible behaviour among participants and participating organisations. Organisations and participants should thus have an environmental-friendly approach when designing and implementing their activities.

The Programme also supports projects and activities addressing the topic of environmental protection, sustainability and climate goals and aiming to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital. In this context, the Programme aims at raising awareness about environmental sustainability and enabling behavioural changes for individual preferences, consumption habits and lifestyles.

6.1.3. Key achievements

European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020

Since 2018, the European Solidarity Corps has supported more than 1 200 projects addressing climate action, environment and nature protection.

In the ‘Climate Awareness’ project in Sweden, volunteers help with organic food growing, restoring biodiversity and create edible landscapes in an ecovillage. They also run awareness raising activities.

‘Urban Ecology’ in Bulgaria focuses on raising awareness and offering sustainable models for environmental protection and a healthy lifestyle in Varna. Through the development of three different spaces, urban, rural and virtual, the project reaches out to the local community and make citizens aware of their own responsibility and contribution to the green footprint.

The solidarity project ‘Mare d’Inverno’ aims to recover a natural coastal area nearby the urban centres of Trani and Barletta in Italy. The project promotes environmental protection and works on placing pathways for cyclists and pedestrians, cleaning beaches and replanting native tree species.

EU Aid Volunteers Initiative

The project ‘Forests’ that started in 2019, foresees the deployment of 27 EU Aid Volunteer to support forest management in Congo, Ghana, Guinea and Vietnam. Volunteers will conduct mapping studies to assess the vulnerability of forest-dependent communities taking into account effects of climate change (increasing of natural disasters) and will organise seminars with local actors to plan together intervention strategies. The contribution of the programme in the 2014-2020 period has been of EUR 6.1 million.

6.1.4. Performance

European Solidarity Corps 2014-2020

Through the European Solidarity Corps, 18-30 year old young people can carry out volunteering activities, traineeships and jobs and run their own solidarity projects (small-scale initiatives run by young people themselves in their local community).

Climate action, environment and nature protection were increasingly popular Solidarity Corps topics representing 16% by the end of 2020 and showing an upward trend. Since 2018, €30,5 million were awarded to 1 200 projects addressing climate, environmental and nature protection involving 9 000 participants. The contribution of the "early ESC", i.e. the value of activities with a climate dimension in the European Voluntary Service under E+ in the years 2017-2018 – **EUR 27,8 million**.

Green dimension is a transversal priority of the European Solidarity Corps and strengthened efforts in this field are pursued in the general calls for proposals 2021 and 2022.

Gradually striving for carbon-neutrality by promoting and facilitating the use of low-carbon means transport modes (in particular by rail) - without imposing them, however. This includes the introduction since 2021 of financial incentives as an extra economic help for the travel costs for those participants using low-carbon means of transport, together with the possibility of having more days for travelling.

European Solidarity Corps project examples with green dimension:

- In “Climate Awareness” in Sweden, volunteers help with the organic food growing, restore biodiversity and create edible landscapes in an ecovillage. They also run awareness raising activities.
- “Urban Ecology” in Bulgaria focuses on raising awareness and offering sustainable models for environmental protection and a healthy lifestyle in Varna. Through the development of three different spaces, urban, rural and virtual, the project reaches out to the local community and make citizens aware of their own responsibility and contribution to the green footprint.
- The solidarity project “Mare d’Inverno” aims to recover a natural coastal area nearby the urban centres of Trani and Barletta in Italy. The project promotes environmental protection and works on placing pathways for cyclists and pedestrians, cleaning the beaches and replanting the native tree species.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming					Total
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
2021						

Score 0*: 136							
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(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Gender equality is an important element of the European Solidarity Corps. Project promoters are invited to consider this when developing their project proposal and demonstrate how they will ensure gender balance among participants. The Corps also supports projects dealing with the issue of gender equality; e.g. focusing on changing mentalities, sensitising communities to gender and diversity, contributing to breaking down barriers for women's access to employment.

The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy of the programme also contributes to implementing equal opportunities. In this framework, young people who are at a disadvantage compared to their peers because of discrimination, for instance against their gender, are considered priority participants ('with fewer opportunities') and focus in funding is put on projects supporting the strategy.

A specific topic on gender equality has been added for the European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 that will enable to track the number of projects, involved participants and related funding, addressing this policy.

European Solidarity Corps 2018-2020

The European Solidarity Corps supports a range of projects with a thematic coverage on gender equality.

The Solidarity Project 'Change. Digital strategies for gender equality' aims to train women in disadvantaged situations by attending the local 'Women's Counters' on the use of digital technologies and to strengthen the network of solidarity between women of different ages. The project offers tools to address the issue of the gender gap in the digital environment.

The Solidarity Project 'End of taboo. End violence.' Addresses the topic of violence experienced by homeless women. With the support of European Solidarity Corps volunteers, workshops will be organised and tackle the topic of abuse of homeless women through arts. In the safe space of the community centre, homeless women will be able to share their personal stories and help them cope with their emotions and look for solutions. The outcomes of the workshops will be authentic exhibitions full of impressions and positions towards violence.

The main objective of the project 'YOUth impACT through Volunteering' is to inform and change the attitudes of adolescents and youth from Bulgaria on topics related to human rights and healthy lifestyle (focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including HIV / AIDS, gender equality, family planning, sexually transmitted infections, gender identity, etc.) as well as support the empowerment of young people, encouraging them to talk about their needs and to protect their rights. European Solidarity Corps volunteers will be supporting the workshops and awareness raising campaigns.

EU Aid Volunteers Initiative

Of all volunteers deployed so far, around 72% are female and 28% male.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Through its activities to achieve social inclusion through solidarity activities, the European Solidarity Corps contributes to SDG 1, in particular its target of reducing at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Resilience aims at protecting vulnerable populations from the shocks and stresses that keep people in poverty, whilst providing services, livelihoods and opportunities to address the underlying causes of their vulnerability – to 'leave no-one behind'. EU Aid Volunteers work together with volunteers in vulnerable communities to strengthen their resilience to disasters and to build local capacity.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The European Solidarity Corps can play an important role in supporting the health and social care system, improving people's experience of care, building stronger relationships between services and communities. Through its activities, it also aims at mobilising volunteers around key health challenges, such as those related to cancer, mental health and well-being overall.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The European Solidarity Corps aims, amongst other things, at developing the skills and competences of participants for professional, social and civic development. In addition, given its strong focus on inclusion, this is also achieved for young people with fewer opportunities, including young people with disabilities.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The European Solidarity Corps aims at removing social obstacles for participation in it for people facing discrimination because of gender, among other reasons. It also supports projects dealing with the issue of gender equality; e.g. focusing on changing

mentalities, sensitising communities to gender and diversity, contributing to breaking down barriers for women's access to employment.

EU Aid Volunteers are for example recruited as gender experts to promote gender sensitivity and mainstreaming of gender considerations in disaster risk management in affected communities.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

All the actions of the European Solidarity Corps contribute to increase the employability of the young people who participate, as shown by several studies. This is achieved through a combination of outcomes, e.g. the acquisition of new skills, increased autonomy, increased knowledge of foreign languages, etc. Additionally, solidarity projects can help further the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit of young participants. Finally, the emphasis on inclusion aims to ensure that all can reap these benefits irrespective of disadvantage.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Through its activities, the European Solidarity Corps aims to strengthen cohesion and solidarity. It supports projects and activities actively addressing the issue of inclusion in the society.

Special attention ensures that activities supported by the European Solidarity Corps are accessible to all young people, notably the most disadvantaged ones. To this end, special measures are in place to promote social inclusion, the participation of disadvantaged young people, as well as to take into account the constraints imposed by the remoteness of the outermost regions of the Union and the Overseas Countries and Territories. Similarly, the participating countries should endeavour to adopt all appropriate measures to remove legal and administrative obstacles to the proper functioning of the European Solidarity Corps. These include resolving, where possible, and without prejudice to the Schengen acquis and Union law on the entry and residence of third-country nationals, administrative issues that create difficulties in obtaining visas and residence permits.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Through its activities aiming at addressing societal challenges, the European Solidarity Corps supports efforts to promote sustainable development of urban areas, and to protect and safeguard Europe's cultural heritage.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The European Solidarity Corps can make a contribution to SDG 13. The Programme aims at integrating green practices into all projects and activities as well as promoting environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour among participants and participating organisations. Organisations and participants should thus have an environmental-friendly approach when designing and implementing their activities.

The Programme also supports projects and activities addressing the topic of environmental protection, sustainability and climate goals and aiming to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital, to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and to enable behavioural changes for individual preferences, consumption habits and lifestyles.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values

Creative Europe

Lead DG: EAC

Associated DGs: CNECT

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The cultural and creative industries ecosystem was amongst the worst hit by the COVID-19 crisis. The crisis has accelerated the existing trends driven by globalisation and the digital transition. There is a need to support initiatives that promote the resilience and recovery of cultural operators, artists and cultural professionals which have been profoundly affected by lockdown and physical distancing measures.

The digital transition - also accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic - is bringing about a change in paradigm, having a massive impact on how cultural goods are created, managed, disseminated, accessed, consumed and monetised, changing the value propositions which prevailed in the analogue era. Digitisation has facilitated the distribution of cultural and creative content and services, but it has also intensified competition of content across borders on a global scale.

The market for cultural and creative works is highly fragmented, stemming largely from Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity, which results in the cultural and creative sectors being essentially limited into focused on national and linguistic lines areas and lacking a European scale critical mass. At the same time, this diversity is part of Europe's cultural richness. The transnational circulation of artistic works remains thus limited. It is therefore important to stimulate the transnational circulation and co-production of works across borders and to develop more effective solutions to reach audiences across borders.

The European audiovisual industry is internationally recognised for its quality, but is not taking full advantage of the single market. Beyond the EU, European film exports represent 3% in the US and in the other main international markets. In contrast, US films represent 66% of the EU box-office and are also exported to other major film markets.

Freedom of expression and artistic freedom are at the core of vibrant cultural and creative industries, including the news media sector sectors, and the Creative Europe programme should thus contribute to promote a free, diverse and pluralistic media environment. Furthermore, the news media sector has been facing continuous change because of evolving revenue models and the digital transition. Facing monetisation difficulties, in some cases, media outlets have had to close down, weakening media pluralism.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objectives of the Programme are:

- (a) To safeguard, develop and promote European cooperation on cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage;
- (b) To increase the competitiveness and the economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Specific Objectives of the Programme are:

- (a) Enhancing artistic and cultural cooperation at the European level, in order to support the creation of European works and strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of and innovation and mobility in Europe's cultural and creative sectors;
- (b) Promoting the competitiveness, scalability, cooperation, innovation, and sustainability, including through mobility, of the European audiovisual sector;
- (c) Promoting policy cooperation and innovative actions supporting all strands of the programme, including the promotion of a diverse, independent and pluralistic media environment, and media literacy, thereby fostering freedom of artistic expression, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion. To be effective, the Programme takes into account the specific nature and challenges of the different sectors, their different target groups and their particular needs through tailor-made approaches within a strand dedicated to the audiovisual sector, a strand dedicated to the other cultural and creative sectors and a cross-sectoral strand.

To be effective, the Programme takes into account the specific nature and challenges of the different sectors, their different target groups and their particular needs through tailor-made approaches within a strand dedicated to the audiovisual sector, a strand dedicated to the other cultural and creative sectors and a cross-sectoral strand.

Thus the Programme covers the following strands:

- (a) 'CULTURE' covers cultural and creative sectors with the exception of the audiovisual sector;
- (b) 'MEDIA' covers the audiovisual sector;
- (c) 'CROSS SECTORAL strand' covers activities across all cultural and creative sectors.

1.4. Public intervention context

Cultural and creative sectors (CCS) have intrinsic cultural and social value, expressing European identity and values and display economic value through an important contribution to jobs and growth with additional spill over effects on other sectors. In addition, the European Union promotes a free, diverse and pluralistic media environment. In this context, support is vital to protect cultural diversity and strengthen competitiveness.

It is therefore important that the Creative Europe Programme addresses the structural challenges of Europe's cultural and creative sectors, significantly exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The cultural and creative industries are recognised as one of the 14 main ecosystems of the European economy. The Programme, together with other relevant EU funding programmes and Next Generation EU, shall support the short-term recovery and longer-term resilience and competitiveness. Additionally, there is an urgency to increase support to the European audiovisual industry because of competition in global audiovisual markets intensified by the deepening digital disruption shift.

Also, this Programme will contribute to mainstreaming climate actions in the Union's policies and to achieving an overall target of 25-30% of the Union budget expenditures supporting climate objectives.

The main EU added value comes from the strong transnational dimension of the Programme as already demonstrated in the Creative Europe programme 2014-2020. The multilateral transnational nature of Creative Europe provides a distinctive offer that is rarely matched by national funding, which tends to focus more on domestic activities and – and to a lesser extent – on bilateral transnational cooperation. This multilateral transnational focus is highly valued by stakeholders and beneficiaries as a unique element of Creative Europe. Only a few other existing international funds support transnational cooperation in the cultural and creative sectors at all and those that do are of significantly smaller scale.

Support to the cultural and creative sectors at European level needs to have a clear European added value, which is ensured, inter alia, through:

- (a) The transnational character of actions, which complement regional, national, international and other Union programmes and policies,
- (b) cross-border cooperation,
- (c) the economies of scale and growth and jobs which Union support fosters, creating a leverage effect for additional funds,
- (d) providing a more level playing field through the MEDIA strand by taking into account the specificities of the different countries.

The budgetary authority increased the budget of Creative Europe by over 80% on an EU 27 basis, in recognition of the value of the programme in addressing the unprecedented challenges faced by Europe's cultural and creative sectors.

The Creative Europe programme is based on Articles 167 and 173 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) of which Article 167 specifies the Union's competences in the cultural field and calls for action by the European Union to contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, simultaneously respecting their national and regional diversity, bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore and, if necessary, to support and supplement Member State action in the area listed by this provision.

Article 173 TFEU states that the Union and the Member States shall ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union's industry exist, including taking action to encourage an environment favourable to initiative and to the development of undertakings.

Other policy tools that will receive financing from Creative Europe and their legal bases:

- Decision No 1194/2011/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 establishing a European Union action for the European Heritage Label
- Decision No 445/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 and repealing Decision No 1622/2006/EC

1.5. Actions

The programme is divided into three strands: Culture, MEDIA, and Cross-Sectoral. The three strands account respectively for 33%, 58%, and 9% of the Creative Europe budget.

The CULTURE strand consists of the following actions:

- Horizontal actions covering all cultural and creative sectors: support to cultural **cooperation projects, networks** of professional organisations, **platforms** for the promotion of European artists and works, **individual mobility scheme**;
- **Sector-specific support** to complement horizontal actions in music, book & publishing, cultural heritage and architecture as well as other sectors; and

- **Special actions** to reward and promote excellence and creativity such as the **awards** for literature, music, architecture and cultural heritage, **European Capitals of Culture**, and the **European Heritage Label**.

The **MEDIA** supporting actions are divided into four thematic clusters:

- **Content**: encouraging collaboration and innovation in the creation and production of high-quality works (including for the first time in the new financing period in 2022 the call for video games development with the new opportunity for immersive experience production companies);
- **Business**: promoting business innovation, competitiveness, scalability and talents to strengthen Europe's industry vis-à-vis global competitors (in 2022 for the first time the 360 degrees call and for the first time in the new period the Distribution Selective call);
- **Audience**: strengthening the accessibility and visibility of works for their potential audiences, through distribution channels and audience development initiatives; and
- **Policy**: supporting policy discussion/exchange fora, studies and reports. Promoting awareness-raising activities.

The **MEDIA** strand will focus on:

- Encouraging **cooperation** both across the value chain and at EU level in order **to scale up audio-visual enterprises and European content globally**;
- Nurturing **talents**, wherever they come from, and broadening participation and collaboration across countries;
- Supporting the use of new technologies to ensure the full exploitation of the **digital transformation**; and
- Fostering the **greening** of the industry and including societal objectives such as **gender balance and diversity**.

The **CROSS-SECTORAL** strand's supporting actions focus on:

- **Transnational policy cooperation**: promoting knowledge of the Programme and supporting the transferability of results;
- Common challenges and opportunities for the CCS through **Creative Innovation Labs**: promoting innovative approaches to content creation, access, distribution and promotion across cultural and creative sectors. **News media**: supporting media literacy, quality journalism, media freedom and pluralism (quality journalism has been supported since 2021, the first open calls for proposals for media freedom and literacy will be launched in 2022).

1.6. Delivery mode

The programme is managed jointly by DG EAC and DG CNECT and implemented by EACEA, DG EAC and DG CNECT. Blended support of financial instruments will be managed by the European Investment Fund. Audiovisual policy actions and some news media actions are implemented by DG CNECT. DG EAC manages directly policy actions, cultural prizes and special actions such as the European Capitals of Culture and the works of the Panel of Experts in charge of the European Heritage Label. Cross-sectoral policy actions are implemented by DG EAC and DG CNECT.

The Culture and MEDIA administrative budget lines are implemented by DG EAC and DG CNECT respectively.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Domain	Culture		
Programme	Creative Europe		
	Culture strand Budget share: 33% All cultural sectors (except audiovisual)	Media strand Budget share: 58% Audiovisual	Cross sectoral strand Budget share: 9% Cross-sectoral collaboration News media
Beneficiaries	Depending on the action: networks and partnerships between SMEs, NGOs and/or public organisations. In relevant cases also individual organisations and individual artists and professionals.		
Management Mode	Direct - Implemented by the Education Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)		
	Managed by DG EAC	Managed by DG CNECT	Managed by DG EAC and DG CNECT

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 34).	2021 - 2027	1 842.00

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	306.4	406.5	325.3	239.7	244.5	249.4	254.6	2 026.3
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	10.1	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	10.1
Total	316.5	406.5	325.3	239.7	244.5	249.4	254.6	2 036.5

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The aim of this initiative is to build on the achievements of the Creative Europe Programme's 2014-2020 and scale up efforts whilst increasing the intensity of support in key areas. The new programme has a wider scope as it also covers audiovisual policy and support to the news media sector.

The mid-term evaluation of the programme outlined its achievements whilst addressing some shortcomings. Overall, the programme was effective and had a clear European added value.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

The Creative Europe website on Europa (https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/node_en)

Contains information on the specific actions of the programme, provide links to the respective policy areas and to other EU programmes and information that could be interesting for the sector.

The Creative Europe website run by EACEA (https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/creative-europe_en)

Provides information on calls for proposals.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	314.7	2 036.5	15%
Payments	60.5		3%

2021

The first year of implementation of the Creative Europe has been exceptionally challenging in terms of budget management. The late adoption of the programme Regulation has pushed forward the start of the activities (calls, selection, contracts, payments) to the second part of the year, affecting the budget management in 2021 and shifting some payments initially planned in 2021 to 2022. As a result, a very close budget monitoring approach allowed to promptly return the unnecessary payment appropriations detected in the revision of forecasts and ensured to fully use the remaining available payment appropriations in EU budget at year end. Moreover, this exceptional situation had no influence on the funding absorption capacity of the programme, for which all the commitments appropriations of the 2021 EU voted budget have been implemented.

In 2021, due to this delay in the implementation, only about 19% of the budget committed (€314,7 million) has been paid (€60,5 million).

2022

In 2022, Creative Europe has an adopted EU budget of EUR406.5 million. The year-by-year spread of the 2021-2027 budget is heavily frontloaded and the budget of 2022 is the highest of all the 7 years. This additional strengthening of the first years are aimed at helping the beneficiaries sectors to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. The CCS were amongst the hardest hit sectors of the economy. The budget of 2022 is significantly higher than that of 2021, as it is the first regular year budget (as in 2021 the works started with delay).

In 2022's programming, EACEA will implement approximately 90% of the budget, while about 10% will be implemented in a centralised manner.

2023

The total EU budget requested for 2023 amounts to € 325,3 million, about 20% less than 2022, fully aligned with the financial programming 2021-2027 which was heavily frontloaded in 2021 and 2022 to tackle the COVID-19 crisis.

In 2023's initial estimated programming, about 90% of the operational budget will be delegated to EACEA and 10% implemented in a centralized manner.

The work programme 2023 is planned to be adopted in early autumn 2022 together with the delegation to EACEA. Most actions and calls will be launched thereafter.

Creative Europe has an estimated budget of around EUR2.44 billion for the whole period 2021-2027.

With a 68% budget increased compared to its predecessor programme (2014-2020), Creative Europe invests in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors. Its novelties will contribute to the recovery of these sectors, reinforcing their efforts to become digital, greener, more resilient and more inclusive

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 487.6	1 488.0	100%
Payments	1 258.1		85%

The total C1 credits for the period 2014-2020 amounted to EUR 1 487 956 887 and were implemented at nearly 100% (EUR 1 487 619 769). During the period 2014-2021, the total payments amounted to EUR 1 258 130 362 162. The percentage indicated above (85%) corresponds to the ratio between the implemented payments and the total financial envelope. This implementation ratio is in line with the normal payment pattern of the programme where some cooperation projects are running over a 48-months period. We can therefore expected payments on the completion line at least until 2025. In 2021, payments were used to cover obligations resulting mainly from ongoing (interim payments) or closure (final payments) of projects implemented by EACEA.

Approximately 90% of the budget is implemented by EACEA, while approximately 10% is implemented in a centralised manner.

Furthermore, please note that the late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

2021 was a transition year for Creative Europe, during which the focus was implementing the legal basis into operational terms. The Work Programme 2021 was challenging, as it included numerous novelties, such as accounting for inclusiveness and sustainability measures and introducing new calls for proposals and new support measures of an innovative nature (MediaInvest). Additionally, within 2021, not only the first but also the second Work Programme (for 2022) was prepared and accepted. WP 2022 builds on the solutions established in 2021, developing them further. Due to delay in the adoption of the legal basis and the Work Programme 2021, there was a subsequent delay with publishing the 2021 Calls for proposals. Therefore, not all evaluations of the 2021 Calls have been finalised and it is not possible yet to provide the results. The implementation of the Calls for proposals also required more work than in previous years, as 2021 was the year of the rollout of eGrants system. Altogether the year was demanding for the Programme, but the significant preparations laid the ground for smoother, more streamlined implementation adapted to the needs of the sectors.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

- In 2021, exceptional efforts were made to catch up with the delays in the MFF package by proposing two annual Work Programmes. This determined that the focus of implementing the Programme was on management aspects. As a result, the legal base of Creative Europe was successfully translated into a practical new set of actions.
 - The two Work Programmes processed in 2021 had an important policy angle related implementing the European Democracy Action Plan (EDAP) and the Media and Audiovisual Action Plan (MAAP), adopted by the Commission in December 2020. One of the objectives of the EDAP is to strengthen media freedom and pluralism as well as to support media literacy. The MAAP proposes steps, combining investment with other policy actions and mobilising a variety of relevant EU regulatory and funding instruments, to support the recovery and transformation of the media and audiovisual sectors and provides a framework to ensure focus, coherence and complementarity. In full respect of Creative Europe's legal base, the Programme, as reflected already in the WP 2021 and 2022 will play a key role in taking these two Plans forward. The MEDIA and CROSS-SECTORAL strands, alongside other funding instruments, will finance key initiatives which will complement other types of measures such as research and innovation or strengthened cooperation amongst regulators.
- In May 2021, the Creative Europe Annual Work Programme 2021 was adopted and allocated around EUR 300 million to promote the diversity and competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors across Europe, contributing to recovery and resilience in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. More than EUR 80 million (almost a 30% increase compared to 2020) were allocated to CULTURE strand: the extra budget was used to increase our existing support and introduce novelties. For instance, more budget was allocated to cooperation to co-finance more projects and raise co-financing rates (up to 80% for small-scale partnerships) so that our funding is more accessible for micro/small cultural organisations (particularly hit by the pandemic). Our scheme to support the circulation of literary works was enhanced to encourage

more cooperation between publishers. The platforms scheme - successfully introduced in the previous programme for the promotion of emerging artists in Europe - has been increased and will help artists to reconnect with the audience after two years of Covid-related restrictions. The support to European professional networks in the culture field - a key tool for knowledge sharing and the dissemination of practices - was also increased to encourage the development of the cultural and creative sectors and accompany their digital and environmental transition. Promoting young musical talent throughout Europe was achieved by launching a successful new action consisting of support to pan-European cultural entities, in this case, orchestras.

- For the MEDIA strand, more than 154 million EUR were dedicated to open calls for proposals in 2021 budget compared to 125 million EUR in the 2020 budget. Several significant innovations were successfully introduced as regards MEDIA. One such innovation was streamlining the calls for proposals into thematic clusters. Another was restructuring of the calls related to the development stage of audiovisual production chain. The development schemes were adapted to better reflect the needs of different market players. Yet another significant change, relating to the ongoing digital transition, was the launch of a new call for proposals aimed at developing innovative tools and business models for European content and companies to thrive in the digital economy.
- For the cross-sectoral strand, its open calls for proposals budget grew from 3 million EUR in 2020 to 13.9 million EUR in 2021, as a brand new action (Journalism Partnerships) was added. This action signifies opening the Programme to a brand new type sector of beneficiaries: news media.
- The total budget (including non-open calls for proposals grants and procurements in addition to open calls) in 2021 was 172.6 million EUR for MEDIA, 27.7 million EUR for cross-sectoral and 97.4 million EUR for CULTURE.

In November 2021 the Programme Committee gave a positive opinion on the Creative Europe Work Programme 2022. This allowed to gradually catch up the programming delays by allowing the formal adoption in January 2022 and the launch of the Calls in February. The WP 2022 represents the biggest annual budget in the MFF, approximately 30% more than 2021. The frontloading in 2021 and 2022 and corresponding budgetary profile was the result of a political decision of the budgetary authority in order to support recovery of the sector hit by the pandemic, with a peak in 2022 (further reinforced by the 2022 Conciliation top up).

- The very uneven annual budget profiles has required a special budget management and programming effort. To avoid funding volatility, which could destabilise stakeholders, multi-annual programming has been used in both the WP 2021 and WP 2022. In some cases this has meant that the support measures were not financed every year as in the past.
- Furthermore, the document of the Commission Financing Decision for the Work Programmes was streamlined, in line with the legal base and Financial Regulation, thus allowing a more strategic overview and enabling more operational flexibility on technical details.
- In 2021, following political agreement, the association agreements for 10 countries already associated to the Creative Europe programme, were signed and the process of associating other countries that have an expressed an interest to join the programme was started.
- Immediately after the adoption of the Work Programme 2021 the open Calls for proposals were launched. There were 5 calls under the CULTURE, 14 calls under the MEDIA strand and 2 open calls for proposals under the CROSS-SECTORAL strand.
- More than 660 applications were submitted under the Culture strand, totalling a demand of more than 378 million EUR. The high volume of demand and the ensuing competition for funding proved the relevance of the Programme's objectives and priorities. The introduction of a medium-scale cooperation project category proved particularly appealing and the higher co-funding rates reflected the sector's current needs in a clear manner. The introduction of new priorities and award criteria including on digital transition, environmental sustainability, social cohesion and inclusion resulted in more applications and better projects contributing to key transversal Commission priorities. At the same time, the essence of the programme – promoting cultural diversity – was respected by the selection of many projects on transnational artistic co-creation, circulation of artists and cultural works and audience development. The selection of organisations in the framework of the new action in the form of pan-European entities will allow stable support to orchestras whose unique way of working will allow young talent to be showcased and promoted and find an audience across borders. This new support mechanism is particularly relevant to take off in the European Year of Youth 2022.
- Altogether 1212 applications were submitted to the MEDIA open calls for proposals for the total amount of 271 million EUR and 85 applications to the Cross-Sectoral calls for the total amount of 50 million EUR. Although the period of applying (mostly summer months), caused by the delay in the Programme adoption, was not the most convenient to the applicants, the number of applications as well as the amounts that were requested by the applicants were overall satisfactory although varying from one Call to another. The quality of the applications in those Calls that have already been fully evaluated (before February 2022) is considered high.
- Under the MEDIA calls special new measures were introduced for ensuring a broadened participation for applicants from countries with smaller scale and level of development of audiovisual industry, who have had problems with benefitting from the Programme so far. Broadening the participation and collaboration between organisations from diverse countries is a MEDIA priority, increasing the European added value of the Programme. A lot has been done to address the issue of the level playing field in the past and results have been successful. During the period 2014-2020 countries were assigned to one of three groups: high-, medium-, or low-capacity. Data collected in 2018 and 2020 showed that medium capacity and some of the low capacity countries have been significant beneficiaries, receiving much more than would be proportionate to their share in EU population. Therefore, since their situation improved since when the measures were launched, this classification was no longer justified. The new categorisation introduced in 2021 differentiated between two

types of low-capacity countries instead of low- and medium- and introduced appropriate measures to increase their participation.

- MEDIA has included in the Work Programme 2021 for the first time an innovative support measure for the audiovisual industry: the MediaInvest blending facility. The European audiovisual sector faces several simultaneous challenges: it is highly dependent on public funds; the independent European companies are put under ever greater competitive pressure by the huge US-based companies to raise the average production budgets and; private investors consider the audiovisual industry to be risky and avoid the much needed capital investments. The MediaInvest blending facility aims at encouraging private investment in the sector. The MediaInvest offers blending of public funds: from Creative Europe, Invest EU and EIF with private investments into commercially viable, European-scale audiovisual projects. The backing of public funds will multiply the effect a private investor can have with their funds, therefore decreasing their perceived risks, allowing the projects to reach the critical scale. It will strengthen the position of independents by giving them access to increased capital resources. Throughout 2021 preparations were taken forward for the launch of the MediaInvest equity investment platform. It will be implemented by EIF through a Delegation Agreement regarding InvestEU. Negotiations between the European Commission and the EIF were ongoing in 2021. A product fiche was developed at technical level. The call for proposals is expected to be launched in Q1 2022 and will be valid for 6 years.
- The WP 2022, prepared in 2021, builds on the WP2021, but enriches it with additional calls using the fact that it has a much higher budget: in MEDIA 3 calls which had predecessors in 2014-2020 will be re-introduced, after some important changes: 360 degrees (for B2B activities); video games (with the addition of immersive content); Automatic Distribution. In CROSS-SECTORAL the News Media Literacy and Pluralism calls will be launched for the first time, expanding the offer for news media sector stakeholders.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

3.1.3. A. Summary of 2014-2020 achievements

The 2014-2020 programme progressed toward the achievement of its overall objectives, i.e. safeguarding and promoting cultural diversity and strengthening competitiveness. The measurement through key performance indicators shows how diversity was strengthened by helping European content (films, music, books, ...) reach wider audiences and how Creative Europe played an important economic role in leveraging investment by acting as a guarantee for quality. The quality of received applications can be considered high and the success rate relatively low, given the restricted budget, with some schemes being more competitive than others. Overall during 2014-2020 Creative Europe received more than 32 000 eligible proposals and awarded 13 476 grants. Creative Europe supported:

- around 650 cultural cooperation projects between 3 760 organisations across Europe;
- the development and/or distribution of over 5 000 films and the operations of 1 144 cinemas;
- the translation of 3 500 books all over Europe.

The MEDIA Sub-programme performed very well with respect to promoting European cultural and linguistic diversity, by supporting the development and distribution of hundreds of audiovisual works, thus helping them find their audiences. Through the support, development and distribution of about 25% of European films produced every year, MEDIA plays a significant role in creating a European ecosystem, which allows films to go beyond their domestic markets. MEDIA helped the audiovisual industry to grow by addressing different stages of audiovisual value creation chain:

- Fostering **talent and skills** at international level through supporting 261 training projects over 2014-2020 which equipped over 16 000 professionals with content-related, business and technological skills. In 2021 48 training projects committed in 2020 were implemented.
- Fostering **high quality, innovative content creation**. MEDIA supports the creation of films, TV series and video games, which have the potential to travel, by helping them to achieve the quality needed to attract international audiences. It can be considered a success that a very high share of content created with the support of MEDIA are co-productions as it is proven that they have bigger budgets, travel more broadly and attract bigger audiences. Considering the European market is fragmented and operating on a small-scale, increased average budgets and reach is a step towards market structuring. MEDIA is also present (through cascading grants to national funds) in the cooperation between filmmakers from the EU and developing countries. In 2021, 245 development and 46 production projects for almost 33 million EUR committed in 2020 were being implemented.
- Increasing **circulation and cross-border access**. MEDIA makes an essential contribution to making European films available beyond their domestic markets. It supports the theatrical release of several hundred films across borders every year. It also co-finances the growing Europa Cinemas network of cinema theatres (1 149) which excel in the exhibition of European titles. Members of Europa Cinemas serve local communities as unique venues for film culture, animation and education.
- Increased **promotion** of European works. MEDIA supported promotion activities in several ways: support to festivals to give visibility to newly released works; promotion of European works online, through innovative VOD services as well as cross-border collaboration between VOD platforms; audience development through education; promotion of European films at exhibitor conventions; facilitating access to and strengthening the visibility of European professionals in

audiovisual markets and exhibitions, in Europe and beyond. In 2021, despite COVID-related restrictions, 81 film festivals and 51 markets were organised (partly in hybrid or online forms) with the support of 14 million EUR committed in 2020.

The Culture Sub-programme progressed towards the achievement of its key objectives, such as encouraging transnational cooperation in the cultural field:

- More than 1 100 projects have been funded and more than 647 cooperation partnerships have been created between 3 760 organisations across Europe by the Creative Europe programme – culture strand.
- Simplifications of procedures, more guidance to applicants and increased budget have resulted in a better access to Creative Europe support for smaller organisations: more than 70% of the beneficiaries are small or medium size organisations.
- The European platforms scheme has been a success. The scheme was introduced at the beginning of the programme to stimulate the transnational programming and promotion of European emerging artists: the number of supported platforms has grown from 5 in 2014 to 15 platforms in 2020.
- The support to European networks of cultural and creative organisations has been an efficient capacity-building tool: CE has supported over 30 European networks connecting more than 4 000 organisations across Europe with a view to disseminate good practices and innovations and structure the different culture and creative sectors.
- The literary translation scheme has efficiently contributed to increasing the diversity of European literature through the translation and promotion of more than 3 500 books. With more than 30 different ‘less represented’ languages, the scheme has a clear added value in comparison to the market dominated by translations from English. Finally, the programme demonstrated its ability to innovate and respond to the demand by testing a new mobility scheme for artists and professionals.

As part of the support for Special Actions, the Culture Sub-programme supported the organisation of four European prizes in the areas of music, literature, architecture and cultural heritage. All Prizes organised award ceremonies together with side events to celebrate their winners, gather stakeholders and attract media attention:

- The Music Moves Europe Talent Awards. By awarding young artists from all over Europe who reached audiences outside their own countries, the EU prize for popular and contemporary music puts a spotlight on Europe’s vibrant music scene. Since 2019, the prize celebrated 28 artists (36 awards) who represent the sound of today and tomorrow. Among the award winners of the recent years were for instance Dua Lipa, Alice Merton, Rosalia or Lou and the Yakuza.
- The European Heritage Awards is the most prestigious prize in the field and contributes to a stronger public recognition of cultural heritage as a strategic resource for Europe’s society, economy and environment. It rewards each year up to 30 heritage achievements, which have the power of example. Since 2002, independent expert juries have selected 533 award-winning projects from 34 countries.
- The European Union Prize for Literature. With more than 135 authors rewarded showcasing 33 different European languages, the European Union Prize for Literature gives visibility to emerging European writers, encourages translations and promotes the diversity and excellence of European literature.
- The EU Prize for Contemporary Architecture: Three editions (2015, 2017, 2019) were organised during the lifetime of the programme: 1 158 works from 37 countries were nominated, among which 10% of transnational works (i.e. built by architects from a different CE country). Over the years, the prize has rewarded excellent examples of the contribution of transformative architecture to the circular economy, energy efficiency and sustainable development. The EU Mies Award was complemented by the launch in 2016 of the Young Talent Architecture Award (YTAA), which rewards the best graduation projects from European architecture, urban planning and landscape schools.

Among the Special Actions, the European Capitals of Culture (ECOCs) have had a significant leverage effect on long-term cultural, social and economic benefits to the cities which have held the title. From 2014 to 2020, the Melina Mercouri Prize was awarded to 14 cities as European Capitals of Culture, to stimulate culture-led investments by national, regional and local public authorities: as an example, the two 2018 ECOCs invested approximately EUR 104.6 million in Leeuwarden (The Netherlands) and EUR 26.5 million in Valetta (Malta). One euro of public money invested in an ECOC project can generate up to 6 euros in return for the local economy (as was for example the case in Mons, ECOC 2015) and overnight visitors increase on average by 12%. In Leeuwarden, overnight stays in hotels showed an increase from 0.8 million in 2017 to 2.1 million in 2018.

3.1.3 B. The 2014-2020 MFF results manifested in 2021:

Most of the projects financed in the final years of the previous programme were multi-annual and therefore continue to provide funding and effects on the Culture and Creative sectors: Co-creation, mobility for artists, access to culture and cultural works for Europeans. Development of new business models and innovative practices.

In **Culture** for instance, the 74 publishers selected in 2020 will launch the translation and the promotion of nearly 600 books in 2021 and 2022. The 16 platforms selected in 2018 will have their final year of operation in 2021 and will provide many

opportunities for emerging European artists to perform outside borders and reconnect with the audience after many months of lockdown and covid-related restrictions.

Another example is the new mobility instrument launched in the last years of the previous programmes: i-Portunus was a short-term pilot project, to trial a mobility scheme in 41 countries directly targeting individual artists and culture professionals (A&CP). After a first pilot edition (2018-2020) focusing on Performing and Visual arts, the project continued for a second edition (2020-2022) focusing on A&CPs in the Architecture, Cultural Heritage, Music and Literary Translators sub-sectors. The mobility scheme i-Portunus, based on a demand-led approach, was managed by a Consortium headed by Goethe-Institut with Istitut français and Izolyatsia.

Between December 2020 and December 2021, when the pandemic of Covid-19 was still severely impacting people worldwide, and particularly the Cultural and Creative Sector, i-Portunus issued 5 Calls for Applications and received over 1 800 applications from more than 3 600 individuals requesting almost 6 million EUR of support, hence proving the need for artistic mobility. A team of ten independent experts evaluated the applications. Nearly 320 individual artists and culture professionals completed a mobility with i-Portunus for a total amount of 514.023,64 €.

As a result of the mobility, 93% of the selected A&CP acquired new skills/knowledge, 73.2% developed new audiences/outlets or possibility for new co-productions/creations, and 38.7 % received a job offer. Over 91% would have not undertaken a mobility without i-Portunus. This is a most impressive impact considering the limited financial support provided by the project, with a maximum of 3 000 EUR per individual.

In addition yearly flagship actions such as EU cultural prizes (Music, literature, architecture and cultural heritage), European capital of Culture or Heritage label have contributed - in 2021 - to highlight and concretely showcase the excellence and diversity of European creativity or common heritage in Europe.

The agreements for the **Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS)** Guarantee Facility signed between the EIF and financial intermediaries before the end of 2020 brought their largest results so far in 2021. Only in 2021 460 million EUR was made available to 2,272 CCS SMEs, bringing the overall results since the start of the activity to 1.29 billion EUR and 5,898 SMEs.

Year after year **MEDIA**-supported audiovisual works receive some of the most prestigious recognitions in the world. Some notable examples in 2021 included 3 awards Oscars and additional 11 Oscar nominations, for films supported still under the 2014-2020 period. Another outstanding work appeared in the video games genre: the *It Takes Two* video game about solving family problems by cooperation, created by Swedish Hazelight Games, which had been developed with the support of MEDIA grant, won 3 awards in the globally most important The Game Awards (including the main one: game of the year, as well as in the categories: multiplayer and family). Sometimes the period between finalising a grant for development and the moment of receiving awards for a finished work can extend to several years. In the Autumn 2021 festivals season 6 new titles supported by MEDIA in development received nominations at the Venice Film Festival.

It is important to illustrate the scale of the substantial reach of MEDIA strand by the available qualitative, ad-hoc data. The final reports of several dozen of beneficiaries of the TV content call for proposals from 2020 (which were submitted by the end of 2021) indicate that as far as they were aware, their MEDIA-supported works in 2021 reached at least 29 million national viewers and almost 20 million audiences in other countries. This ad-hoc data only sheds some light on the scale of the total audiences. Due to industry practices (the distributors are not obliged to share data with the producers, who are MEDIA beneficiaries) it is impossible to acquire the information on all TV and online audiences in a regular, systematic manner.

3.2. Key achievements

2 European Capitals of Culture	3 Oscars	22 Calls for Proposals	36 European networks
European Capitals of Culture: Rijeka(Croatia) and Galway (Ireland) 2021 European Capitals of Culture	3 Oscars awarded to in 2021	22 calls for proposals have been published in 2021 to launch the implementation of the new programme	European networks representing 4 000 organisations across all cultural sectors under the 2014-2020 programme.
68 European Cinema Night screenings	460 million EUR	Nearly 13 500 awarded grants	Nearly 650 partnerships
In 2021	of new debt financing by the end of 2021	to support projects and initiatives in the culture and audio-visual field under the 2014-2020 programme.	with long-term effects on 3 760 organisations across Europe under the 2014-2020

				programme.
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Common areas

The Programme has a comprehensive outreach strategy, making it well recognisable amongst cultural, audiovisual and other creative professionals as well as general public (audiences of European works). The regularly edited Instagram account @creativeEU arrived at 16 000 followers in 2021.

CULTURE Sub-programme

The year 2021 was devoted to launch the new programme and publish the calls for proposals planned in the 2021 annual work programme. The programme offers continuation and novelties that were presented to potential applicants.

Despite late adoption of the work programme the following calls were launched as planned in the work programme and were well subscribed showing the relevance of the programme for the sectors: European cooperation, pan European entities, networks of professional organisations, platforms for the promotion of emerging artist and circulation of literary works. Selected projects under Networks and pan European cultural entities were contracted late 2021 to offer continuity of funding for some of the organisations funded under the previous programme. While it was particularly relevant to achieve support for those networks representing precious partners for European policy development, it was at the same time important to allow for the selection of new networks in policy areas not yet covered to be able to contribute to policy in a similar manner. The high quality of projects submitted for pan-European cultural entities reflected the existence of organizations potentially not covered by other horizontal actions due to their way of functioning, fulfilling an important role as enshrined in the new legal base. The 2021 selection confirmed the need for such support and can be further developed based on the implementation results of this first selection round.

The programme continued to build on the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) to promote and safeguard cultural heritage on many levels. For instance, the Commission's Cultural Heritage Expert Group, composed of Member States, key stakeholders as well as several individual experts, maintain the spirit of cooperation and policy dialogue achieved during the Year. In addition to providing advice and expertise the Commission, the Group also serves as a platform for consultation and the exchange of information on cultural heritage policies in order to support the implementation of the **European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage (EFACH)**. Many activities have been put in place to maintain the momentum of the Year and harness its benefits. **Over 60 actions of the EFACH respond to five pillars pertaining to inclusiveness, sustainability, resilience, innovation and global partnerships.** They include Creative Europe funded actions such as joint EU-UNESCO project on engaging youth and schools for heritage (300 000 EUR), which came to an end in April 2021, or the 'Cultural Heritage in Action', launched by the Commission in 2020, a peer-learning programme for local and regional policymakers to exchange knowledge on cultural heritage. **It produced a first catalogue of 32 local and regional best practices on participatory governance of cultural heritage, adaptive reuse of built heritage and quality of interventions on cultural heritage.**

MEDIA Sub-programme

Throughout 2021, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to cause sudden lockdown of cinemas and disrupting the production of new content (cash-flow shortages, problems with shooting) the success of the Programme was to maintain the financial backing for the industry stakeholders, which was highly appreciated.

The MEDIA strand, in addition to overall Programme communication activities, undertook several special ones in 2021. MEDIA runs its own account on Twitter (@mediaprog) where in 2021 its number of followers exceeded 16 000. The outreach events in 2021 included the European Cinema Night film screenings in collaboration with Europa Cinemas members especially in non-capital cities and towns and *A season of classics* screenings in collaboration with film libraries and archives. MEDIA executed two communication campaigns online: CaractHER on gender equality in the audiovisual industry and the campaign celebrating 30 years of the Programme ([We All Love Stories](#)).

Cross – sectoral strand

The first edition of the Journalism Partnerships call was very successful, proving how much the investigative and quality journalism organisations needed and awaited it. The call aims to improve the exchange of news of cross-border importance, of cross-border nature and to enhance the qualitative journalism offer in Europe. In total 32 applications were submitted out of which 18 scored above 70% points, showing high quality. Due to the budget constraints, only 7 of the 18 could be funded. Similarly, the 2021 edition of **Creative Innovation Labs**, just like the previous preparatory ones (called *Bridging Culture and Audiovisual through Digital*), was met with an enthusiastic response from the sector.

The key achievement of Creative Europe Desks in 2021 was the successful work they put into training the stakeholders, and later applicants into using the new eGrants system.

Project '**Cultural and Creative Spaces and Cities**' (2018-2021, EUR1.5 million) continued the implementation of its activities in 2021: The wider context of cultural centres were explored for a **better use of public spaces for social regeneration through culture**. Cities and regional authorities were actively involved in the project and a series of urban labs and co-creation labs were organised to develop new ways of working together and involving 'creative commons'. Due to the COVID-crisis the remaining urban labs and other workshops took place virtually, including the project closing conference, which was held at the beginning of February 2021.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Evaluations:

The Creative Europe Programme 2014-2020 was evaluated on a mid-term basis, with results published in 2018. The feasible recommendations from the evaluation were incorporated into the implementation of the Programme 2018-2020 (where possible) and into the 2021-2027 Programming Period. The final evaluation of the 2014-2020 Programme will start in 2023.

2021 studies and reports:

1. The Monitoring Reports, published every year since 2017, present in-depth analysis of the programme’s performance. They feature both quantitative as well as qualitative information on the implementation processes, outcomes and broader impact. The edition covering 2020, prepared and published in 2021 can be found at: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/49a05a63-1b4d-11ec-b4fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

2. The study on the potential impact and opportunities of **Artificial Intelligence** for creative sectors, funded under 2020 Work Plan, was ongoing throughout 2021 (to be finalised and published in 2022).

3. The European Audiovisual Observatory, co-financed by Creative Europe, as every year was commissioned to prepare regular studies (MAVISE database update; studies tracking the production, promotion, circulation and availability of European audiovisual works) and ad-hoc briefing notes on the trends in the audiovisual industry.

4. Each year, ex-post evaluations of the Capitals of Culture of the previous year are conducted. For instance the external ex post evaluation conducted in 2019 has shown that the two title-holders in 2018 – Valletta (Malta) and to a higher degree Leeuwarden-Friesland (the Netherlands) – derived substantial economic, social and cultural benefits from the title.

5. In the context of the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, the following **studies** have provided useful findings for stakeholders and policy makers.

- Role of culture in promoting citizenship, values and democracy (launched end of 2021)

6. In the context of the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, the Commission has cooperated with the Member States in the form of the following **Open Method of Coordination (OMC)** working groups in 2021:

- Gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors (report published)
- High quality architecture and built environment for everyone (report published)
- Audiovisual coproductions (report published)
- Multilingualism and translation (report published)
- Strengthening resilience of cultural heritage in light of climate change (report in mid/end 2022)
- The Cultural dimension of sustainable development (report in mid-2022)

7. On MEDIA side, preparatory works were done in 2021 for the study on providing a level playing field for audiovisual players from countries with different audiovisual capacities accounting for the changes in relative market sizes after Brexit. The study will be launched in 2022.

8. A study was launched in 2021 to identify good practices and measures to improve the “green dimension” of Creative Europe.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Enhancing artistic and cultural cooperation at the European level, in order to support the creation of European works and strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of and innovation and mobility in Europe’s cultural and creative sectors

Indicator 1: Number and scale of transnational partnerships created with the support of the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Partnerships										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	132	147	145	128	146	142	150			990
	Actual Progress									Final
	136									
Are we on track :	On track									

Organisations										
2021	Milestones								2027	
0	772	861	846	867	736	829	876			5 787
	Actual Progress									Final
	774									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Partnerships (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Enhance artistic and cultural cooperation at European level; support the creation of European works; strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of Europe’s cultural and creative sectors.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Previous Indicator: 'the scale of international activities of cultural and creative organisations and the number of transnational partnerships created'. Reporting will continue on this indicator, which has been simplified to report on the number and size of transnational partnerships.
Other methodological comments	This composite indicator will combine the numbers and geographic origins of the partnerships created under all three strands of the programme to show the overall effect on internationalising and scaling-up the activity of CCS actors. The baseline figure for 2020 comprised 130 (COOP + PLAT) partnerships involving 635 beneficiary organisations (COOP + PLAT Coordinators + partners) and additional 274 associated partners. However changes adopted for the calls (AWP, discussions SJ on Platforms etc.) has resulted in LIT being open to consortia, COOP allowing for 3 scales of project (Large, Medium and Small) compared to 2 in the previous MFF (Large and small) and PLAT being fully mono-beneficiary with cascading grants which makes it difficult to count the number of partners for this scheme. The indicator now only takes into account the number of multi-beneficiary contracts and the number of co-beneficiaries selected under COOP and LIT annual calls.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The number of partnerships is above the target due to additional funds being allocated to the LIT call than planned. The number of organisations involved is slightly above the target due to additional funds being allocated to the LIT Call

Indicator 2: Number of artists & cultural &/or creative players (geographically) mobile beyond national borders due to Programme support, by country of origin (including the proportion of women)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Artists										
2021	Milestones								2027	
0	22 549	47 934	72 830	98 398	119 834	144 189	170 053			170 053
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Women										
	Milestones									
										Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Enhance artistic and cultural cooperation at European level; support the creation of European works; strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of Europe’s cultural and creative sectors with an emphasis on innovation and mobility.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This rephrased indicator was introduced by the 2019 delegated act amending the indicators of the previous programme.
Other methodological comments	The Milestones are based on historical data from COOP projects funded in 2017 and completed by February 2021. This is the year for which the data is most complete in terms of beneficiaries who have submitted their eReport. The milestones extrapolate the mobility achieved from the 2017 COOP projects and represents the number of mobilities achieved per 1M€ of grant awarded to those projects (370) across all projects closed. This is likely to be a conservative estimate since there is significant mobility in the PLAT and NET schemes (most of which have not submitted their eReports for the full funding period), plus the specific mobility action. Data for Women will be calculated in 2022.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year. Full data on mobility achieved will be available once reported by the beneficiaries.

Indicator 3: Number of people accessing European cultural and creative works generated by the Programme, including works from countries other than their own

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	73	155	236	319	389	468	552			552
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of people (cumulative, millions)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Enhance artistic and cultural cooperation at European level; support the creation of European works; strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of Europe’s cultural and creative sectors with an emphasis on innovation and mobility.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This rephrased indicator was introduced by the 2019 delegated act amending the indicators of the previous Programme.
Other methodological comments	Based on the average reported ticket sales per project. If the online audience is included, the baseline will increase to 26 million people.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 4: Number of projects supported by the Programme addressed to socially marginalised groups

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	37	42	41	42	35	40	42			279
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Projects (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Enhance artistic and cultural cooperation at European level; support the creation of European works; strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of Europe’s cultural and creative sectors with an emphasis on innovation and mobility.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Previous Programme indicator: 'the number of projects addressed to children, young people and under-represented groups and the estimated number of people reached'. This indicator was rephrased and introduced by the 2019 delegated act amending the indicators of the previous Programme. The initial baseline was extrapolated from the self-declarations of applicants to a list of priorities / topics with no specific limitations.
Other methodological comments	As of 2021 only those selected COOP projects for which the applicant has ticked social cohesion as a first or second priority in their application form will be counted. The milestones have been established based on the provisional list of selected projects from the 2021 COOP call and scaled up proportionally according to the planned budget per year. These estimates however are conservative as it is also possible that projects under other calls will address socially marginalised groups even if this is not a stated priority of the call. These additional projects will become clear in the reporting phases for the calls. This is more specific than in the past when all projects addressing the issue directly or indirectly were considered. See baseline.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Number of projects supported by the Programme involving third countries organisations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	58	64	63	64	56	62	65			432
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Projects (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Enhance artistic and cultural cooperation at European level; support the creation of European works; strengthen the economic, social and external dimension of Europe’s cultural and creative sectors.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	Number of partnerships projects (COOP and LIT) including entities based in non-EU 27 participating and non-participating countries (as Associated partners) . Milestones have been calculated based on the number of projects projected for selection under LIT and COOP that include non EU27 organisations as Coordinators, partners or associated partners. The milestones are conservative as they will grow as more countries sign association agreements with the programme and due to a small number of additional mono-beneficiary agreements with non EU-27 for calls based on multiannual commitments (PECE, NET and PLAT) for which a second call is planned in for 2024. The milestones consider the fluctuations in budgets planned annually for COOP and a steady stream of LIT budget allocation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Specific Objective 2: Promoting the competitiveness and, scalability, cooperation, innovation, and sustainability, including through mobility in the European audiovisual sector

Indicator 1: The number of people accessing European audiovisual works from countries other than their own and supported by the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	9	11	12	13	14	16	18			93
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of people (yearly, millions)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Applications and final reports from beneficiaries (e-Grants)
Link to the objective	Exposure to audiovisual non-national European content increases the effective pluralism and cultural diversity in Europe. Through dynamic adaptation, consumption of cultural materials creates appetite for more of this type in the future, creating a virtuous cycle of supply and demand. The consumption of European films will contribute to strengthened European identity and sense of belonging to European community and proximity with other nations. Increased viewership means increased revenues and possibility to scale-up for the industry.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	This composite indicator will combine the numbers and geographic origins of the partnerships created under all three strands of the programme to show the overall effect on internationalising and scaling-up the activity of CCS actors. The baseline figure for 2020 comprised 130 (COOP + PLAT) partnerships involving 635 beneficiary organisations (COOP + PLAT Coordinators + partners) and additional 274 associated partners. However, changes adopted for the calls (AWP, discussions SJ on

	Platforms etc.) has resulted in LIT being open to consortia, COOP allowing for 3 scales of project (Large, Medium and Small) compared to 2 in the previous MFF (Large and small) and PLAT being fully mono-beneficiary with cascading grants which makes it difficult to count the number of partners for this scheme. The indicator now only considers the number of multi-beneficiary contracts and the number of co-beneficiaries selected under COOP and LIT annual calls.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The number of partnerships is above the target due to additional funds being allocated to the LIT call than planned. The number of organisations involved is slightly above the target due to additional funds being allocated to the LIT Call r.

Indicator 2: Number of participants in learning activities supported by the Programme who assess they have improved their competences and increased their employability (including the proportion of women)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Participants										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	2 200	2 260	2 240	2 250	2 260	2 270	2 280			15 760
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Women										
2021	Milestones									2027
0%	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%	55%			55%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants answering favourably to the relevant questions (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Final reports from beneficiaries (e-Grants)
Link to the objective	Training is a capacity building measure - Training courses are focused on improving skills. The completion of a Programme supported course results in audiovisual professionals more likely to develop their careers and use the skills and networking acquired during the training in order to create innovative, internationally oriented, well-crafted works.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 3: Number, budget and geographical origins of co-productions developed, created and distributed with the support of the Programme as well as co-productions with partners from countries with different audiovisual capacities; and number of audiovisual works in lesser used languages developed, and produced and distributed with the support of the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Co-productions										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	410	440	430	430	430	430	430			3 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									
Budget										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	160	170	165	166	167	168	169		169	166
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Budget Million EUR, number and countries of co-productions (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Applications and final reports from beneficiaries (e-Grants)
Link to the objective	Co-productions travel better than single-country productions. The design of a co-production entails an international marketing attitude. Budgets of co-productions are usually higher, and in the audiovisual sector the rule of the thumb is that the higher the budget, the greater the chance of recouping it. Therefore, co-productions contribute to increasing the competitiveness of producers by scaling-up and adopting customer-centric orientation. The countries defined in the Programme as 'Low Capacity' should especially increase their output of co-productions in order to increase the competitiveness of their industries. The Programme assists this goal, in addition to the expansion of film industries and cultural diversity in countries, which have more difficulties of manifesting their cultures in the form of films due to language barriers (there are few native speakers).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year (the contracts committed under 2021 budget will only be implemented from 2022)Due to much larger budget in 2022 than in other years the expected number of projects resulting in this year should be higher. The target is a cumulative number.

Indicator 4: Number of people reached by Business to Business promotional activities in major markets

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	180 000	220 000	280 000	280 000	280 000	280 000	280 000			257 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of people (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Final reports from beneficiaries and contractors (e-Grants)
Link to the objective	Industry markets is where large share of audiovisual business deals are struck. Therefore, MEDIA supports these events. The activity of MEDIA in these events has three functions: 1) to support the market organisers so that the markets in Europe are attractive to film makers; 2) to support European filmmakers in facilitating their access to markets and 3) raising awareness among filmmakers about the Programme's opportunities for them.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 5: Number of audiovisual works in lesser-used languages developed, produced and distributed with the support of the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	385	410	390	400	410	420	430			2 845
	Actual Progress									Final
	91									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Audiovisual work title

Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Results of Development (minislate, co-productions, slate), TV and Selective Distribution calls.
Link to the objective	By supporting the creation of new works and circulation of the existing ones, the Programme gives companies from countries with smaller audiovisual markets and lesser-known languages, to grow into European scale, and through that indirectly have spillover effects into other players in their markets.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This indicator approximates the language used based on the identification of the principal country of origin.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The Actual Progress for 2021 relates only to part of the results (3/5 schemes) available now (Films on the Move, Mini Slate, TV). The figure above represents 20% of the supported works. The Automatic Distribution scheme supports most of works in terms of volume, and its results arrive only after 3 years.

Specific Objective 3: Promoting policy cooperation and innovative actions supporting all strands of the programme, promoting a diverse, independent and pluralistic media environment, and media literacy, thereby fostering freedom of artistic expression, intercultural dialogue and social inclusion.

Indicator 1: Number and scale of transnational partnerships formed (composite indicator for creative innovation labs and news media actions)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Partnerships										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	10	18	16	17	18	19	20			20
	Actual Progress									Final
	11									
Are we on track :	On track									
Organisations										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	39	60	50	55	65	70				70
	Actual Progress									Final
	54									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of partnerships (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Collaboration increases competitiveness allowing organisations to scale-up in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) which are generally small and micro-organisations. Collaboration also widens the circulation of cultural content: co-produced cultural projects have a wider potential for public access. Further, collaboration increases the internationalisation of CCS organisation activities and facilitates creating European identity through closer bonds with content created in other Member States. The Cross-Sectoral collaboration allows for faster spreading of the most innovative and creative approaches and cross-fertilisation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 2: Number of events or activities promoting the Programme organised by the programme desks

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	400	400	400	400	400	400	400			2 800
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on	No data									

track :	
Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Events (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	The outreach activity of Programme Desks increases the visibility of the Programme among professionals and general audience. By raising awareness of the programme, the events might encourage otherwise unwilling professionals to shift towards a more European-scale approach and foster international collaboration.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 3: Number of participants in the creative innovation labs and news media actions activities, including the proportion of women

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Participants										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	0	50	30	40	50	60	70			300
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Women										
2021	Milestones									2027
0%	0%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	Collaboration increases competitiveness allowing organisations to scale-up in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) which are usually small and micro-organisations. Collaboration also widens the circulation of cultural content: co-produced cultural projects have a wider potential for public access. Further, collaboration increases the internationalisation of CCS organisation activities and facilitates creating European identity through closer bonds with content created in other Member States. The Cross-Sectoral collaboration allows for faster spreading of the most innovative and creative approaches and cross-fertilisation.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The actions for this indicator will start in 2022. The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

General objective 1: to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage

Indicator 1: Number and scale of transnational partnerships created with the support of the Programme, including the country of origin of the beneficiary organizations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Partnerships										
2020	Milestones									2027
0	200	220	215	195	220	215	225			225
	Actual Progress									Final
	204									
Are we on track :	On track									
Organisations										
2021	Milestones									2027
0	2 375	2 400	2 380	2 400	2 410	2 420				2 420
	Actual Progress									Final
	2 419									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Partnerships (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Applications
Link to the objective	Collaboration increases competitiveness through allowing to scale-up for organisations and the circulation of content.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

Indicator 2:Qualitative evidence of success stories in the field of artistic, business and technological innovation due to the programme support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
0	20	20	20	20	20	20	20			140
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of cases of good practices and excellence (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	e-Grants
Link to the objective	The Cultural and Creative Sectors (CCS) have a value which lies in their symbolic influence on audiences and ability to innovate. The Programme has a much smaller scale compared to the size of the sector and measuring its impact is difficult. It is crucial that the Programme leverages its support to critical parts of the sector. This indicator monitors qualitative challenges tackled and changes which have been achieved within key areas of the CCS resulting from support of the Programme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New Indicator for 21-27
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The late adoption of the legal basis in May 2021 (linked to the delayed adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework) resulted in some delays in implementation even though the Commission took mitigating measures to minimise consequences as much as possible, in cooperation with national authorities, national agencies and the Executive Agency. We will thus only be able to add finalised and consolidated data at a later stage regarding this year.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Creative Europe Programme

Specific Objective 2: To promote the transnational circulation of cultural and creative works and transnational mobility of cultural and creative players, in particular artists, as well as to reach new and enlarged audiences and improve access to cultural and creative works in the Union and beyond, with a particular focus on children, young people, people with disabilities and under-represented groups

Indicator 1: MEDIA Sub-programme: the number of admissions for non-national European films in Europe and European films worldwide (10 most important non-European markets) in cinemas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Europe										
2010	Milestones									2020
69			71	71	71	71	71			71
	Actual Progress									Final
	103	91	89	98	94					
Are we on track :	On track									
Worldwide										
2010	Milestones									2020
61			80	85	85	85	85			85
	Actual Progress									Final
	82	106	68	97	87					
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of admissions (yearly, millions)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	European Audiovisual Observatory (EAO) Yearbook Keytrends 2019/2020, p. 22
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The definition of the indicator as defined by the legal basis specifies the meaning of 'worldwide' (=10 most important non-European markets).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Europe: In 2019, a total of 86 million tickets were sold in non-national European markets Worldwide: In 2019 export admissions outside Europe (34 markets) amounted to at least 94 million tickets. This outgrew the expectations set in 2014. No results are officially available for 2020 yet, however for sure the growing trend was severely disrupted by COVID-19 crisis, unpredictable and uncontrollable by the Programme.

Indicator 5: Culture Sub-programme: the number of people directly and indirectly reached through projects supported by the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2017	Milestones									2020
6.7					To be assessed in the performance monitoring report to be published in the first quarter of 2019		Increase of 5% in comparison to 2017 results			Increase of 5%
	Actual Progress									Final
				3.2	4		17			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of People in Millions (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Reports from cooperation project beneficiaries (2014-2016). Creative Europe Culture Sub-Programme.
Narrative	No baseline, first known results (2017) were available in 2018. Target is an increase from baseline (2017)
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	

Other methodological comments	The actual figure for 2020 is an estimation based on average: A sample of 163 projects (funded under CE 2014-20) has given an average of 151 065 persons (tickets/admissions/visitors) reached directly and 385 468 reached online per project.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The trend is proportional to the number of projects funded by year. Baseline figures: Indirect - includes total online audience reached (5 million); Direct - predominantly ticket sales (1.7 million)

Specific Objective 3: To strengthen the financial capacity of SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organizations in the cultural and creative sectors in a sustainable way, while endeavouring to ensure a balanced geographical coverage and sector representation

Indicator 4: Number of SMEs and micro, small and medium-sized organisations benefiting from the Guarantee Facility, categorised by national origin, size and sectors

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Beneficiaries										
2013	Milestones									2020
48				1 500	3 000	5000	7 000			16500
	Actual Progress									Final
					477	1302	3626	5898		
Are we on track :	On track									
Sub-sectors										
2013	Milestones									2020
48				5	5	5	5			5
	Actual Progress									Final
					5	5	5			
Are we on track :	On track									
Participating countries										
2013	Milestones									2020
8				7	10	12	15			44
	Actual Progress									Final
					11	15	23	23		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Beneficiaries / Sub sectors / Member States (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	European Investment Fund: Q3/2018 EIF Operational Report of the guarantee facility
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Beneficiaries: 86.6% of benefitting companies had <10 employees, 11.6% had 10-50 employees and 1.8% had 50-250. Sub-sectors: the highest uptake of the tool can be assigned to: audiovisual (NACE J59 and J60.2 - 40%), print and publishing (C18 and J58 - 16.4%), computer programming (J62- 8.7%) and specialised design (M74- 7%). Participating Countries: 3 626 beneficiaries in 12 countries (AT, BE, BG, CZ, DK, FR, IT, PL, PT, RO, ES, SE), with the highest uptake through FR, ES and IT and PT intermediaries (altogether 77% value of the loans). Targets: Beneficiaries and Member States - accumulation of the MFF, Sub-sectors - goal set for the final year of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Breakdowns by national origin, size and sectors of SMEs or organisations are provided in the annual report from the European Investment Fund. The results of the CCS, Guaranteed Facility (GF) are lower than planned due to budget profile of Creative Europe. Budget for the CCS GF was only available as from year 2016 (and not 2014 as originally planned). Due to a delay in launching the Instrument, we expect to reach the target in 2022.

Specific Objective 4: To foster policy development, innovation, creativity, audience development and new business and management models through support for transnational policy cooperation

Indicator 1: Number of Member States making use of the results of the open method of coordination in their national policy development

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
10	12	13	14	15	16	17	20			107
	Actual Progress									Final
	12	13	14		16	22				
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Member States (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of new initiatives and policy outcomes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
			10				20			20
	Actual Progress									Final
		2			15	17	10			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	31/03/2022
Data source	Media and Audiovisual Action Plan
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The MAAP is composed of 10 complex initiatives.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of initiatives is lower than expected, however the complexity of each initiative has grown over time. Creative Europe is both channelling and kindling other policy initiatives.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	6.89	7.30	7.30	7.40	7.50	7.60	7.70	51.69	3%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The Programme does not directly support initiatives climate mitigation; however, the priority of environmental sustainability is mentioned in the Call objectives. Financial contribution to climate mitigation is limited within the proposed activities. The Culture sub-programme continuously co-funds projects encouraging the sector to adopt more environmentally friendly practices and business models Further, collaborative efforts within MEDIA are ongoing to set standards for calculating and reducing CO2 emissions within the audiovisual production chain.

6.1.3. Key achievements

- Environmental sustainability and the fight against global warming have been set out as a specific priority for the selection of cooperation and network projects in the new Creative Europe. In addition, all projects have to explain in their application how their projects will contribute to the green deal even though it is not the main objective of their projects.
- A study was launched in 2021 to identify good practices and measures to improve the “green dimension” of Creative Europe.
- Under most MEDIA calls the applicants can be awarded up to 5/100 points if they propose a sound, active sustainability strategy in their overall business and in the project in question.
- Also under MEDIA, collaboration and dialogue with the industry is ongoing about how to set common standards for CO2 emissions calculation in the audiovisual production chain.

In the new 2021-27 programme environment, taking ecological concerns into account in terms of design and implementation is considered a cross cutting issue for all funded projects, in order to reduce their impact on the environment. The environmental aspects are systematically assessed in the evaluation of the proposals.

In addition, to accelerate the green transition of the culture and creative sectors, the cooperation and network schemes of the culture stand will include an explicit “green deal” priority to encourage projects to explore, test and disseminate innovative greener practices.

In parallel to funding, policy actions such as studies, dialogues with stakeholders or coordination with Members States are held. For instance, in accordance with the Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, a group composed of Member States’ experts (Open Method of Coordination working group - OMC) in 2021 was working on “Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change”. The group was actively working on identifying and exchanging good practices and innovative measures for safeguarding cultural heritage in relation to climate change. The group was also examining the contribution cultural heritage can make to mitigating and combating climate change in line with the European Green Deal’s goals. The final report, including recommendations, will be published at the end of 2022.

As a cross-sectoral effort and corresponding to a respective report by the European Parliament, a study was launched in 2021 to identify good practices and measures to improve the “green dimension” of Creative Europe and a brochure presenting key projects recently funded is in preparation and will be published early 2022.

In 2021 MEDIA, based on the study prepared in previous year (Philipp Gassmann, *Greening the European Audiovisual Industry – the Best Strategies and their Costs*), deepened dialogue with the industry to come up with standards of calculating the CO2 emissions in the whole audiovisual production chain, in line with the Action 6 of the Europe's Media in the Digital Decade: An Action Plan

A stakeholders’ dialogue on *Greening the audiovisual sector* was launched in June 2021, gathering audiovisual professionals across the value chain and representatives from the public sector. Participants agreed on the need to take actions to reduce carbon emissions, starting by carbon emissions’ measurement. Measuring emissions with different calculators does not allow comparability and benchmarking of results, ultimately weakening their effectiveness. Consistent measurement methodologies and benchmarks are crucial for the sector to reduce its carbon impact.

Thanks to the meeting prepared since the Autumn of 2021, in February 2022 the owners of existing calculators have agreed to work together **towards the development of a unified measurement methodology of CO2 emissions**, which will focus on a limited number of categories and work either as a stand-alone initiative or as a plug- in for existing calculators. The harmonisation of data informing carbon factors and benchmarks for each parameter is instrumental to allow comparability and readability across borders. The Commission will back this industry initiative by supporting as from 2022 the development of an open-source methodology, in cooperation with existing calculators; incentivizing the use of minimum standards of measurement and benchmarking via Creative Europe MEDIA programme; and facilitating further work on common methodologies on new carbon factors.

The European methodology for calculation of carbon impact will be a first step towards the development of a unified label for green production.

Also, since 2022 additional MEDIA calls for proposals will be eligible for the possibility to receive points by the applicants in the evaluation for including greening in the company strategy and project. MEDIA will also continue to raise awareness about comprehensive sustainability in the whole audiovisual production chain (including also such elements as training of audiovisual professionals) through its communications.

The Culture Sub-programme has continuously co-funded projects encouraging the sector to adopt **more environmentally friendly practices** and business models. For instance, the project Creative climate Leadership, a EUR2 million pan-European, interdisciplinary programme, connects and enables a community of cultural leaders to take an active role in shaping an environmentally sustainable future for the European cultural sector. Other projects such as the cooperation project ‘ACT’ (Art, Climate, Transition) run by a 10 organisations consortium led by Theatre Rotterdam aims at **raising awareness and launching debates** on climate issues.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming	Total
----------------	-----------------------	-------

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
1 Score 1: 4 Score 0*: 302							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

In the 2021-2027 programme, **gender equality is considered as a cross cutting issue for all strands of the programme**: all funded projects consider equality in the design and implementation of their project and this aspect will be given attention in the evaluation of the proposals.

In addition, to accelerate practice changes in the culture and creative sectors, the cooperation scheme of the Culture strand will include an **explicit inclusiveness priority** to encourage projects to explore, test and disseminate innovative gender equality practices.

The strategy for 2021-2027 in the audiovisual sector foresees further policy development by including gender activities in all European actions towards the AV sector. The focus of the strategy has moved from gender alone to the broader concept of diversity. In 2021 MEDIA:

- introduced an encouragement for companies to include gender and inclusiveness strategies in their businesses. Creative Europe applicants are requested to show the actions taken in their companies in support of diversity and gender equality
- introduced support actions targeting women under MEDIA (in the skills scheme, through capacity building and mentoring),
- continued awareness raising (with an ambitious campaign CaractHER in the social media, promoting women increasing audiovisual workforce in non-obvious positions) and data collection. The materials of the campaign, including videos, are available at the dedicated website <https://character.eu/>. They were also broadcasted in France by the public service broadcasters.

In the next years MEDIA will continue structured dialogue with the stakeholders and exchange of good practices.

The content of the works supported under MEDIA strand is completely independent of the Programme and not evaluated. However, it happened that one of high-quality proposals selected under the TV scheme in the 2021 call is a documentary dedicated to the role of influential female animators. This coincidence is an example of how MEDIA priorities are aligned with the industry's, and social interests.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental EU value and a driver of more diverse content and connecting with wider audiences. The Commission has recognised the strategic importance of gender diversity to sustain a rich, highly creative audiovisual industry and cultural and creative sector as well as more open, inclusive and competitive societies. In recent years also the stakeholders in the audiovisual and other cultural and creative sectors became very aware of the challenges in this respect. In 2014-2020 progress was achieved through policy dialogue with stakeholders and Member States and funding of concrete actions and projects.

In the area of culture, the Council's Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022, implemented jointly by the EU Member States and the Commission, includes gender equality among its five priorities. The following actions have been implemented

Exchange of experience between the Member States: The OMC experts' group on gender equality discussed gender gaps and their drivers in the CCS in the Member States and provided policy recommendations and concrete actions under the Creative Europe programme. **The OMC group published a report in June 2021** with recommendations to different stakeholders (policy makers, cultural institutions etc.) on how to achieve gender equality and foster the use of culture as a means to promote equality and diversity. The challenges addressed include data collection, gender stereotypes and gender violence, access to resources and to the labour market, gender pay gap and access to leadership positions.

Dialogue with the sector: Key issues for gender equality were addressed in the Voices of Culture structured dialogue in 2019 as well as through an action plan with the audiovisual industry. The resulting report proposed targeted measures and initiatives.

Project funding: Several projects promoting gender equality have received co-funding under Creative Europe, and the new Creative Europe programme will be strengthening the aspect of gender equality across the programme. For example, the Live DMA network published a Diversity Roadmap, which makes recommendations on diversity and gender equality in live music venues, clubs and festivals.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The CCS GF (through its capacity building line) financed a study on the social impacts of news media in 2021. The preliminary results shows that healthy, thriving news media ecosystems increases the wellbeing of citizens. The final report will be published in 2022.

Example: support to cross-border investigative journalism calls, started in 2021. Budget in 2022: 7.5 million EUR

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

As described in point 6.4.2.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The programme contributes to the political priorities of the Commission, in particular relating to jobs, growth and investment and the European Digital Single Market by supporting the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector, through capacity building and skills development and through testing new business models in a rapidly evolving digital context. By allowing participation of non-EU cultural and creative operators and the participation of third countries, the programme also contributes to making the EU a stronger global actor. At another level, Creative Europe helps address current political and societal challenges through the power of culture to reach the hearts and minds of citizens and boost confidence in our shared European values.

Example: increasing skills of the AV professionals 2021-2027. Budget of the dedicated call for Training in 2022: 20.4 million EUR.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

In the WP2022 prepared in 2021 the Creative Innovation Labs call has a special angle: the projects should contribute to the New European Bauhaus framework for inclusive and sustainable product and experience design.

Example: Creative Innovation Labs budget 2022: 13.6 million EUR.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

As described in point 6.1.3.

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

Under the cross-sectoral strand, Creative Europe supports journalism. Free, pluralistic and thriving news media constitute a "fourth power" – a counterweight monitoring the legislative, executive and judiciary structures, ensuring a well functioning democracy. They inform and educate the citizens.

Example: support to cross-border investigative journalism calls, started in 2021. Budget in 2022: 7.5 million EUR

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

MEDIA supports co-production funds located in the EU aimed at cooperating with film institutions in developing countries. With the support from MEDIA in 2014-2020 they supported 114 co-productions between EU and developing countries partners in production and 83 in distribution. No data is available yet for the 2021.

Example: funding co-productions with developing countries. Budget for 360 call for proposals in 2022: 20 million EUR.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values**Justice Programme****Lead DG:JUST**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

A working European area of Justice and effective national justice systems are necessary for a flourishing internal market and for upholding the common values of the EU. Promoting EU values also means protecting them and ensuring an environment respectful of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, where mutual recognition and mutual trust among Member States are enhanced. In this context, the following persisting challenges have been identified:

- Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters still faces various obstacles, and access to justice across Member States remains difficult. One of the recurrent obstacles to mutual recognition and judicial cooperation is a lack of trust in other Member States' judicial systems. There is also a need to simplify and digitise communications, access to procedures and legal information and connection to and between national systems in a cross-border context. Tools for collecting comparative information about the quality, independence and efficiency of Member States' justice systems need to be improved.
- The level of knowledge about EU acquis and EU instruments needs to be improved across the EU. However, national training providers tend to invest their scarce resources in trainings on national law rather than on EU law and in national training activities rather than cross-border ones.
- In the context of economic crises, persisting inequalities and challenges such as of migration put the fundamental rights and the EU fundamental values to the test. In some cases, the rule of law, access to justice, space for civil society and the independence of the judiciary are also challenged.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Justice programme (here below the Programme) will support the further development of an EU area of Justice based on the EU's values, the rule of law, and mutual recognition and trust. It will facilitate access to justice and promote judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and the effectiveness of national justice systems.

The challenges identified above are common to all Member States and have cross-border dimensions. While action at national level is important, individual Member States alone do not have sufficient leverage to tackle these challenges. It is through EU-funded initiatives that remaining inefficiencies related to improving access to justice, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and the incomplete implementation of EU law can best be tackled.

1.3. Specific objectives

The Programme has the general objective of contributing to the further development of a European area of justice based on the rule of law, including independence and impartiality of the judiciary, on mutual recognition, mutual trust and judicial cooperation, thereby also strengthening democracy rule of law and fundamental rights.

The Programme has the following specific objectives:

- (a) (Judicial Cooperation) to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to promote the rule of law independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions;
- (b) (Judicial Training) to support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme;
- (c) (Access to Justice) to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

1.4. Public intervention context

The Justice programme will support the further development of an EU area of Justice based on EU's values, the rule of law, and mutual recognition and trust. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) establishes the creation of an area of freedom, security and justice, with respect for fundamental rights and the different legal systems and traditions of the Member States. Hence, the competence of the EU in this area is shared with Member States. The creation of a common area requires transnational cooperation mechanisms and networking opportunities, which can typically not be achieved by Member States acting alone. Principles such as mutual trust and mutual recognition of judicial and extra-judicial decisions can be supported more efficiently by action at EU level.

The Justice programme is a key player in the area of judicial training where the actual results demonstrate an improvement in the impact of the programme's actions in this field. In addition to this, the Justice programme is one of the tools to implement the [strategy on European judicial training for 2021-2024](#). In the area of victims' rights, the Commission will focus on the implementation of actions under the first-ever [EU Strategy on victims' rights](#) (2020-2025). Digitalisation of justice systems is another important objective as part of a new push for European democracy and in line with the political priority of a Europe fit for the digital age. The general objective for 2021-2022 is to support initiatives identified in the 2 December 2020 Commission

Communication on the [Digitalisation of justice in the European Union](#), and the Council [e-Justice Strategy](#) and [Action Plan 2019-2023](#)¹. This will be accomplished by implementing support actions for digitalisation of justice, introducing new features and enhancements to the [European e-Justice Portal](#), as well as supporting the implementation of e-Justice projects, insofar as project initiatives have a European dimension and bring added value.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies exist in particular within the Justice, Rights and Values Fund with the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (under its Union Values Strand) but also with the Digital Europe Programme and the Recovery and Resilience Facility in the area of digitalisation of justice. To a lesser degree, synergies can exist between the Programme and the Single Market Programme, Border management and Security, in particular the Asylum and Migration ('AMIF') and the Internal Security Funds, the Erasmus+ Programme, the Framework Programme for research and innovation, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, and the LIFE Regulation.

1.5. Actions

The Justice programme supports a broad range of beneficiaries that play an important role to the development of an EU area of justice. This includes, primarily, members of the judiciary and judicial staff, but also public authorities, academia/research institutes, training bodies, as well as civil society and non-profit organisations.

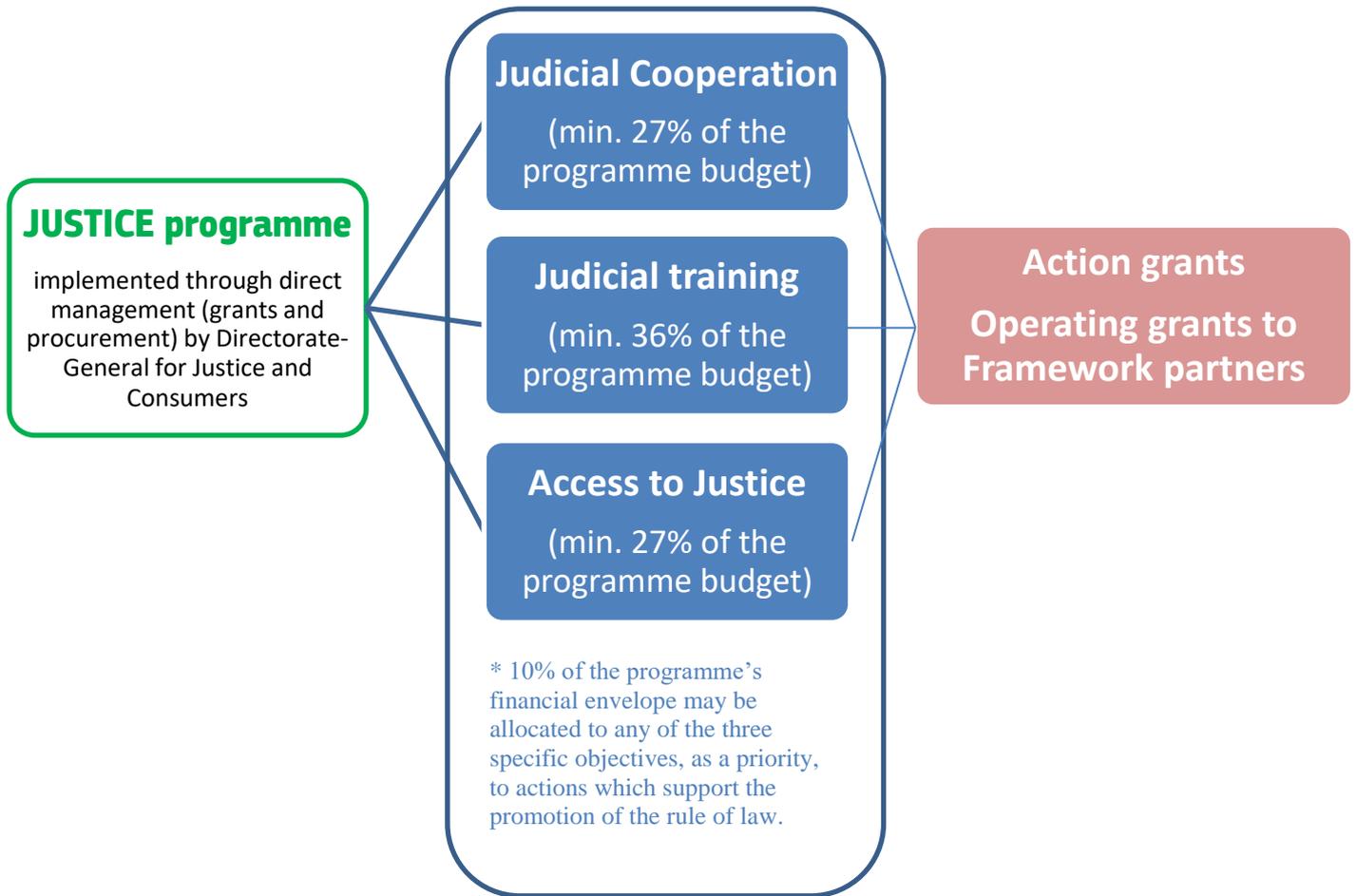
The Justice programme funds activities that ensure the full and consistent application of EU law and promote the smooth functioning of the EU area of justice. In particular, the following activities shall be eligible for funding:

- Awareness-raising, dissemination of information to improve the knowledge of Union policies and of Union law including substantive and procedural law, of judicial cooperation instruments, of the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, of comparative law and of European and international standards, including the understanding of the interaction between different areas of law.
- Mutual learning through exchange of good practices among stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding of civil and criminal law and the legal and judicial systems of the Member States, including the rule of law and access to justice, and enhancing mutual trust.
- Analytical and monitoring activities to improve the knowledge and understanding of potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of a European area of justice, to improve the implementation of Union law and policies in the Member States.
- Training relevant stakeholders to improve the knowledge of Union law and policies, including inter alia substantive and procedural law, fundamental rights, the use of Union judicial cooperation instruments, the relevant case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, legal language and comparative law.
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as well as e-justice tools development and maintenance, taking into account security, privacy and data protection considerations, to improve the efficiency of judicial systems and their cooperation by means of information and communication technology, including the cross-border interoperability of systems and applications.
- Developing capacity of key European level networks and European judicial networks, including networks established by Union law, to ensure the effective application and enforcement of Union law, to promote and further develop Union law, policy goals and strategies in the areas of the programme.
- Supporting civil society organisations and non-profit stakeholders active in the areas of the Programme to increase their capacity to react and advocate as well as to ensure adequate access for all citizens to their services, counselling and support activities, thereby also contributing to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights.
- Enhancing knowledge of the programme and dissemination, transferability and transparency of its results and fostering citizen outreach, including by organizing forums for discussion for stakeholders.

1.6. Delivery mode

The programme will be implemented through direct management (grants and procurement). Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers is the lead DG for the programme's implementation.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1382/2013 (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21).	2021 - 2027	298.97

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular, Article 81(1) and (2), Article 82(1)

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	46.7	43.6	42.2	41.8	41.8	41.7	41.4	299.3
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The programme's financial programming is linear. There are no contributions from other programmes.

The 2021-2027 Justice programme ensures the continuation of the Programme, whilst reinforcing efforts to promote the rule of law. The only change compared to as the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) concerns the drugs prevention policy area (4th specific objective of the Justice programme in 2014-2020), which will be implemented in the 2021-2027 MFF via the Internal Security Fund.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Information on the Justice programme, its priorities, allocated budget, publication of calls of proposals, project results, news and useful links are all available on the Funding & tender opportunities portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/just>.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	46.7	299.3	16%
Payments	21.0		7%

The commitment appropriations **2021** were used for individual commitments for grants from the 2021 calls for proposals. 58 grants were signed in 2021 from the 2021 calls for an amount of EUR 26.09 million. At the end of 2021, a global commitment was made for the budget to be used in 2022 to sign the remaining grants from the 2021 calls: 12 grants still to be signed for an amount of EUR 3.14 million. The payment appropriations 2021 were used to pay the pre-financings of the grants signed in 2021 from the 2021 calls. The pre-financing rate for Justice action grants is 65% while it is 80% for operating grants.

After a successful 2021, the objective of DG Justice and Consumers for **2022** is to maintain the outstanding implementation in the years to come. Following the adoption of the 2022 EU budget, it is planned to implement EUR 42.5 million under the Justice programme. The 2022 calls for proposals were already published in November 2021 and the deadlines for submissions have been planned for the first semester 2022 in order to allow for the respect of budget annuality, while taking into account that 2022 will still be still a transitional year in the beginning of the new MFF.

The level of commitment appropriations requested in the context of the draft budget **2023** will be in line with the Financial Programming of the Justice Programme (as presented in the Draft Budget 2022 while accounting for the adoption of any new legislative proposals). The payment appropriations requested for 2023 are calculated based on a precise planning and taking into account the pre-financing rate to be paid. More specifically, it includes final payments for some grants signed in 2021, pre-financings for grants to be signed in 2023 (related to 2022 calls) and pre-financings for grants signed in 2023 linked to 2023 calls.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	317.0	318.0	100%
Payments	241.9		76%

2020 was the last year of the 2014-2020 MFF and of the Justice Programme 2014-2020. 10 grants from the 2020 calls under the Justice Annual Work Programme for 2020 remained to be signed in 2021 for an amount of EUR 3.85 million.

The completion line (legacy line) of the Justice programme is used to pay final payments from past commitments. In 2021, 50 final payments for grants from the old Justice programme were paid for an amount of EUR 4.05 million. In 2021, the payment appropriations were also used to cover final payments on pre-2021 commitments still outstanding. As regards 2022, the payment appropriations will be used to cover the remaining final payments still outstanding.

The Justice programme was affected by the COVID-19 crisis. By 31 December 2021, 138 amendments were made, out of which 42 related to reasons linked to the pandemic, mostly to request and extension of the eligibility period. This significant number of

amendments signed following requests for extending the duration of grant agreements due to the COVID-19 crisis, will mechanically lead to delayed budgetary execution of the corresponding payment credits.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

2021 has been an extremely challenging year, in particular due to the transition between two Multiannual Financial Frameworks, the very late adoption of the Justice Programme Regulation (28 April 2021), and the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, DG Justice and Consumers has ensured an exceptional implementation of the Justice programme, providing funding to public entities, NGOs, EU networks, IT systems, and funding several key activities in support of policy and legislative developments.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The work programme 2021-2022 of the Justice programme has provided around EUR 45.3 million for 2021 in support to actions promoting judicial cooperation, promoting judicial training and implementing projects in support of access to justice for all. Funds committed in the work programme were planned to be deployed via grants (about 73% of the total allocation), procurement (almost 27% of the total allocation).

2021 calls for proposals were launched as early as possible in 2021. Altogether, 7 calls for proposals have been organised in the first year of the Justice programme for the total budget of approximately EUR 33 million. Under these calls, 198 proposals have been received, from which 77 projects have been awarded for funding. These projects started only at the end of year 2021 or in 2022; for this reason, they have not produced results yet.

By January 2022, 57 grant agreements have already been signed.

These actions include trainings, seminars and mutual learning events, research and studies, development of IT tools, awareness raising and media campaigns to the ultimate benefit of the general public.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The Justice programme overall has been successful so far and provided added value.

The outputs of the Justice Programme in 2014-2020 are closely linked to the Commission activity on preparing, supporting and ensuring the correct implementation of an important number of EU legal instruments in civil and criminal law, improving their enforcement and remedy capacities in Member States, and ensuring an adequate cross border and EU level cooperation.

The Justice Programme contributes to the development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust, by supporting judicial cooperation and judicial training.

The Justice Programme helped ensuring the correct implementation of existing EU legislation in various ways. It has supported conformity check studies for EU legislation transposed in the EU Member States. It has equally successfully supported judicial networks and judicial training. Proper application of EU law is in fact a key element to allow EU citizens and business to benefit from EU law. This is achieved through both preventive actions (workshops, expert meetings, stakeholder dialogue, technical guidelines for national authorities and training of justice professionals financed through the Programme) and infringement procedures. The activities funded by the Programme resulted in better implementation and functioning of EU justice instrument (e.g. European Investigation Order, European Arrest warrant and surrender procedures, European Protection Order, European Account Preservation Order, family law). Positive effects of the funded activities come from the training activities supported, which contribute to a better application and use of the EU justice instruments. A better implementation and functioning is achieved also by e.g. bringing practitioners of different Member States together and by identifying issues that could then be addressed in an updated EAW handbook. Analytical activities (i.e.: studies and expert meetings, either under the Framework Contract to assess the implementation of directives, or under projects supported by action grants and feeding into our policy reflection) also helped prepare or accompany new legislation or respond to policy changes in the areas covered by the programme.

The Justice programme also supported activities related to the promotion of rule of law via all its instruments and spanning three specific objectives. Namely, action grants on judicial training offered training to the judiciary on the main principles and values stemming from the CJEU and European Court of Human Rights case law and international documents, but also action grants funded projects to improve the quality of national judicial systems. Operating grants have supported the co-operation with European networks in the field of judicial cooperation and in the field of access to justice directly feeding into the work of the rule of law report. Via the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) operating grant, EJTN prioritised as part of its activities the topic of the rule of law by making it part of the human rights sub-working group of EJTN and organising dedicated judicial training activities. The programme has also funded data collection necessary for the production of the annual report on the rule of law and the European Justice Scoreboard which evaluates and compares the effectiveness and efficiency of national judicial systems and which feeds into the European Semester. Funding has also facilitated the organisation of mutual exchanges of information between Member States, in particular through a network of national contact persons. Preparation has also started for the funding of follow-up (communication) activities to the 17 July 2019 Communication on *"Strengthening the Rule of Law within the Union – A*

blueprint for action" which specifically refers to an annual rule of law event open to national stakeholders and civil society organisations and communication activities to promote a rule of law culture among the general public, and to promote awareness about the relevant CJEU case law and Council of Europe standards are in preparation.

The actions of the programme as far as the *Specific Objective 1: Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters* is concerned are on track to achieving their goals:

- The Programme has helped to improve the implementation and functioning of existing legislative cooperation instruments. This applies both to older instruments where the Programme allowed to identify shortcomings or problems in implementation and application, and more recent ones, where it allowed to equip practitioners with better knowledge on how to apply them. Through procurement actions, regular meetings gathering practitioners from Member States were organised, and compliance studies were financed. Action grants to cross-border projects and operating grants to key European networks and stakeholders have also contributed to making Member States work together better and improved mutual trust. In general, the financial tools offered by the Programme can be seen as a useful complement to the Commission's infringement powers. Moreover, the Justice Programme has also helped, through the identification of gaps and problems in the existing legal framework, through action grants, but also studies and expert meetings, to prepare new legislation proposed by the Commission (e.g. Regulation on mutual confiscation of freezing and confiscation orders, e-evidence package). It has demonstrated the necessary flexibility to allow the Commission to take action to react to events like terrorist attacks, e.g. by funding activities on radicalisation in prisons or projects improving cooperation and information exchange between Member States, often in response to calls from Council or European Parliament. The Programme has also allowed to strengthen cooperation with international organisations such as the Council of Europe, e.g. on prison monitoring.
- In 2016, pursuant to the Council Conclusions from 9 June 2016 on the European Judicial Cybercrime, IT development activities have started towards the establishment of a common e-Evidence Digital Exchange System (e-EDES). The Commission completed the software development of the first version of e-EDES in 2021. This first version of the system enables the secure electronic communication between the competent national authorities, digitalising exchanges between competent authorities of European Investigation Orders and Mutual Legal Assistance requests. The system will significantly facilitate and expedite cross-border cooperation in criminal matters. While software development is completed, Member States needed additional time to test the system and to make all the necessary arrangements at administrative level. The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the possibility to deliver training on the system. While development activities have been completed, the rollout of the system was delayed, due to difficulties encountered by Member States, e.g. reduced training possibilities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the system's rollout is expected in 2022.
- The programme has supported the development of ICT tools with the purpose of enhancing access to information. Under ECRIS, the European Criminal Records Information System, a decentralised IT system operated by the central authorities of the EU Member States, in 2020 the increase in the number of exchanges of information was more than tenfold compared to the 2012 baseline. The programme also supported projects implementing the needed adaptations of the national criminal records systems for the linking and exchange of fingerprints with the ECRIS-TCN central system.
- The Programme has also contributed to the effective, comprehensive and consistent implementation of Union law policies and in particular it has funded projects in the area of fight against radicalisation in prisons. Improving prison conditions has become a political priority at EU level because they affect the efficient operation of EU mutual recognition instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), and because of the risk of radicalisation in prisons.

The Justice Programme has overall performed very well in achieving its goals as far as the *Specific Objective 2: Judicial training* is concerned. Training is an important instrument of the Programme with a view to supporting judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and fostering a common legal and judicial culture and effective access to justice in Europe. Training activities ranged from seminars, e-learning, webinars, to conferences, compilation of guidelines and training methodologies, organisation of staff exchanges and support for the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). In 2020 and in 2021, most training activities took place online, adapting delivery to the pandemic and the travel restrictions. Online activities gave a tremendous boost to participation in the training activities supported by the Programme, especially regarding lawyers' attendance: the overall number of participants reached a record number of 22 423 in 2020: around 7 % of all the justice professionals who received training on EU law that year. Under the EJTN's annual training programmes (also supported via the Justice Programme), the number of participants dropped to 5 074 in 2020 as all activities cannot be transformed in online ones; for e.g. most face-to-face exchanges could not take place. However the 'cost-to-serve' ratio (i.e. the price per person for one training day offered by the EJTN) decreased to an exceptional level of EUR 239 as online activities are cheaper than cross-border face-to-face ones. The mid-term evaluation and the ex-post evaluation of the 2014-2020 Justice programme confirmed a positive effect of the financial support under the judicial training specific objective: trainings led to the increase of knowledge and know-how of the practitioners, as well as of mutual trust as far as the operating grant of the EJTN is concerned (through the exchanges).

The actions of the programme as far as the *Specific Objective 3: Access to justice* is concerned are on track to achieving their goals to facilitate access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence.

- The Programme has helped to improve the implementation and functioning of existing instruments on procedural rights and victims' rights, e.g. the Victim's Rights Directive (establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime) and the development and implementation of the measures related to the 2009 Roadmap on strengthening the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings. This applies both to older instruments, where the Programme allowed to identify shortcomings or problems in implementation and application, and more recent ones, where it allowed to equip practitioners and national authorities with better knowledge on how to apply them. Through procurement actions, regular meetings gathering practitioners from Member States were organised, and compliance studies were financed. Action grants to cross-border projects and operating grants to key European networks and stakeholders have also contributed to making Member States work together better and improved mutual trust. The activities financed aimed at capacity-building of professionals, multi-disciplinary cooperation, exchanges of good practices, dissemination and awareness-raising, etc. The financial tools offered by the Programme can be seen as a useful complement to the Commission's infringement powers. Moreover, the Justice Programme has also helped, through the identification of gaps and problems in the existing legal framework, through action grants, but also studies and expert meetings, to prepare new legislative initiatives.
- e-Justice related actions have contributed in a tangible way towards achieving the goals of this Specific Objective. In particular:
 - The European e-Justice Portal⁽²⁾, a one-stop shop for justice matters, contributes significantly to improving and facilitating the access to justice for citizens, businesses, national authorities, legal practitioners and the judiciary. Over the years, it has grown to cover more than 150 topics in a wide variety of areas. The Portal gives access to information on a number of EU cross-border proceedings, as well as national information such as sources of case law, information on judicial systems in the EU, rights of victims and defendants, training material and many others. Thanks to the continuous enhancements to the Portal, it now sees a gradual and steady increase in terms of annual visits (4.4 million visits in 2021). Good examples of successful projects today hosted on the Portal are the 'Find a lawyer' and 'Find a notary' search tools, the interconnection of the business and insolvency registers, the search engine for European and national case law (the ECLI Search Engine), etc. In the period 2014-2021, an important activity has been the modernisation of the interface of the e-Justice Portal, including new functionalities and online tools, which went live in June 2021.
 - The e-Justice Action Grants supported delivering on the priorities in this domain, namely by providing eligible national entities with financing towards supporting the implementation of the e-Justice Action Plans for the periods 2014-2018 and 2019-2023.
 - The Commission also carried out relevant studies under the Justice Programme, aiming to support the implementation of the e-Justice Action Plans, such as the study on the use of innovative technologies ('Legal Tech') in the justice field. In 2021, the Justice Programme also financed the Impact Assessment on the [Commission's initiative for the digitalisation of cross-border judicial cooperation](#) (SWD(2021) 392 final).

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have an impact on the implementation of the programme in relation to funds awarded via action grants or operating grants, however this cannot be fully assessed yet since reporting for this period will only be done later at project closure or final report time. Many of our beneficiaries converted activities such as training to online events as much as possible however much less funding is needed for such events, which will result in recovering funds in upcoming years. In some cases activities have not been completely cancelled, just reduced in scope (e.g. the parts that were only meaningful in case of physical interaction have been delayed or cancelled in some cases). EJTN's case provides a clearer picture on the COVID impact, which is representative of the situation for other beneficiaries as well: when the pandemic hit in spring 2020, most stakeholders, including the training ones, postponed their events, mostly to the 2nd half of 2020, and then to the 1st half of 2021, hoping that face-to-face activities could resume by then. Eventually this led to requesting changes or even amendments to the work programme to change the timeline of the activities and sometimes the duration of the projects. The reason for wanting to postpone activities and not transforming them straight away into online ones is that certain activities were planned face-to-face, with a mutual trust building and/or networking component. So the training providers hoped to avoid having to organise the events online, as they are less efficient for that aspect of the objectives. In addition, as activities have to be advertised months in advance to attract justice professionals, the autumn was not enough to organise – even online – all the activities planned for the whole 2020. Some activities took place in early 2021 however requests were received from some beneficiaries to start projects later than planned, in the hope that face-to-face activities would resume in autumn 2021, which was only partially the case.

e in autumn 2021, which was only partially the case.

⁽²⁾ <https://e-justice.europa.eu/>

3.2. Key achievements

4.1 million	22 423	4.6 million / 1.3 million	27
Exchanges of information in 2020 in the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)	Justice professionals were trained in 2020 through the Justice Programme’s financial support to cross-border training activities, to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and to the contract on anti-money laundering training for lawyers	Hits on the e-Justice Portal in 2020 / pages addressing the need for information on cross-border civil and criminal cases	Victim Support Organisations with national coverage were established

For the Justice programme 2021-2027, data for most indicators is not available yet because the data collection tools were being developed throughout 2021 and are expected to be deployed in 2022. This delay does not significantly impact reporting on the achievements because most of the projects funded by the first calls of the Justice programme 2021-2027 have a start date between the end of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022.

Specific objective 1: Judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

The Justice Programme finances the European Judicial Network (EJN) in civil and commercial matters, which strengthens cooperation between national judicial authorities. By improving the practical application and implementation of EU civil justice instruments ⁽³⁾, EJN contributes to building bridges between the justice systems of the Member States and thereby creates mutual trust ⁽⁴⁾. In civil justice, the family law instruments, the insolvency regulation, the European Account Preservation Order, the European Small Claims procedure and mediation in civil and commercial matters have been promoted through programme funding since 2014. That has contributed to raising awareness among the legal practitioners and the general public so as to enable their correct application.

Furthermore, the funding has been used to support the application of many EU legal instruments in judicial cooperation in criminal matters, such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), which with over 20 000 issued EAWs per year is the most successful EU instrument in criminal matters. The European arrest warrant has replaced the lengthy extradition procedures that used to exist between EU Member States.

In 2019, the surrender procedure when a requested person consented lasted on average 16,7 days after the arrest (14,99 days in 2017, 16,4 days in 2018). This indicator is calculated on the basis of statistics we receive from the Member States, however, there is no legal obligation for them to provide this data and, consequently, we do not have the full picture (22 Member States provided replies).

The result of 2019 of 16,7 days was above the milestone of 14 days for 2018 (and also above the target for 2020). According to Article 17(2) of the Framework Decision on the EAW, in cases where the requested person consents to his surrender, the final decision on the execution of the EAW should be taken within a period of 10 days after consent has been given.

Delays in some Member States might be explained by additional requests for information, as a result of case law of the CJEU, in particular after the Aranyosi judgment of 2016 on detention conditions, as well as the LM judgment on independence of the judiciary in 2018.

It is expected that the average time will improve after infringement proceedings concerning transposition of the Framework Decision on EAW by Member States. The Commission launched infringement proceedings in 2020. It is expected that concrete positive results would be visible only in 2024.

The Commission is still collecting the data for 2020. The report for 2020 is scheduled for summer 2022.

⁽³⁾ A [study](#) feeding into the 2016 Commission Report on the activities of EJN-civil, found that 96 % of professionals felt that EJN was successful in facilitating judicial cooperation between judicial authorities. Also, to-date EJN-civil has contributed to the European e-Justice Portal with 10 695 individual pages of practical information on national laws of the Member States relevant to the civil and commercial law acquis through 22 public factsheets, as well as with 16 guides on EU law. During the study, 70 % of interviewees indicated that the practitioners’ guides correspond to their needs and 60 % perceived their needs are met with the factsheets.

⁽⁴⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the Activities of the European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1458206470776&uri=CELEX %3A52016DC0129](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1458206470776&uri=CELEX%3A52016DC0129)

The European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS), a decentralised IT system operated by the central authorities of the EU Member States has registered an increase in the number of exchanges of information extracted from national criminal records registers. In 2020, the number of such exchanges via ECRIS was 4 136 249 (with the record number of 4 179 614 in 2019) exceeding its 2020 target of 3 500 000. After the dramatic growth of the number of exchanges in 2019, since 2020 the yearly increase in the exchanges has been considerably slowed down. The affecting factors were: the UK leaving ECRIS, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic that has negatively influenced the movement of persons between the EU Member States.

Further to the Council Conclusions from 9 June 2016 on improving criminal justice in cyberspace, the common e-Evidence Digital Exchange System was established, enabling secure electronic communication between the competent national authorities in the context of the European Investigation Order procedure and Mutual Legal Assistance. This system, is a first step to digitalise judicial cooperation procedures in both civil and criminal matters. The system is underpinned by e-CODEX as a secure transmission channel, a system that was developed by several Member States with support from the Justice Programme. The e-Evidence Digital Exchange System will become operational in 2022 with additional improvements and developments planned in the 2021-2027 period.

Projects were funded via the Justice Programme to enhance the use of alternatives to imprisonment both in the pre-trial and post-trial stage and to improve detention conditions in the Member States. Funding has also focused on projects relating to the judicial responses to terrorism, notably on reinforcing the prevention of radicalisation, especially in prisons. Improving prison conditions has become a political priority also at EU level because they affect the efficient operation of EU mutual recognition instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), and because of the danger of radicalisation in prisons. The Justice Programme has financed also the cooperation with the Council of Europe to set up a network of prison monitoring bodies and the SPACE report, an annual report on prison statistics, providing clear insights into the detention situations in the different Member States, which have a direct impact on judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Specific objective 2: Judicial training

In 2020, the number of trained justice professionals reached a new remarkable level: more than 318 000 justice professionals or 25.2 % of all EU justice professionals received training on EU law. This is mainly due to the increase of lawyers' EU law training, which is the only profession to have surpassed the target set by the European judicial training strategy for 2021-2024. A record number of 22 423 justice professionals were trained thanks to the financial support to cross-border training projects and to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), and to the funding of lawyers' training on anti-money laundering, whose training activities turned online attracted thousands of lawyers. On the other hand, many of the mutual trust building activities of the EJTN could not take place or be replaced by online activities to the number of trained judges and prosecutors, judicial trainers and trainees from all EU Member States dropped to 5 074 in 2020. However the training activities have been organised in an increasingly efficient manner – its 'cost-to-serve' ratio (i.e., the price per person for one training day offered) decreased to EUR 239 EUR in 2020 thanks to improvements in its administrative and financial management and the lower costs of the online activities that took place. In 2020, the Justice programme also continued to fund the creation and launch of the beta version of the European Training Platform on the European e-Justice Portal: a search tool for justice professionals to find training courses and training materials for self-learning on EU law⁵.

Specific objective 3: Access to justice

The Justice Programme has contributed to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of victims of crime, e.g. Council Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation to crime victims, Directive 2011/99/EU in the European Protection Order, Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and Regulation (EU) 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters. Via the 2014-2020 annual work programmes, 14.9 million euro were awarded to 50 projects aiming at capacity-building for professionals, multi-disciplinary cooperation, exchanges of good practices, dissemination and awareness-raising to give a few examples. Almost all of these projects involved cross-border cooperation. DG Justice and Consumer has also signed Framework Partnership and awarded operating grants to umbrella organisations that contribute to the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive at European level, e.g. Victim Support Europe, the European Forum for Restorative Justice and more recently the Association of the European Network on Victims' Rights, which gathers national experts from Members States.

Similarly, the Justice Programme has supported the development and implementation of the measures related to the 2009 Roadmap on strengthening the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings (Directives on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, on the right to information in criminal proceedings, on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings, on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings, on procedural safeguards of children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings and on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings). Via the 2014-2020 annual work programmes, 13.4 million euro were awarded to 40 projects aiming at capacity-building for professionals, mutual learning, exchanges of good practices, data collection, dissemination and awareness-raising, etc. Almost all of these projects involve cross-border cooperation.

⁵ https://e-justice.europa.eu/european-training-platform/home_en

DG Justice and Consumer has also signed Framework Partnership Agreements and awarded operating grants to judicial networks active at European level, e.g. European Network of Councils for the Judiciary, the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial courts of the European Union, the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions. These networks are essential to promote the EU policy on rule of law and on justice reforms and to collect data on structural judicial independence, which is a precondition for effective access to justice. The data collected by the networks have been used in every EU Justice Scoreboard – an annual information tool with comparable data on the independence, quality and efficiency of national justice systems – since 2014.

The Justice Programme has also financed the cooperation between the European Commission and the Council of Europe's European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ). CEPEJ collects data on the functioning of the justice systems of its members according to its well-established and recognised methodology. This data has enabled the European Commission to successfully expand the EU Justice Scoreboard which is an information tool that helps the EU achieve more effective justice.

The Justice Programme finances the maintenance and extension of the European e-Justice Portal, a joint initiative between the Commission and the Council of the EU, which provides a host of multilingual informational content, as well as a number of electronic services, such as interconnections of national registers. Over time, the e-Justice Portal has evolved to offer increased and wider content, also incorporating results and tools developed under other projects funded via the Justice Programme, to become a one-stop shop for citizens, businesses, legal professionals and the judiciary. In 2021, a major redesign of the e-Justice Portal was completed, offering users a modern user experience.

Procurement

Budget line 070701: 13 contracts were signed for EUR 1.96 million and 2 co-delegations (DGT and DIGIT, for E-Justice Portal) for EUR 0.2 million each. Therefore, the total consumption amounts to EUR 2.36 million.

The major part of the budget was consumed for e-Justice portal and to support some policy initiative (such as "Parenthood initiative" or "Mutual recognition of Judgements").

One procurement procedure for EUR 0.25 million will be awarded soon for the "Civil aspects of the cross-border protection of vulnerable adults".

Budget line 070702: three contracts were signed for an amount of EUR 0.41 million, mostly destined to a conference on rule of law. Two open call for tender procedures for trainings e-capsules are under preparation.

Budget line 070703: 21 contracts were signed for a value of EUR 2.36 million. The main topic of these contracts was related to the Victims' Rights.

One procurement procedure of EUR 2 million for a "Communication campaign on Awareness of Victims' Rights was launched in November 2021 but it was unsuccessful. It has now been relaunched and it is currently still on-going.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Justice Programme 2014-2020 which started in 2017 and was completed in 2018 ⁽⁶⁾ have been presented in the Programme Statement 2020. The ex-post evaluation of the programme assessing the long-term impact and the sustainability of the effects of the Programme will be completed in 2021.

The 2021 report on European judicial training published by DG Justice and Consumers in December 2021⁷ underlined again the indispensable character of the EU intervention and its clear benefits to enable the organisation of cross-border training activities and judicial exchanges. The report shows that more than 318 000 justice professionals or 25.2 % of all EU justice professionals received training on EU law in 2020, mainly thanks to the increase of lawyers' EU law training. Between 2011 and 2020, the number of justice professionals taking part in training on EU law increased by 316 %. Over to 1.5 million justice professionals took part in such training activities. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic affected training activities severely and led to a substantial drop in the numbers of professionals trained on EU law for most professions and Member States. This applies in 2020 especially to judges, prosecutors and bailiffs' training. Some professions and Member States (mainly Italy for lawyers and Estonia and the Netherlands for judges and prosecutors) were able to maintain or even increase the number of participants by shifting training activities to online training activities. Training for more than 28 000 participants – 8.8 % of all the justice professionals who received training on EU law – and 2.2 % of all EU justice professionals – was (co)-funded by the EU in 2020. In particular, 85.2 % to those were (co)-funded by the Justice programme, i.e. more than 22 000 participants – 7 % of all the justice professionals who received training on EU law in 2020.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

⁽⁶⁾ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the interim evaluation of the implementation of the Justice Programme 2014-2020 COM(2018) 507 final).

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/european-judicial-training-2021-web-final.pdf>

Specific Objective 1 :Facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and promote the rule of law independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions

Indicator 1:Exchanges of information in the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
4 136 249			4 400 000		4 800 000		5 200 000		5 600 000	5 200 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	4 047 463									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of exchanges
Cut-Off Date	30/10/2021
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the specific objective 2(a) “to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to promote the rule of law independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions” The purpose of ECRIS is to improve the security of citizens within the European Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, by enabling an efficient exchange between the Member States of information on previous criminal convictions handed down by criminal courts in the EU. This indicator is an indication of the level of judicial cooperation in criminal matters which contributes to providing citizens with a high level of safety.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	YES. Same name of indicator. No change in the methodology.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	After the dramatic growth of the number of exchanges in 2019 from 2,9 M to 4,1 M, since 2020 the yearly increase of the number of exchanges has been considerably slowed down. The affecting factors were: the UK leaving ECRIS, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic that has negatively influenced the movement of persons between the EU Member States

Indicator 2:People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				164 250			285 748			285 748
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as about victims' rights and the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime, about judicial cooperation and about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved are a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 3:People reached by mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027

0				2 683			4 667			4 667
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of a European area of justice and to promoting cross-border cooperation, improving mutual knowledge and understanding of the civil and criminal law and the legal and judicial systems of the Member States and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved are a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4:Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				60			105			105
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the specific objective 2(a) “to facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and to promote the rule of law independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by supporting the efforts to improve the effectiveness of national justice systems, and the effective enforcement of decisions” This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The budget allocated to the action grants was in slight augmentation which allowed to grant more CSOs

Specific Objective 2 :Support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union’s legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme

Indicator 1:Members of the judiciary and judicial staff who participated in training activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0					15 000		15 000			15 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of trained justice professionals
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the specific objective 2(b) "to support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union's legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme." This indicator will allow monitoring the extent to which the Justice Programme supports and promotes training of justice professionals.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	YES. Previous name of the indicator for MFF 14-20 : "The number and percentage of members of the judiciary and judicial staff that participated in training activities, staff exchanges, study visits, workshops and seminars funded by the Programme". For MFF 21-27, only number will be provided, no percentage. Same methodology will apply.
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex where possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No data for 2021 yet.

Indicator 2: People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				11 945			20 728			20 728
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as about victims' rights and the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime, about judicial cooperation and about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved are a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 3: People reached by mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				836			1 451			1 451
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of a European area of justice and to promoting cross-border cooperation, improving mutual knowledge and understanding of the civil and criminal law and the legal and judicial systems of the Member States and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results

	indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved are a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4: Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				88			154			154
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	33									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the specific objective 2(b) “to support and promote judicial training, with a view to fostering a common legal, judicial and rule of law culture, as well as the consistent and effective implementation of the Union’s legal instruments relevant in the context of this programme.” This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track

Specific Objective 3 :Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Indicator 1: Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				156			273			273
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	14									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations.
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the specific objective 2(c) “to facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.” This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value (14 CSOs) includes only the Operating Grant and the e justice action grants. The call for proposals for Action Grant on access to justice is still in the evaluation stage.

Indicator 2: Hits on the e-Justice portal / pages addressing the need for information on cross-border civil and criminal cases

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

	Milestones								2027
1 435 103				2 101 134			2 796 610		2 796 610
	Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of hits
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the specific objective 2(c). This indicator gives an indication of the level of need of information on cross-border civil matters as well as of the level of relevance of these e-pages favouring a larger and easier access to justice by citizens. The European e-Justice Portal is a one-stop shop in justice matters available in 23 languages. The Portal aims at interconnecting existing national justice applications, facilitating judicial cooperation, as well as providing information to a wide variety of stakeholders.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No. Under MFF 14-20 we monitored the "Number of hits on the e-justice portal" as a core performance indicator. It will be still monitored under the Justice programme 2021- 2027 but not as a core performance indicator anymore as the legislator decided to be more specific and to monitor only the pages related to cross-border civil and criminal topics which makes only a part of the e Justice Portal.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	It should be noted that due to a technical issue the reported 2021 figure does not account for the traffic received in the July-September 2021 period. The total visits for 2021, including extrapolated figures for the omitted period, would amount to an increase in the number of visits in the 10-15% range compared to the 2020 baseline.

Indicator 3: People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones								2027	
0				160 881			280 075			280 075
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as about victims' rights and the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime, about judicial cooperation and about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved are a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4: People reached by mutual learning and exchanges of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones								2027	
0				2 627			4 574			4 574
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
----------------	--------

Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of potential obstacles to the smooth functioning of a European area of justice and to promoting cross-border cooperation, improving mutual knowledge and understanding of the civil and criminal law and the legal and judicial systems of the Member States and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved are a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Justice Programme

Specific Objective 1: To facilitate and support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters

Indicator 1: Average time of the surrender procedure (time between the arrest and the decision on the surrender of the person sought) under the European Arrest Warrant in cases where the person consents to the surrender

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2005-2013	Milestones									2024
14	Actual Progress									Final
	19	14	16	15	16.4	16.7				
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of days (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2019
Data source	EC DG JUST and Member States
Narrative	The result of 2019 of 16,7 days was above the milestone of 14 days for 2018 (and also above the target for 2020). According to Article 17(2) of the Framework Decision on the EAW, in cases where the requested person consents to his surrender, the final decision on the execution of the EAW should be taken within a period of 10 days after consent has been given (this is why we have set the 2020 target to 10 days).
Methodology	This indicator is calculated on the basis of statistics we receive from the Member States.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will not continue to report on this indicator (neither in the draft Regulation nor in the performance framework).
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	This indicator is calculated on the basis of statistics we receive from the Member States, however, there is no legal obligation for them to provide this data and, consequently, we do not have the full picture (22 Member States provided replies in 2019). In 2019, the surrender procedure when a requested person consented lasted on average 16,7 days after the arrest (14,99 days in 2017). In 2019, the highest reported average duration of the procedure, where the requested person consented to the surrender, was 60 days for Cyprus. Cyprus did not provide an explanation for the sharp increase in this average compared with 2018 (when its reported average was 15 days). Moreover, an average of 38 days was registered by Slovakia and 37 days for Poland, both showing a significant increase compared to 2018. The lowest reported average durations of the surrender procedure were 0.97 days in Luxembourg, 3 days in Malta, 2 days in Lithuania and 2.5 days in Slovenia. Delays in some Member States might be explained by additional requests for information, as a result of case law of the CJEU, in particular after the Aranyosi judgment of 2016 on detention conditions, as well as the LM judgment on independence of the judiciary in 2018. The statistics for 2020 would be published in June/July 2022. It is expected that the average time will improve after infringement proceedings concerning transposition of the Framework Decision on EAW by Member States. The EC launched infringement proceedings in 2020

Indicator 2: Number of exchanges of information in the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
300 000	2 400 000 2 750 000 3 125 000 3 500 000									3 500 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 250 000	1 811 546	1 978 104	2 571 991	2 963 789	4 179 614	4 136 249	4 100 000		4 136 249
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of exchanges in the system
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EC DG JUST
Narrative	This indicator measures the level of judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which contributes to providing citizens with a high level of safety.
Methodology	Quantitative
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report in the next MFF 21/27.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	After the dramatic growth of the number of exchanges in 2019 from 2,9 M to 4,1 M, since 2020 the yearly increase of the number of exchanges has been considerably slowed down. The affecting factors were: the UK leaving ECRIS, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic that has negatively influenced the movement of persons between the EU Member States

Specific Objective 2: To support and promote judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture

Indicator 1: The number and percentage of members of the judiciary and judicial staff that participated in training activities, staff exchanges, study visits, workshops and seminars funded by the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number										
0	Milestones									2020
	14 155 16 000									16 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	11 724	16 123	13 930	16 439	18 358	10 799	22 423			
Are we on track :	On track									
Percentage										
0	Milestones									2020
										0.13
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.0082	0.0099	0.0086	0.0102	0.0114	0.0067	0.18			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number and percentage of participants to training
Cut-Off Date	09/02/2021
Data source	EC DG JUST
Narrative	The indicator measures the number and percentage of members of the judiciary and judicial staff that participated in training activities, staff exchanges, study visits, workshops and seminars funded by the Programme including those organised by the European Judicial Training Network;
Methodology	Data collected from the grants applications and contracts
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	The percentage is the ratio between the number of supported participants and the total number of legal practitioners in the EU (Source of data: 2018 CEPEJ Report).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	2020 was an exceptional year, as thousands (instead of hundreds planned) of lawyers took part in online training on anti-money laundering under the Justice programme contract. The data for 2021 (based on the action grant calls launched under the new Justice programme 2021-2027 which include training activities) will be available by June 2022 following the preparation of the annual report on European judicial training.

Specific Objective 3: To facilitate effective access to justice for all, including to promote and support the rights of victims of crime, while respecting the rights of the defence

Indicator 1: Number of hits on the e-justice portal

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
441 000	992 250	1 488 375	2 232 563	2 679 075	3 214 890	3 857 868	4 629 442			4 629 442
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 136 849	1 751 180	1 884 600	2 690 574	2 962 558	4 343 547	4 619 548	4 395 089		4 619 548
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of hits on the portal
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG JUST
Narrative	For most of the period the actual results outperformed the set milestones, demonstrating an improvement in the impact of the programme’s actions in this field. The 2020 target has been met.
Methodology	Target: (+20% per year)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	We will continue to report on this indicator. In the draft Regulation “Number of hits on the e-Justice portal / pages addressing the need for information on cross-border civil and criminal cases”. This indicator will address the need of information on cross-border civil matters as well as of the level of relevance of these e-pages favouring a larger and easier access to justice by citizens.
Other methodological comments	The table above provides data according to different calculation methods. As of 2017, the data are obtained from a new tool for website statistics tracking, with a different calculation method. The targets for period 2014-2016 were adjusted to the new calculation method. N.B. The lower 2021 figure is predicated by loss of search engine indexation for 3 months (July-September 2021) due to a technical misconfiguration, leading to an approximate estimated loss of 650.000 visits. If these figures are considered, the Portal would have served approximately 5.050.000 visitors – which would represent an increase compared to 2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of hits on the e-Justice Portal have been increasing steadily over the years. The only divergence was registered in 2018, due to a change in the corporate system for gathering statistics. The new system was introduced in 2017 and registers hits based on a different algorithm, which resulted in a discrepancy of 20-30%. The 2020 target is practically reached. For the 2019-2021 period, the growth trend, however, demonstrates a slowdown.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	0.21							0.21	0%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 46.7							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)
 The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The Justice Programme regulation stipulates in Article 4 that gender equality should be promoted in all funded activities. Paragraph 18 of the Justice Programme regulation complements Article 4 by underlining the importance of gender mainstreaming in all programme activities and the Programme's commitment to evaluate its gender impacts. Thus, gender quality and mainstreaming are cross-cutting themes.

A key area for advancing gender equality is the promotion of victims' rights under the specific objective 'access to justice for all'. Gender-sensitive support to victims of crimes such as victims of hate crimes, trafficking in human beings and gender-based violence is essential to enable victims to know and exercise their rights. To a lesser extent, also judicial cooperation can promote gender equality. For example, the social rehabilitation and re-integration of persons, who are subject to measures in the field of judicial cooperation in criminal matters provides scope to provide gender-sensitive support. Judicial cooperation in civil matters has also the potential to promote gender equality, as for example, by providing legal insights into and raising awareness among professionals of the phenomenon of social parenthood. Judicial training has also the potential to raise awareness of gender inequalities among legal professionals. As a result, judicial training can help judges interpret EU directives where relevant in a gender-sensitive way.

Key achievements:

- The justice 2021 calls (7 in total) were systematically gender-mainstreamed. Applicants were asked to demonstrate in their proposal how gender equality will be respected during project implementation. They were also asked to outline how gender equality is tracked in their project monitoring and results. This resulted in stronger attention of applicants to gender equality aspects in the design of their projects;
- Gender equality was mainstreamed in the evaluation methodology, criteria and templates for justice calls. As a result, applicants' attention to gender aspects in their proposals has a direct impact on their performance in the evaluation;
- Improved collection of data through a new application form, facilitating the collection of sex-disaggregated data and more in-depth insights into the impact of justice funding.
- Contracted experts to evaluate proposals were made aware about the central role of gender equality for their work and briefed about the Gender Equality Tracking Methodology that the Commission pilots. As a result, the programme contributed to capacity building among experts that work across different Commission funding programmes.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The programme in all its activities will support gender mainstreaming: the Justice Programme regulation stipulates in Article 4 that gender equality should be promoted in all funded activities. Information on the key achievements on gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls is given in section 6.4.

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

Through the Justice Programme's financial support to cross-border training activities and to the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), 22 423 justice professionals participated in judicial training programmes in 2020 thereby fostering a common legal and judicial culture.

Under the Justice programme about 10 new projects promoting access to justice are awarded each year for a total budget of 3 - 3.5 million EUR.

The European e-Justice Portal established to inter alia facilitate access to justice throughout the EU, served 4.3 million visitors in 2021.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values

Citizenship, Equality, Right and Values

Lead DG: JUST

Associated DGs: EMPL, SG

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5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators	664
Previous Program 1 : Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme	664
General Objective 1 :to contribute, to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons as enshrined in the Treaty on European Union, in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the international human rights conventions to which the Union has acceded, are promoted, protected and effectively implemented	664
Specific Objective 1 :to promote the effective implementation of the principle of non -discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to respect the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter	666
Specific Objective 9 :to enable individuals in their capacity as consumers or entrepreneurs in the internal market to enforce their rights deriving from Union law, having regard to the projects funded under the Consumer Programme	666
Previous Program 2 : Europe for Citizens	668
Specific Objective 1 :to raise awareness of remembrance, the common history and values of the Union and the Union's aim, namely to promote peace, the values of the Union and the well-being of its peoples, by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks	668
Specific Objective 2 :to encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level	669

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The EU aims at promoting peace and the well-being of its people. It is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

To live up to its vocation, the EU needs to remember and learn from its history and to involve people in strengthening democratic societies. Yet emerging movements challenge the idea of open, inclusive, cohesive and democratic societies and threaten the enjoyment of rights and civic participation. In this context, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme responds to persisting gaps and emerging challenges:

- Inequalities and discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation still persist. Data show that discrimination against LGBTI ¹people, Roma², persons with disabilities³, elderly people or, on the ground of religion⁴, as well as violence against women⁵ and children, still persist; racism, xenophobia and hate speech are often amplified by the use of social network and new technologies; sensitive social and societal issues related to religion and beliefs are rising up in parallel. Significant gender inequalities persist⁶.
- More needs to be done to raise citizens' awareness of the values of the EU and the benefits of EU citizenship, to increase knowledge of the EU, its history, cultural heritage and diversity and to encourage a higher level of political and societal participation ;
- The rights stemming from EU citizenship are still not fully implemented, thus hindering citizens' political and societal participation.
- Economic crises, rising inequalities and new or persisting challenges such as migration, nationalism and populism have led some people to question the fundamental rights and the values on which the EU is founded, including the rule of law, access to justice, space for civil society and the independence of the judiciary.

These challenges could jeopardise democracy and fundamental rights. Furthermore, they are common to all Member States and have cross-border dimensions. While action at national level is important, individual Member States do not have sufficient leverage to tackle these challenges. Therefore, concerted efforts at EU level are required.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

CERV is a key instrument to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter) and in the applicable international human rights conventions.

1.3. Specific objectives

Programme objectives

1. The general objective of the Programme is to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter and in the applicable international human rights conventions, in particular by supporting civil society organisations and other stakeholders active at local, regional, national and transnational level, and by encouraging civic and democratic participation, in order to sustain and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law.

2. Within the general objective set out in paragraph 1, the programme has the following specific objectives which correspond to strands:

- (a) to protect and promote Union values (Union values strand),

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/thematic_factsheet_lgbt_en.pdf

² <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/eumidis-ii-roma-selected-findings>

³ In 2016, a majority of respondents to a public consultation considered that people with disabilities cannot fully participate in society, do not enjoy the same rights as other citizens and face discrimination. The results of this public consultation were analysed in the Commission Staff Working Document, "Progress Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy (2010-2020)", SWD(2017) 29 final of 2.02.2017.

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/factsheet_eurobarometer_fundamental_rights_2015.pdf

⁵ One in three women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 15.; Fundamental Rights Agency (2014), Violence against women: an EU-wide survey http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2014-vaw-survey-main-resultsapr14_en.pdf.

⁶ The current context is characterised, for instance, by an unequal participation of women and men in the labour market.

- (b) to promote rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality, and advance gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming; (Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand),
- (c) to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history (Citizens' engagement and participation strand),
- (d) to fight violence, including gender-based violence (Daphne strand).

Union values strand

Within the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within the specific objective set out in point (-a) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on protecting, promoting and raising awareness on rights by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level in promoting and cultivating these rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law and contributing to the construction of a more democratic Union, democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance.

Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand

Within the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within the specific objective set out in point (a) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on:

- (a) promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter;
- (b) supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies
 - (i) to promote women's full enjoyment of rights, gender equality, including work-life balance, women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming;
 - (ii) to promote non-discrimination and its mainstreaming;
 - (iii) to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of intolerance including homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia and intolerance on the basis of gender identity, both online and offline;
 - (iv) to protect and promote the rights of the child;
 - (v) to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities;
- (c) protecting and promoting Union citizenship rights and the right to the protection of personal data.

Citizens engagement and participation strand

Within the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within the specific objective set out in point (b) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on:

- (a) supporting projects aimed at commemorating defining events in modern European history, including the causes and consequences of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes, and at raising awareness among European citizens, of their common history, culture, cultural heritage and values, thereby enhancing their understanding of the Union, its origins, purpose, diversity and achievements and of the importance of mutual understanding and tolerance;
- (b) promoting citizens and representative associations' participation in and contribution to the democratic and civic life of the Union by making known and publicly exchanging their views in all areas on Union action;
- (ba) promoting exchanges between citizens of different countries, in particular through town-twinning and networks of towns, so as to afford them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that these constitute the foundation for a common future;

Daphne strand

Within the general objective set out in Article 2(1) and within the specific objective set out in point (c) of Article 2(2), the Programme shall focus on:

- (-a) preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and domestic violence, also by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention); and
- (a) preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people, as well as violence against other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;

(b) supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of such violence, such as domestic violence exerted within the family or violence in intimate relationships, including children orphaned by domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.

In pursuing its mission, CERV targets the following specific objectives, which correspond to action strands:

1. CERV contributes to protecting and promoting Union values (Union Values strand) by providing financial support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level.
2. CERV aims to promote equality and rights (Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand). In particular, it contributes to preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. It supports the development of comprehensive policies to promote gender equality and anti-discrimination and their mainstreaming as well policies to combat racism and all forms of intolerance. Moreover, CERV contributes to protecting and promoting the rights of the child, the rights of people with disabilities, EU citizenship rights and the right to the protection of personal data;
3. CERV promotes citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the EU (Citizens' engagement and participation strand). In particular, CERV contributes to increasing citizens' understanding of the EU, its history, cultural heritage and diversity. In addition, it promotes exchange and cooperation between citizens of different countries as well as citizens' civic and democratic participation allowing citizens and representative associations to publicly exchange their views in all areas of EU action
4. It contributes to the fight against violence, including gender-based violence (Daphne strand). In particular, CERV contributes to preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people and women, as well as violence against other groups at risk. Furthermore, it contributes to supporting and protecting victims of such violence.

1.4. Public intervention context

The policy challenges identified and addressed by the CERV programme, and in particular the promotion and protection of rights and values, require transnational cooperation mechanisms and networking opportunities, which can typically not be achieved by Member States acting alone. In that respect, action at EU level is needed following the subsidiarity principle and the principle of shared competences between EU and Member States in the area of freedom, security and justice (Article 4 of the TFEU). In many areas, such as equality and non-discrimination or citizenship, individuals are protected by European legislation, but are not sufficiently aware of their rights. Awareness raising actions, exchanges of best practices and training at EU level can help ensuring that persons in all Member States are reached, and that administrative structures/authorities are informed. Moreover, Member States can be supported to ensure consistent interpretation and coherent application of legislative instruments throughout the EU. In the area of rights, equality and, in particular, in combatting violence against women, there is EU-added value to work with national authorities and all stakeholders to find adequate solutions to remaining challenges at European level. EU funding is crucial to support civil society directly.

The programme will ensure consistency, complementarity and synergies with other funding programmes supporting policy areas with close links to each other, in particular with the Justice programme, Erasmus+ programme, the European Social Fund+ as well as with Creative Europe programme. Synergies will be explored and created with other European funding programmes, in the fields of employment and fight against social exclusion, youth, health, citizenship, justice, migration, security, research, innovation, external relations and sustainable development.

The programme supports the implementation of many Commission's strategic policy initiatives, such as the EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025⁷; the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025⁸; the EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation⁹, the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025¹⁰, the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life¹¹; the EU Strategy on the rights of the child¹² and Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030¹³. The programme is also fully in line with the political priorities of the Commission, as highlighted in the European democracy action plan¹⁴, Rule of Law report¹⁵ and the Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU¹⁶.

1.5. Actions

⁷ A Union of Equality: [EU anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025](#)

⁸ A Union of Equality: [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)

⁹ A Union of Equality: [EU Roma strategic framework on equality, inclusion and participation](#)

¹⁰ A Union of Equality: [Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 COM\(2020\) 152](#)

¹¹ COM(2021) 615 final

¹² COM/2021/142 final

¹³ A Union of Equality: [Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030](#)

¹⁴ [European democracy action plan](#) COM/2020/790 final

¹⁵ European rule of law mechanism - 2020 Rule of Law report

¹⁶ [Strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the EU](#)

CERV supports a wide range of organisations that play an important role at EU, national and local level for promoting and protecting EU values and rights.

This includes non-governmental organisations at local, national and transnational level as well as European networks, public administration including the equality and human rights bodies, national, regional and local authorities and institutions.

The CERV funds actions that:

- Increase awareness of rights, values and principles underpinning the EU as well as of EU culture, and history;
- Increase knowledge of EU law and policies as well as of potential obstacles to the exercise of rights and principles guaranteed by the EU Treaties, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, international conventions to which the EU has acceded, and secondary EU legislation;
- Increase capacity to act in order to better implement EU law instruments and policies in the Member States;
- Foster cross-border cooperation, exchange and debate, improving mutual knowledge, mutual understanding and enhancing mutual trust among all stakeholders.

Main activities supported by the programme are:

(a) awareness raising, promotion and dissemination of information to improve the knowledge of the rights and values and policies, within the areas and objectives covered by the Programme;

(b) mutual learning through the exchange of good practices among stakeholders to improve knowledge and mutual understanding;

(c) analytical monitoring activities to improve the understanding of the situation in Member States and at Union level in the areas covered by the Programme as well as to improve implementation of EU law, policies and Union values within Member States, such as activities to include for instance the collection of data and statistics; the development of common methodologies and, where appropriate, indicators or benchmarks; studies, research, analyses and surveys; evaluations; impact assessment; the elaboration and publication of guides, reports and educational material;

(d) training relevant stakeholders to improve their knowledge of the policies and rights in the fields covered by the Programme;

(e) information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools development and maintenance;

(e a) supporting civil society organisations and non-profit stakeholders active in the areas of the Programme to increase their capacity to react and to ensure adequate access for all citizens to their services, counselling and support activities;

(e b) supporting civil society organisations and non-profit stakeholders active in the areas of the Programme to carry out advocacy activities to promote rights, thereby also strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect of the rule of law and contributing to democratic dialogue, transparency and good governance, including in cases of shrinking space for civil society;

(f) strengthening awareness among citizens, especially young people, of European culture, cultural heritage, identity and history including with regard to totalitarian and authoritarian regimes and other defining moments of recent European history so as to strengthen remembrance and European citizens' commitment to the Union and to encourage tolerance, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity;

(g) bringing together citizens of different nationalities and cultures by giving them the opportunity to participate in town-twinning activities and civil society projects, thus creating the conditions for a stronger bottom-up approach and fostering civic and democratic engagement;

(h) encouraging and facilitating active and inclusive participation in the construction of a more democratic Union, as well as raising awareness on rights and values through support to civil society organisations;

(j) developing the capacity of European networks to promote and further develop Union law, values, policy goals and strategies;

(k) financing the technical and organisational support to implement Regulation [(EU)No 211/2011], replaced, as of 1 January 2020, by the Regulation (EU) 2019/788, thereby underpinning the exercise by citizens of the right to launch and support European citizens' initiatives;

(l) enhancing knowledge of the Programme and dissemination and transferability of its results and fostering outreach, including by setting up and supporting programme contact points;

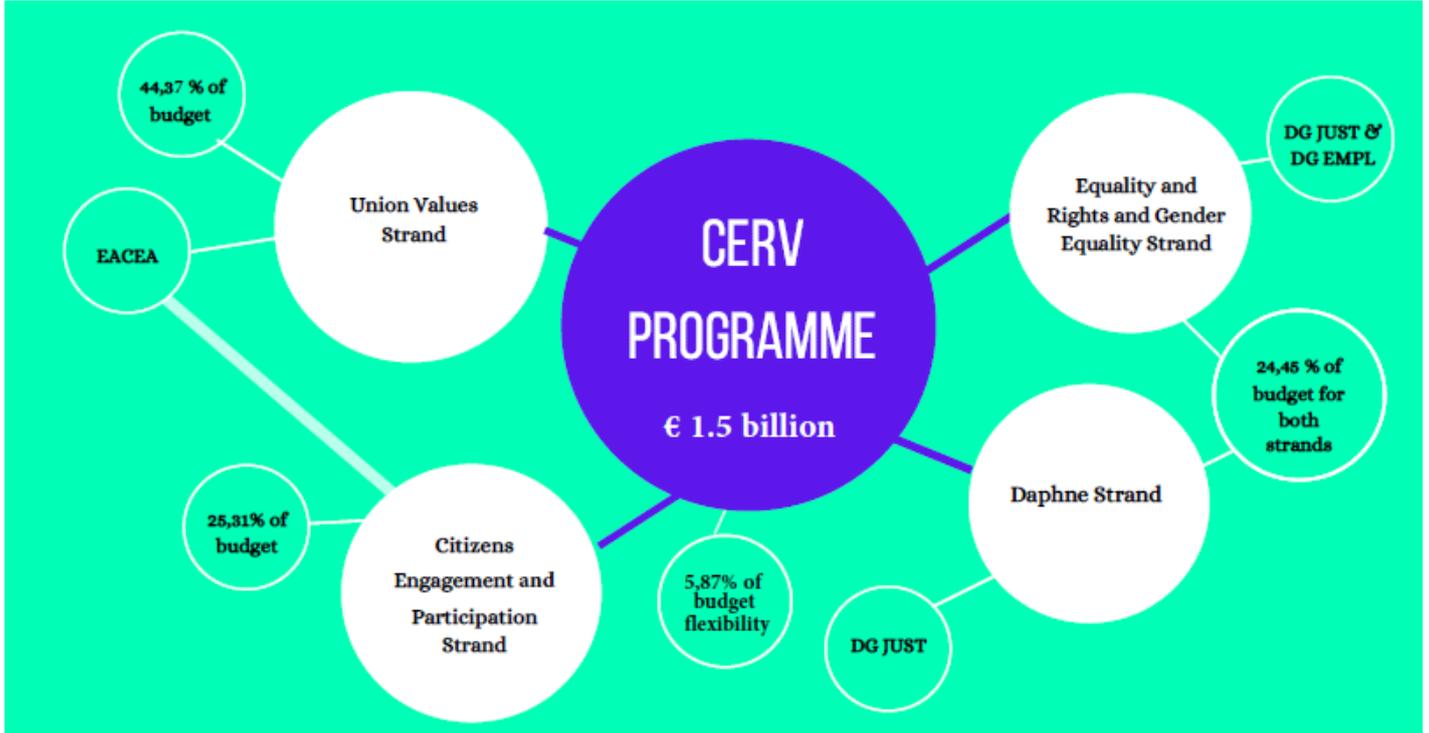
1.6. Delivery mode

The programme will be implemented through direct management by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST). In particular, the implementation of actions under the specific objective to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities will be managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL). The Commission delegates powers to implement actions in the Citizens engagement and participation strand and in the Union values strand to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme

The implementation of actions is directly managed by the Directorate-General of Justice and Consumers (DG JUST). In particular, the implementation of actions under the specific objective to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities is managed by the Directorate-General of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL). The Commission delegates powers to implement actions in the Citizens engagement and participation strand and in the Union values stand to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	648.26

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

Programme	Legal Basis	Content
Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme	Art. 16(2) - Data protection	In line with its legal basis, the CERV programme promotes equality and Union values, while combats discrimination and gender-based violence, empowering people so that they can enjoy the rights conferred on them by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Treaty on European Union (TEU), the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
	Art. 19(2) - Non-discrimination	
	Art. 21(2) - EU citizenship rights	
	Art. 24 - European Citizens' Initiative	
	Art. 167 - Culture	
	Art.168 - Public health	

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	98.9	214.9	212.3	92.1	92.2	92.2	91.5	894.1
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The 2021-27 CERV programme is the result of merging two former funding programmes¹⁷, namely the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme and the Europe for Citizens programme, which had both a strong societal focus and were clearly related to the promotion of rights and EU values.

This merge is expected to bring more visibility, simplification, and mutual reinforcement. While CERV increases the potential of the EU to promote and protect values by developing synergies between previous funding programmes, it acknowledges and maintains the specificities of the single policies. A novelty introduced in the programme is the new Union Values strand that will specifically provide support to civil society organisations active at local, regional and transnational level, strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law.

regional and transnational level, strengthening the protection and promotion of Union values and the respect for the rule of law.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/justice-and-consumers/justice-and-consumers-funding-tenders_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	98.9	894.1	11%
Payments	19.3		2%

The commitment appropriations 2021 were used for individual commitments for grants from the 2021 calls for proposals. 101 grants were signed in 2021 from the 2021 calls for an amount of EUR 17.6 million. At the end of 2021, a global commitment was made in ABAC. This global commitment will be used in 2022 to sign the remaining grants from the 2021 calls: 267 grants are still to be signed in 2022 from the 2021 calls for an amount of EUR 48.9 million. The payment appropriations 2021 were used to pay the pre-financings of the grants signed in 2021 from the 2021 calls. The pre-financing rate for CERV grants is 80%.

After a successful 2021, the objective is to maintain such outstanding implementation in the years to come. Following the adoption of the 2022 budget, DG JUST will have to implement in 2022 EUR 206.4 million under the CERV programme, which also includes the additional reinforcements voted by the European Parliament. It should be noted that part of the CERV budget is implemented by EACEA. The CERV 2022 calls for proposals were published in November 2021 and a detailed planning for the publication of 2022 calls for proposals has also been agreed with EACEA. The call deadlines have been planned for the first semester of 2022 in

¹⁷ In the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

order to respect the annuality of the budget and to take into consideration that 2022 is still a transitional year in the beginning of the new MFF.

The level of commitment appropriations requested in the context of the draft budget 2023 will be in line with the Financial Programming of the CERV Programme (as presented in the Draft Budget 2022 while accounting for the adoption of any new legislative proposals). The payment appropriations requested in 2023 are calculated based on detailed planning and accounting for the pre-financing rates to be paid. In brief, the requested appropriations include final payments for some grants signed in 2021, pre-financings for grants to be signed in 2023 stemming from the calls 2022 and pre-financings for grants signed in 2023 from 2023 calls. DG JUST request will also integrate the estimations from EACEA, SG and DG EMPL.

The table below is based on an earlier version of the work programme and does not take into account the subsequent amendments.

[Work programme 2021-2022](#)

Budget lines	2021 (€)	2022 (€)
Budget line 07 06 04: Protect and promote Union values	31 298 481	91 137 552
Budget line 07 06 01: Promote equality and rights	27 899 300	39 860 945
Budget line 07 06 02: Promote citizens' engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union	13 407 679	40 321 295
Budget line 07 06 03: Daphne	19 189 700	29 581 401
TOTAL	90 564 152	200 822 000

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate for the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme for 2014-2020:

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	432.5	435.3	99%
Payments	350.5		81%

2020 was the last year of the previous MFF and of the REC Programme. In 2021, 29 grants from the 2020 calls of REC remained to be signed in 2021 for an amount of EUR 10.2 million.

The completion line (legacy line) of the REC programme is used to pay final payments from past commitment. In 2021, 114 final payments for 114 grants from the old REC programme were paid for an amount of EUR 5.6 million. In 2021, 169 amendments were made in REC projects.

Cumulative implementation rate for the Europe for Citizens programme for 2014-2020:

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	195.3	195.5	100%
Payments	172.6		88%

In 2021, the payment appropriations were used to cover final payments on pre-2021 commitments still outstanding. Numerous projects were funded in the following areas: remembrance, civil society, structural support for think tanks organisations at EU level. As regards 2022, the payment appropriations will be used to cover the remaining final payments still outstanding.

The Europe for Citizens programme was affected by the COVID-19 crisis. By 31 December 2021, 402 amendments were made, most of them related to the extension of the eligibility period. This significant number of amendments signed, following requests for extending the duration of contracts due to the COVID-19 crisis, will mechanically lead to delayed budgetary execution of the corresponding payment credits.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

2021 has been an extremely challenging year, in particular due to the transition between two Multiannual Financial Frameworks, the very late adoption of the CERV Programme Regulation (28 April 2021), and the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, DG Justice and Consumers has ensured an exceptional implementation of the CERV programme, providing funding to grass-root organisations, EU network, IT systems, and funding several key activities in support of policy and legislative developments.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The work programme 2021-2022 of the CERV programme has provided around EUR 91.8 million for 2021 in support to actions promoting citizens' engagement, promoting equality for all and implementing projects in support of EU rights and values. Funds committed in the work programme were planned to be deployed via grants (about 80% of the total allocation), procurement (almost 19% of the total allocation) and by awarding prizes (about 0.4% of the total allocation). The remaining part of the total allocation (about 0.7%) was planned for 'other expenditure' (contracting external experts).

2021 calls for proposals started to be launched already as from April 2021. Altogether, 14 calls for proposals have been organised in the first year of the CERV programme for the total budget of approximately EUR 73 million. Under these calls, 1084 proposals have been received, from which 368 projects have been awarded for funding. By January 2022, 101 grant agreements have already been signed. We will start receiving the first project results in one year time, but most probably we will need to wait for 2 years to have meaningful data because the projects run for 20-24 months on average.

These actions include trainings, seminars and mutual learning events, research and studies, awareness raising and media campaigns to the ultimate benefit of the general public.

Union values strand

The Union values strand is new for the CERV programme and did not exist under the predecessor 'Rights, Equality and Citizenship' and 'Europe for citizens' programmes. In 2021, the strand provided more than EUR 31 million for actions promoting and protecting fundamental rights, the rule of law and democracy. The objective is to nurture and sustain a rights-based, equal, open, pluralist, inclusive and democratic society and to empower independent civil society organisations facing increasingly challenges.

In 2021, 59 framework partners have been selected for a four year long cooperation. The budget which was made available for the operating grants for the first year of the framework partnerships amounted to EUR 26.7 million. In addition to the operating grants managed by DG JUST / EACEA, DG EMPL is about to select a number of framework partners for the operating grants in the area of disability (the selection process for framework partners for the period 2022-2025 should be finalised by end February 2022; there will be between 7 and 11 partners).

EUR 3 million were made available for the programme contact points in Member States. By the end of 2021, 17 Member States have already designated their contact points.

For procurement, 1 subdelegation has been done in 2021 for a value of EUR 0.2 million (to DIGIT).

Equality, rights and gender equality strand

In 2021, about EUR 27.9 million have been provided to support actions promoting equality, tackling discrimination and improving responses to racism and xenophobia in the form of hate speech and hate crime, both on- and offline. Altogether four calls for proposals have been organised under this strand.

The biggest call for proposals under this strand, with a total budget of EUR 9.9 million, aimed to support actions, which promote equality and fight against racism, xenophobia and discrimination. Under this call, 219 proposals have been submitted, from which 32 projects have been awarded a grant. The projects are expected to address the vulnerabilities of specific groups and communities particularly affected by discrimination, such as Roma, Jews, Muslims, migrants, people of colour and people of African descent. Most awarded projects are led by civil society organisations and aim at improving the situation of vulnerable groups in the EU, which deteriorated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The call for proposals to protect and promote the rights of the child had a total budget of EUR 2.1 million. Under this call, 126 applications have been submitted, from which 7 projects have been awarded due to scarcity of funding under this CERV strand (in the new work programme 2023-2024 we look for possibilities to allocate more funding to this policy area).. Funding for protecting children's rights will respond to the current situation and address children's needs arising from the impact of COVID-19, as well as generally promoting mechanisms to safeguard children's rights in time of crisis.

The call for proposals restricted to national Data Protection Authorities, with a total budget of EUR 1.85 million (2021 and 2022 budget allocations combined), aimed to support the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation¹⁸ at national level. Under this call, 14 applications have been submitted (evaluation is finalised in 2022).

A four years framework partnership has been concluded with the partner named in the Regulation - EQUINET, the European Network of Equality Bodies. The operating grant, amounting to EUR 1.2 million to support EQUINET's operating programme in 2022, will help to increase capacity of experts from national equality bodies to address issues related to non-discrimination and the implementation of EU legislation in the field.

For procurement, 16 contracts have been awarded and 1 subdelegation (to DGT) has been done in 2021 for a total value of EUR 3.7 million with an aim to deliver on a number of initiatives foreseen in the recent policy initiatives in the area of equality¹⁹.

Contracts were also concluded to support, advance and implement comprehensive policies to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Namely, the annual conference on the occasion of European Day of People with Disabilities and the Access City Award (ACA) was held on 2-3 December 2021.

In 2021, the CERV programmes also financed prizes. The Access City Award recognises leading European cities in terms of accessibility. It promotes cities that contribute to improve accessibility following a "design-for all" approach, so that everybody, regardless of mobility or ability that could be related to age, has equal access to all the resources and venues cities have to offer. The 2022 ACA ceremony, held on 03 December 2021, awarded monetary prizes (for a total value of EUR 350 000) to the first three winning cities: (1) Luxembourg City; (2) Helsinki; (3) Barcelona.

Citizens' engagement and participation

The strand is a successor of the previous 'Europe for citizens' programme. The strand provides an opportunity to Europeans to take part in the debate on Europe and its history and to play a strong role in developing the EU. It is part of the common effort to uphold rights and values by reinforcing a rule of law culture in the EU. Its activities promote cultural diversity and the knowledge of shared history. They encourage EU citizens' responsible, democratic civic participation in shaping the future of the EU and foster their feeling of belonging in the EU. More than EUR 13.4 million have been allocated to this strand in 2021. Most of the funding was made available through calls for proposals.

In the area of town twinning and networks of towns, two calls for proposals with a total budget of almost EUR 7 million have been organised in 2021. Under the town twinning call, 119 proposals have been submitted, from which 91 proposals were funded. Under the networks of town call, where 26 out of the 68 proposals submitted have been selected for funding, exchanges between people of different countries will be supported, and the objective of the call is to reinforce mutual understanding and tolerance and give them the opportunity to broaden their perspective and develop a sense of European belonging and identity.

In the area of European remembrance, a call for proposals with a budget of almost EUR 4.5 million has been organised in 2021. The commemoration of and research and education about crimes committed under totalitarian regimes, particularly the Holocaust, as well as resistance, democratic transition and democratic consolidation in the EU were the two priorities of the call. A horizontal priority on the role, representation and perspective of women in these important historical events and developments has been introduced to allow for a more gender-balanced understanding of history. 95 proposals have been submitted, from which 27 have been awarded funding.

Finally, the programme supported the implementation of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/788, the ECI regulation, by allowing for the maintenance and further development of the IT tools underpinning the management of the ECI (ECI register, ECI Forum, the central online collection system, the modules for administrating the initiatives by the Commission, the module dedicated to organisers and the module dedicated to managing data controller responsibilities). The programme also supported the continuation of the 'EU Take the Initiative' communication campaign with targeted social media and local promotion activities in the Member States, which led to a 66% increase of the traffic to the ECI website (compared to the previous year) and an overall positive trend in terms of new requests for registrations (11 new requests compared to 5 in 2020). In addition, the ECI Forum funded through the same ECI-dedicated budget continued to provide legal and practical guidance to citizens interested in or running a European Citizens' Initiative.

Daphne: preventing and combatting gender-based violence and violence against children

This strand continues the work that has been carried out under the former Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme. More than EUR 19.1 million were allocated for this strand in 2021, mostly for grants. The dedicated call for proposal, with budget of EUR 17.7 million, finances projects on early detection, prevention and/or support to women, children and LGBTIQ victims or potential

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 as GDPR on the protection of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation).

¹⁹ Communications adopted under the Union of Equality: [EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025 COM\(2020\)656](#), [EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation COM\(2020\)620](#), [Gender equality strategy 2020-2025 COM\(2020\)152](#), [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 COM\(2020\)698](#),

victims of violence, with specific attention to situations emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Another priority targeted by the call is to prevent gender-based violence by addressing masculinities and the engagement of men and boys. Altogether, 154 proposals were submitted under the call, of which 40 were funded.

For procurement, 1 contract has been awarded and 1 subdelegation (DIGIT) has been done in 2021 for a total value of EUR 0.36 million

Challenges in 2021

2021 has been an extremely challenging year, in particular due to the transition between two Multiannual Financial Frameworks, the very late adoption of the CERV Programme Regulation (28 April 2021), and the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to avoid delays in implementation, a number of mitigation measures were put in place. First of all, the development/finalisation of the work programme and of the call documents was done in parallel to finalisation of the MFF and CERV Regulations. Secondly, as soon as the CERV Regulation was adopted, targeted communication activities were launched starting with the first CERV Civil Dialogue week organised on 25-28 May 2021 to present the programme and the upcoming calls for proposals to the stakeholders and potential beneficiaries. Around 1000 participants attended the different sessions of the event, which along with a high-level panel with Commissioner Reynders, also included technical hands-on sessions.

Another challenge in 2021 was the increased budget of the CERV programme, in comparison with its predecessor programmes. The (new) CERV programme with its new architecture and with new policy areas, as well as the fact that around 60% of the programme is implemented by EACEA, required putting in place a solid cooperation mechanism. The COVID-19 crisis had also impact on the way in which the information was made available to the stakeholders and potential applicants, with all the information sessions being held online (interactive activities were held during the information sessions, recordings of the sessions as well as replies to frequently asked questions were published, etc.).

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Rights, Equality and Citizenship

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) programme provided around EUR 430 million in the period 2014-2020 in support of actions promoting justice and fundamental rights. These actions included trainings, seminars and mutual learning events, research and studies, awareness raising and media campaigns to the ultimate benefit of EU citizens. The programme succeeded in contributing to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons are promoted, protected and effectively implemented.

The REC programme focused on fundamental rights in nine areas, corresponding to its specific objectives: non-discrimination; racism and other forms of intolerance; rights of persons with disabilities; gender equality; preventing violence (Daphne); rights of the child; data protection; EU citizenship; and consumers' rights.

A total of 81 calls for proposals were planned during 2014-2020. The largest number of these calls covered the specific objective to 'prevent violence (Daphne)', with 18 calls. Overall, 942 action grants and operating grants were awarded by the programme.

Procurement was an important funding mechanism for a number of specific objectives, amounting to a total of 345 contracts over the entire period. In total, approximately EUR 81 million was allocated to procurement contracts and services. The most common type of procurement was for analytical and monitoring activities.

In the last year, due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Commission found solutions to accommodate REC beneficiaries on a case-by-case basis to ensure, via individual grant agreement amendments, that their grant would continue despite the lockdown-related difficulty or impossibility to execute the work programmes as defined in the grant agreements. In procurement, there was also a need to extend the duration of some actions or to postpone the organisation of policy meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the ex post evaluation looked into the performance and results of the 2014-2020 REC programme. The results of the evaluation showed that despite the effects of the economic crisis, which led to a general reduction in the amount of national resources and funding available for social and fundamental rights issues, the programme has proven its EU added value and its crucial role in developing a European area of equality and rights. Throughout the years of implementation, the REC programme continued to be relevant to the (changing) needs of stakeholders and the EU public. This was ensured via its flexible programming nature, including the annual prioritisation of emerging policy needs and issues, and the dialogue with civil society organisations.

Based on the qualitative evidence collected, the implementation of the REC programme was successful and helped achieve the overall objectives. In particular, this success was due to the quality of most of the projects implemented with REC funding, enabling the implementation of concrete actions, directly relevant to the evolving needs on the ground. Almost all finalised projects have achieved the expected results.

Progress was also recorded in terms of the legal base indicators (identified by the Regulation), concerning in particular:

- the number of people that were reached by information and dissemination campaigns or that took part in awareness-raising events (at least 80 million people);

- the number of stakeholders participating in training activities (at least 1.5 million individuals) and in exchanges, study visits, workshops and seminars (at least 85 000 individuals) funded by the programme.

Overall, the evidence gathered suggests that the REC programme has helped increase the knowledge of EU soft and hard law.

Key activities implemented matched to a large extent the specific objectives. Furthermore, the activities and achievements of all projects sampled were directly relevant to the calls' objectives. The calls' priorities helped the beneficiary organisations to align their actions with the REC programme's objectives.

Qualitative evidence collected by the study suggests that the benefits of the REC programme outweighed the costs.

A complex interplay of internal and external factors supported and hindered the programme's performance. Internal factors mainly relate to the difficulties linked with the application process, internal capacity of project partners, and the type and quality of consortium. Common external factors relate to the impact of external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenge of involving public entities and stakeholders in the activities planned.

The evaluation found that the success factors in REC projects include the quality of partnerships, bringing together organisations with complementary expertise, covering managerial and coordination skills with experience of working with target groups on the ground. Another element of success is the capacity of the projects to respond to the aims of the calls while also pursuing the longer-term strategies of the implementing organisations.

As regards the baseline situation, as described in the 2011 impact assessment and the 2015 ex post evaluation of the three predecessor programmes (Daphne III, fundamental rights, and citizenship and progress), the evaluation evidence shows that almost all difficulties identified at that time have been overcome in the REC programme, except for the geographical imbalance which still persisted.

Europe For Citizens

The Europe for Citizens programme played a positive overall role in encouraging civic participation and democratic engagement, while strengthening the sense of belonging together and supporting mutual understanding and identification with Europe, thereby helping to support the European integration process in the longer term. By working directly with citizens, the programme offered a forum for involving European citizens through a grassroots approach. In the area of European remembrance, the Europe for Citizens programme added value to the debates by encouraging exchange beyond national boundaries and promoting a European vision of history. Europe for Citizens offered a new approach through the development of activities linking remembrance with civic participation and democracy.

As evidenced by the mid-term evaluation, Europe for Citizens has successfully demonstrated its added value at EU level both in terms of its impact on participants and its complementary role to other EU funding programmes and policy initiatives in the fields of education, culture and EU citizenship. Aspects which have been identified for improvement mostly relate to increasing the programme's visibility, amending the monitoring indicators and strengthening the synergies with other relevant EU funding programmes and initiatives.

Out of 1 761 applications received, 419 projects were selected, and around 1 250 000 participants are expected to have been involved in the activities of the programme. The number of projects funded, as well as the number of participants that has been continuously increasing since 2014, suggests that the programme has contributed to the achievement of its general objectives.

The Europe for Citizens programme was affected by the COVID-19 crisis. This resulted in delays in implementing a certain number of projects. However, this should not impact the overall performance of projects. Where possible, projects changed their onsite events to online or hybrid meetings while staying in line with planned themes and content which impacted the schedule less heavily. For some projects however this was not an option and they had to delay the projects until sanitary conditions would allow for physical meetings in order to deliver quality results.

3.2. Key achievements

Rights, Equality and Citizenship

33.3%	81%	27	96%	139
Percentage of women among non-executive directors on boards of listed companies (in 2020, from 16% in 2014)	Percentage of Europeans who consider themselves as well or very well informed of the rights they enjoy as citizens of the Union (in 2020,	Number of Member States that set up structural co-ordination mechanisms with all stakeholders, including Roma, on the implementation of the	Percentage of people that consider that domestic violence against women is unacceptable (in 2018, from 84% in 2014)	Number of grants awarded to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance (in

from 32% in 2014)

National Roma
Integration Strategies
(in 2020)

the period 2014-2020)

For the CERV programme, data for most indicators is not available yet because the data collection tools were being developed throughout 2021 and are expected to be deployed in 2022. This delay does not significantly impact reporting on the achievements because most of the projects funded by the first calls of the CERV programme have a start date between the end of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022.

Europe For Citizens

976 331	1 180 000	419	2378	28
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The number of persons directly reached by the Programme in 2020	The number of persons indirectly reached by the Programme in 2020	The number of selected projects in 2020	The number of partner organisations involved in selected projects in 2020	European citizens' initiatives were registered between 2018 and 2020
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The Europe for Citizens programme played a positive overall role in encouraging civic participation and democratic engagement, while strengthening the sense of belonging together and supporting mutual understanding and identification with Europe, thereby helping to support the European integration process in the longer term. By working directly with citizens, the programme offered a forum for involving European citizens through a grassroots approach. In the area of European remembrance, the Europe for Citizens programme added value to the debates by encouraging exchange beyond national boundaries and promoting a European vision of history.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Rights, Equality and Citizenship

The report on ex post evaluation will be available in Q1 2022. The results of the evaluation show that the REC programme has proven its EU added value and its crucial role in developing a European area of equality and rights. The programme continued to be relevant to the changing needs of stakeholders and the EU public. This was ensured via its flexible programming nature, including the annual prioritisation of emerging policy needs and issues, and the dialogue with civil society organisations. Overall, based on the qualitative evidence collected, the implementation of the REC programme was successful and helped achieve the overall objectives. In particular, this success was due to the quality of most of the projects implemented with REC funding, enabling the implementation of concrete actions, directly relevant to the evolving needs on the ground. Qualitative evidence collected by the ex post evaluation study suggests that the benefits of the REC programme outweigh the costs.

Europe For Citizens

The key findings of the latest mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020 (SWD(2018)86) were already presented in the Programme Statement 2019.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Protect and promote Union values

Indicator 1: People reached by training activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				35 206			80 871			80 871
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell

	about : • the increase of knowledge of Union law and policies as well as of the rights and values underpinning the Union; • the increase of understanding of the situation in Member States and in participating countries;
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 2: People reached by mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				11 533			26 493			26 493
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional and citizens of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of Union law and policies, of potential obstacles to the exercise of rights and to promoting cross-border cooperation and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 3: People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				876 895			2 014 291			2 014 291
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as of the rights, values and principles underpinning the Union.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4: Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				3 000			6 300			6 300
	Actual Progress									Final

	60									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives/strands of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No call for actions grants has been launched in 2021 therefore the number of CSOs supported in 2021 is lower than in a “full-speed “ year

Specific Objective 2: Promote rights, non-discrimination, equality, including gender equality, and advance gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming; (Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand)

Indicator 1: People reached by training activities Support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				16 174			31 852			31 852
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about : • the increase of knowledge of Union law and policies as well as of the rights and values underpinning the Union; • the increase of understanding of the situation in Member States and in participating countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 2: People reached by mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				5 299			10 434			10 434
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional and citizens of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of Union law and policies, of potential obstacles to the exercise of rights and to promoting cross-border cooperation and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA

Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 3: People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				402 858			793 347			793 347
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as of the rights, values and principles underpinning the Union.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4: Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				470			847			847
	Actual Progress									Final
	87									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives/strands of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track

Specific Objective 3: Promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history (Citizens' engagement and participation strand)

Indicator 1: People reached by training activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				24 618			84 181			84 181
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	No data
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives of the programme. However, for specific objective “Citizens engagement and participation”, the indicator will only apply to civil society projects (see other methodological comments). This indicator is useful to tell about : • the increase of knowledge of Union law and policies as well as of the rights and values underpinning the Union; • the increase of understanding of the situation in Member States and in participating countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. Regarding specific objective “Citizens engagement and participation”, the indicator will be used to count participants in training activities implemented by civil society projects. Participants in town-twinning projects, network of town projects and remembrance and heritage initiatives will be counted using the indicator "people reached by mutual learning and exchanges of good practices activities". Activities undertaken by town-twinning projects, network of town projects and remembrance and heritage initiatives are indeed considered to be mutual learning.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 2: People reached by mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				832 655			2 034 111			2 034 111
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional and citizens of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of Union law and policies, of potential obstacles to the exercise of rights and to promoting cross-border cooperation and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. For specific objective “Citizens participation and engagement” it might be difficult and disproportionate for project beneficiaries of very small grants to collect sex disaggregated data. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 3: People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				172 323			589 266			589 266
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022

Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. However, for strand / specific objective “Citizens engagement and participation”, the indicator will only apply to civil society projects (see other methodological comments). This indicator is useful to tell about the improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as of the rights, values and principles underpinning the Union.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. Regarding specific objective ”Citizens engagement and participation” this indicator will be used to count participants in awareness raising, information and dissemination activities civil society projects may organise. Participants in town-twinning projects, network of town projects and remembrance and heritage initiatives will be counted using the indicator "people reached by mutual learning and exchanges of good practices activities". Activities undertaken by town-twinning projects, network of town projects and remembrance and heritage initiatives are indeed considered to be mutual learning. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4: Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				1 092			2 372			2 372
	Actual Progress									Final
	129									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives/strands of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track

Indicator 5: Transnational networks and initiatives focusing on European memory and heritage as a result of programme intervention

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				1 866			3 786			3 786
	Actual Progress									Final
	152									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of “action” supported be it:• transnational networks of towns and town twinnings;• projects and organisations focusing on European memory and heritage. An action can be in the form of an action grant or an operating grant; it includes a set of activities.
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to the strand/specific objective “to promote citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union and exchanges between citizens of different Member States and to raise awareness of the common European history”. Co-ordinated transnational mutual learning activities implemented by transnational networks of towns and town twinnings and by European memory and heritage initiatives are necessary to promote exchanges between citizens of different countries on the wealth and diversity of the common heritage of the Union and to make them aware that these constitute the foundation for a common future. The above-mentioned objectives can

	only be reached by enabling individual citizens, towns and citizens' associations to interact, build capacity and exchange experiences at a transnational level. Action at national and local levels alone would be insufficient and ineffective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be calculated for strand/specific objective "Citizens engagement and participation" only.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Moderate progress due to several reasons : Due to covid pandemic, many ongoing projects granted under the predecessor programme EfC extended their duration to 2022 and 2023 ; it is unlikely that the related organisations had the capacity to apply in 2021; As of 2021, the new corporate submission tool (eGrants) was used; this is far more complex for applicants, especially for TOWN – involving small local municipalities; Applicants benefited from a weaker support from programme Contact Points in 2021 (compared to predecessor programme), as only 14 contact point were nominated in the first half of 2021 and started their activity later in the year.

Specific Objective 4: Fight violence, including gender-based violence (Daphne strand)

Indicator 1: People reached by training activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				19 802			39 499			39 499
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about : • the increase of knowledge of Union law and policies as well as of the rights and values underpinning the Union; • the increase of understanding of the situation in Member States and in participating countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 2: People reached by mutual learning and exchange of good practices activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0				6 487			12 940			12 940
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. Mutual learning and exchanges of good practices between professional and citizens of participating countries will contribute to improving knowledge and understanding of Union law and policies, of potential obstacles to the exercise of rights and to promoting cross-border cooperation and enhancing mutual trust.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants
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Indicator 3: People reached by awareness raising, information and dissemination activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										2027
0				493 221			983 821			983 821
	Actual Progress									
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objective of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the improved awareness of the public, the policy makers and the relevant practitioner of Union law and policies as well as of the rights, values and principles underpinning the Union.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	This indicator will be broken down per sex whenever possible. All the core performance indicators which measure a number of persons participating in the funding activities are defined as results indicators. Indeed one of the aims of the programme is to raise awareness and increase cooperation therefore we consider that the number of the persons involved is a direct result of the programme.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 value still not available due to technical development still ongoing under eGrants

Indicator 4: Civil society organisations reached by support and capacity building activities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										2027
0				615			1 120			1 120
	Actual Progress									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	EC DG JUST.
Link to the objective	This indicator is linked to all the specific objectives/strands of the programme. This indicator is useful to tell about the support dedicated to civil society organisations active in the areas of the programme at European, national regional and local level.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	2021 data is provisional. CSOs supported through the call/ priority on the right of the child is still not available (applications are still under the evaluation process).

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme

General Objective 1: To contribute, to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons as enshrined in the Treaty on European Union, in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and in the international human rights conventions to which the Union has acceded, are promoted, protected and effectively implemented

Indicator 1: Progress towards equal participation in the labour market

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Female employment rate 20-64 age group										
2012	Milestones									2020
62.4%	68%									71%
	Actual Progress									Final
	63,50%	64,30%	65,30%	66,40%	67,6%	67,4%	66,1%	66,8%		66,1%
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Employment rate of people with disabilities										
2013	Milestones									2020
48,5%	50%									55%
	Actual Progress									Final
	48,70%	47,40%	48,1%	50,6%	52%	50,8%	51,3%			52%
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Gender pay gap										
2013	Milestones									2020
16,8%	15%									14%
	Actual Progress									Final
	16,70%	16,30%	16,20%	16%	15%	14,1%				14,1%
Are we on track :	No data									
Percentage of women among non-executive directors on boards of listed companies										
2011	Milestones									2020
16,2%	30%									40%
	Actual Progress									Final
	20,20%	22,70%	26,10%	27,90%	29,30%	31,4%	31%	33,3%		31%
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage and rate
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	Eurostat, Eurostat European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) 2018 and European Institute Gender Equality (EIGE), gender statistics database.
Narrative	Target: Female employment rate 20-64 age group: 75% (for both women and men), Europe 2020 headline target; 71% for women. Target: Employment rate of people with disabilities 55% for both women and men, Europe 2020 headline target. Target :Gender pay gap 14%, Europe 2020 headline target. Target: Percentage of women among non-executive directors on boards of listed companies, Europe 2020 headline target.
Methodology	Quantitative and qualitative methodology. For instance, gender pay gap is calculated as the difference in average gross hourly earnings between women and men. It is based on salaries paid directly to employees before income tax and social security contributions are deducted. Only companies of ten or more employees are taken into account in the calculations.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	Concerning the employment rate of people with disabilities, the Eurostat EU SILC 2018 report shows that for EU 28 in 2018: 52% employment rate for persons with disabilities as compared to 76.2% of those without disabilities and for EU 27 in 2018: 50.8% employment rate for persons with disabilities as compared to 75% of those without disabilities. It should be noted that persons with disabilities living in institutions are not included in these statistical data. Data for 2020 are for EU27. As regards Employment rate of people with disabilities, data for 2018 and 2019 are also for EU27.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/LFSQ_ERGAN_custom_159206/default/table?lang=en https://www.disability-europe.net/downloads/1046-edc-task-2-1-statistical-indicators-tables-eu-silc-2018 https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Gender_pay_gap_statistics https://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs/indicator/eustrat_sege1619_eqldcsn_wmid_comp_compex/bar/year:2020-B1/geo:EU28,EU27_2020/EGROUP:COMP/NACE:TOT/POSITION:NON_EXEC/UNIT:PC/sex:W
Justification of the trend	There has been a moderate progress on the female employment rate 20-64 age group for the entire period of programme implementation. The progress was characterized by a steady increase until 2018 that was followed by a slight drop in the preceding years. Similarly, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of women among non-executive directors on boards of listed companies. However, there are not recent data on the progress of gender pay gap, the last available data indicate a narrowing of the gap by 1,8 %. Lastly, the progress on the employment rate of people with disabilities has been quite moderate.

Indicator 2: Percentage of Europeans who consider themselves as well or very well informed of the rights they enjoy as citizens of the Union

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010	Milestones									2020
32%	Actual Progress									Final
		42%		54%	55%		81%			81%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of people out of total number of people interviewed
Cut-Off Date	31/07/2020
Data source	Flash Eurobarometer 485: Report EU citizenship and democracy (July 2020)
Narrative	Target: percentage of Europeans who consider themselves as well or very well informed of the rights they enjoy as citizens of the Union 51 %, Europe 2020 headline target.
Methodology	Combined qualitative and quantitative methods
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	Data from Flash Eurobarometer (2015) and are not included in the Standard Eurobarometer.
Full metadata available at this address	https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2260_485_ENG
Justification of the trend	No new eurobarometer in 2021. Beyond the target in 2020. There has been a significant increase in the percentage of Europeans who consider themselves as well or very well informed of the rights they enjoy as citizens of the Union. The progress has been highly significant, surpassing the set target by 30%. The causes of the strong increase are difficult to identify as they can be multiple: this indicator is an average of 5 sub-indicators, relative to five different rights conferred by EU citizenship, measured in the 28 Member States. In addition, the framing of this question has changed in the last survey. Therefore, comparisons with results from earlier surveys are not possible.

Specific Objective 1: To promote the effective implementation of the principle of non -discrimination on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and to respect the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter

Indicator 2: Number of Member States that set up structural co-ordination mechanisms with all stakeholders, including Roma, on the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
0	Actual Progress									Final
	13	17	21	21	22	22	27	27		27
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of co-ordination mechanisms
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2021
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	There are 27 appointed National Roma Contact Points, one in each Member State. There are 12 Member States who have established a regular forms of dialogue, such as National Roma Platforms, namely LV, SI, BG, LT, EE, HU, IT, RO, EL, PT, SK and AT.
Methodology	Quantitative methods
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/roma-eu/roma-inclusion-eu-country_en
Justification of the trend	Target reached

Specific Objective 9: To enable individuals in their capacity as consumers or entrepreneurs in the internal market to enforce their rights deriving from Union law, having regard to the projects funded under the Consumer Programme

Indicator 1: Perception of consumers of being protected

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2011	Milestones									2020
0.64				0.73			0.75			0.75
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.7		0.76		0.72		0.8069			0.8069
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentages for data up to 2018. Difference between 2020 and 2018 in pp (percentage points) for the figure in 2020.
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	Consumer Conditions Scoreboard (Survey on consumer attitudes towards cross border trade and consumer protection).
Narrative	Survey based indicator. Percentage of consumers who agree that retailers and providers respect their rights as consumer.
Methodology	Telephone survey covering all the EU MS, plus IS, NO and UK.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The methodology was slightly revised as of 2016. Data until 2018 are on the EU28 (including the UK). Conversely, the difference 2020-2018 (in percentage points) is on the EU27 (without the UK).
Full metadata available at this address	The 2020 edition of the consumer conditions scoreboard has not been published yet. The final report for the 2018 edition of the survey on consumers is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/consumers/consumer-protection/evidence-based-consumer-policy/consumer-and-retailer-surveys_en
Justification of the trend	The target has been reached.

Indicator 2: Consumer and retailer awareness of rights and obligations:

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of consumers who are aware of their right to keep the unordered product sent to them together with an invoice										
2011	Milestones									2020
36%	32%			37%			39%			39%
	Actual Progress									Final
	34%		34%		35%		29%			29%
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentages for data up to 2018. Difference between 2020 and 2018 in pp (percentage points) for the figure on 2020.
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	Consumer Conditions Scoreboard (Survey on consumer attitudes towards cross border trade and consumer protection)
Narrative	Survey based indicator. Percentage of consumers who are aware of their right to keep the unordered product sent to them together with an invoice.
Methodology	Telephone survey covering all the EU MS, plus IS, NO and UK.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The methodology was slightly revised as of 2016. Data until 2018 are on the EU28 (including the UK). Conversely, the difference 2020-2018 (in percentage points) is on the EU27 (without the UK).
Full metadata available at this address	The 2020 edition of the consumer conditions scoreboard has not been published yet. The final report for the 2018 edition of the survey on consumers is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/consumers/consumer-protection/evidence-based-consumer-policy/consumer-and-retailer-surveys_en
Justification of the trend	The target has nearly been reached. This indicator is subject to a wide discrepancy between Member States : 45 ppt difference with Austria highest with 52% correct reply and Malta lowest with 9%. For these reasons, it is more easily subject to fluctuations. Also the context of this survey has to be taken into consideration. The fieldwork was done in Q4 2020, the first year of the pandemic. Consumers were then faced with a number of issues: reimbursement right of flights transformed in vouchers for a lot of flights; explosion of on-line scams, etc.

Indicator 3: Level of consumer confidence in cross-border online shopping, as measured by the percentage of consumers who feel confident purchasing via internet from retailers/service providers from another country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
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2012	Milestones								2020
34%				45%			50%		50%
	Actual Progress								Final
	37%		58%		48%		43%		44,11%
Are we on track :	Moderate progress								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentages for data up to 2018. Difference between 2020 and 2018 in pp (percentage points) for the figure on 2020.
Cut-Off Date	08/02/2022
Data source	Consumer Conditions Scoreboard (Survey on consumer attitudes towards cross border trade and consumer protection).
Narrative	Survey based indicator. Percentage of consumers who feel confident purchasing via internet from retailers/service providers from another EU country.
Methodology	Telephone survey covering all the EU MS, plus IS, No and UK.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The methodology was slightly revised as of 2016. Data until 2018 are on the EU28 (including the UK). Conversely, the difference 2020-2018 (in percentage points) is on the EU27 (without the UK).
Full metadata available at this address	The 2020 edition of the consumer conditions scoreboard has not been published yet. The final report for the 2018 edition of the survey on consumers is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/consumers/consumer-protection/evidence-based-consumer-policy/consumer-and-retailer-surveys_en
Justification of the trend	The target has nearly been reached. The context of this survey has to be taken into consideration. The fieldwork was done in Q4 2020, the first year of the pandemic. E-commerce accelerated: a significant number of consumers started buying online and frequency increased as well .(for more details see ICT annual surveys). Also consumers were faced with a number of on-line issues: explosion of on-line scams related to masks, hand-cleaning liquid, etc which then moved to other fields. Result: the consumer confidence of e-commerce decreased overall: ecommerce from retailers/service providers in own country 63% (-6ppt versus 2018) as well as from another EU country 43% (-4ppt versus 2018). It has to be noted that confidence in retailers / service providers in own country has always been much stronger than confidence in retailers/service providers in another country.

Previous Program 2: Europe for Citizens

Specific Objective 1: To raise awareness of remembrance, the common history and values of the Union and the Union's aim, namely to promote peace, the values of the Union and the well-being of its peoples, by stimulating debate, reflection and the development of networks

Indicator 1: Number of participants who are directly involved

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones								2020	
100 000	100 000			100 000			100 000			100 000
	Actual Progress								Final	
	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	100 000	125 000	76 331		76 331
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA
Narrative	The number of citizens reached by the projects as indicated in the projects' final reports.
Methodology	Quantitative methods
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	NA
Justification of the trend	We are below the target this year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on projects. 37 projects requested an extension of the eligibility period of their project as they could not organise their activities as planned. Activities are shifted to the coming year. No updated data in 2021.

Indicator 2: Number of persons indirectly reached by the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
150 000	165 000			180 000			202 500			202 500
	Actual Progress									Final
	165 000	185 000	190 000	190 000	194 000	260 000	180 000			180 000
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA - Final reports submitted
Narrative	The number of citizens indirectly reached by the projects as indicated in the projects' final reports.
Methodology	Quantitative.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	NA
Justification of the trend	We are on track despite the Covid-19 pandemic on projects. Many projects organised online events which allowed still reaching a good number of indirect participants . No updated data .

Indicator 3: Number of projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
31				35			36			36
	Actual Progress									Final
	36	33	38	39	37	49	54			54
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA - Award decisions
Narrative	The number of grants awarded under Strand 1 of the EfC programme based on the merit of the proposals and the budget available.
Methodology	Number of projects based on Award decisions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results/european-remembrance-2020-selection-year-2020_en
Justification of the trend	Due to additional funding that became available we were able to finance the reserve list of 5 additional projects. No updated data .

Specific Objective 2: To encourage the democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at Union level

Indicator 1: Number of participants who are directly involved

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
1 000 000	1 000 000			1 000 000			1 200 000			1 200 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 100 000	1 125 000	900000			900 000
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA
Narrative	The number of citizens reached by the projects as indicated in the projects' final reports.
Methodology	Quantitative

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	NA
Justification of the trend	We are below the target this year due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on projects. No updated data .

Indicator 2: Number of persons indirectly reached by the Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
1 000 000	1 100 000	1 150 000	1 180 000	1 200 000	1 250 000	1 300 000	1 350 000			1 350 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 100 000	1 100 000	1 100 000	1 200 000	1 300 000	1 500 000	1 000 000			1 000 000
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA
Narrative	The number of citizens reached by the projects as indicated in the projects' final reports.
Methodology	Quantitative
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	NA
Justification of the trend	We are on track despite the Covid-19 pandemic on projects. Many projects organised online events which, allowed still reaching a good number of indirect participants. No updated data.

Indicator 3: Number of participating organisations

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
1 000	1 000	1 300	1 350	1 400	1 500	1 600	1 700			1 700
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 100	1 300	1 550	2 100	2 300	2 310	1740			1740
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of participating organisations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA - Award decisions.
Narrative	In 2020 the number of different organisations participating remains at the expected level.
Methodology	Quantitative
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	NA
Justification of the trend	The number of grants awarded is slightly higher as the average grant requested is slightly lower than in previous years. No updated data .

Indicator 8: Number of networks of twinned towns

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
41	35			35			36			36
	Actual Progress									Final
	35	32	30	32	35	36	41			41
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of networks of twinned towns
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EACEA - Award decisions (Rounds 1 & 2)
Narrative	The number of grants awarded under of the EfC prothis action is based on the merit of the proposals

	and the budget available.
Methodology	Quantitative
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	NA - This indicator is not foreseen in the new legal basis.
Other methodological comments	NA
Full metadata available at this address	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/selection-results_en
Justification of the trend	The number of grants awarded is slightly higher as the average grant requested is slightly lower than in previous years. No updated data .

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	0.06							0.06	0%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

All numbers are provisional. A call for proposals on citizen’s engagement has a priority on climate and environment. The call closed in February 2022 with an indicative budget of 17.4 MEUR. The proposals are under evaluation however, their contribution will be marked as 40%. All other activities under CERV are currently considered as contributing 0%.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 2: 22							
Score 1: 69							
Score 0: 8							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The programme is one of the Commission’s flagship initiatives to implement its Gender Equality Strategy²⁰. The promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming is a building block of the programme and enshrined within Article 2(b) of the programme regulation.²¹ Article 2(d) of the regulation also identifies the fight against gender-based violence as a specific objective (Daphne strand, EUR 19.1 million earmarked in 2021). In addition, the programme also advances gender equality through its holistic and intersectional approach to funding projects under the other three strands: Citizens’ engagement and participation (EUR 13.4 million), equality, rights and gender equality (EUR 27.9 million) and EU values strand (EUR 31.3 million) earmarked in 2021. In addition, EUR 8 million of the total budget were allocated for administrative expenditure and therefore listed with a score 0.

Paragraph 18 of the programme regulation underlines that ‘(...) the Programme in all its activities should support gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination.’ Although gender equality is not always the focal point of projects funded under these strands, they contribute significantly to promoting gender equality. By combating discrimination, xenophobia, racism and all forms of intolerance, the programme leverages its potential to fight and forestall intersectional discrimination. Areas of intersectional discrimination and inequalities are for instance, omitted narratives of Roma women about the holocaust, awareness raising activities that shed light on hate crimes and hate speech against people of colour, people of a certain religious belief or living with a handicap. Through the promotion of democratic principles and the rule of law, the programme also makes sure that women and men can equally enjoy their rights.

²⁰ A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

²¹ REGULATION (EU) 2021/692 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL.

The programme underlines the importance of gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in its provisions, on its performance indicators and evaluation. All data collected has to be sex-disaggregated and the evaluation of the programme's strands is to include a gender equality perspective outlining gender equality results.²²

Key achievements:

- The CERV 2021 calls (14 in total) were systematically gender-mainstreamed. Applicants were asked to demonstrate in their proposal how gender equality will be respected during project implementation. They were also asked to outline how gender equality is tracked in their project monitoring and results. This resulted in stronger attention of applicants to gender equality aspects while designing their projects;
- Gender equality was also mainstreamed in the evaluation methodology, criteria and templates for CERV calls. As a result, applicants' attention to gender aspects in their proposals has a direct impact on their performance in the evaluation;
- Contracted experts to evaluate proposals were made aware about the central role of gender equality for their work and briefed about the Gender Equality Tracking Methodology that the Commission pilots. As a result, the programme contributed to capacity building among experts that work across different Commission funding programmes;
- Improved collection of data through a new application form, facilitating the collection of sex-disaggregated data and more in-depth insights into the impact of CERV funding.
- The information session on the citizen's engagement and participation strand, with some 500 registered participants, raised further awareness of the advantages to include a gender perspective into proposals among potential applicants and elicited multiple questions on gender equality and gender mainstreaming, which were summarized in a Q&A, publically available, for future reference for applicants.

The budgetary planning for the multi-annual financial framework 2021-27 allocates a total of EUR 169 410 120 to the promotion of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and combating gender-based violence.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.3.1. Goals

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The programme will support projects for the inclusion of all to quality education, including minority groups such as Roma youth, and organisations promoting lifelong learning opportunities at all ages.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The programme in all its activities will support gender mainstreaming and the mainstreaming of non-discrimination objectives. In particular, the programme, within its specific objective on rights, non-discrimination and equality has a focus on promoting women's full enjoyment of rights; gender equality, including work-life balance; women's empowerment; and gender mainstreaming". Projects will fund activities to tackle gender stereotypes and address silent and intersectional discrimination, as well as awareness raising and other policy activities for the promotion of equal opportunities and the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity, including with the view to achieve equal participation/representation of women and men in decision-making in politics and economics.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Via the Equality, Rights and Gender Equality strand, the Programme will support projects for equal access to work, equal participation in labour market and the elimination of barriers to career progression in all sectors.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The programme, through transnational projects sharing good practices, trainings and awareness rising activities, will contribute to the reduction of inequalities and eliminating discrimination between EU citizens and among countries.

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

Via the Citizens engagement and participation strand and the Union values strand, the programme will promote inclusive society and the rule of law. Funds will support entities which contribute to make our common values, rights and equality and rich diversity alive and vibrant.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

6.3.2. Key achievements and performance

Rights, Equality and Citizenship

²² Annex II to Regulation (EU) 2021/692.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

By promoting youth Roma integration in the funded activities of non-discrimination, the programme contributed to the goal that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and education. Through tackling gender stereotypes, the programme contributed to the goal of creating education facilities that are child-friendly, accessible and gender-sensitive, providing thus safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Via actions funded under gender violence and gender equality calls for proposals, the programme contributed to the goals to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls. In particular, the programme contributed to the goals to ensure women's equal opportunities for leadership at all levels and to adopt enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality.

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

The programme contributed to the goal to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. It funded activities sharing best practises on work-life balance and supported persons with disability in terms of awareness raising, capacity building, monitoring of their situation in terms of employment and foster education. Learning opportunities were provided to legal and policy practitioners on legal instruments that serve to protect and promote employment of persons with disabilities.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The programme ensured equal access for travellers with disabilities to a number of benefits in the areas of culture, leisure, sport and transport, thus contributing to the inclusion of people with disabilities in society, via funding the European Disability Card project. It also helped in monitoring the poverty situation of persons with disabilities through supporting the Academic Network of European Disability experts and exchange of good practices in the social protection field.

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

The programme supported the empowerment of Roma women through increasing their awareness about discrimination, complaint mechanisms, the justice system and human rights institutions/equality bodies. The programme also financed projects focusing on a child-friendly justice, to support children before, during and after judicial proceedings and to provide capacity-building to judicial practitioners on individual assessments specified in EU law.

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership

Via the European network of academic experts in the field of disability, the Programme ensured the collection of essential data, analysis and monitoring on the situation of people with disabilities related to, among others, employment, education and poverty risk.

HEADING 2B: Resilience and Values

Communication

Lead DG: COMM

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

In the next years, DG Communication will focus on:

- listening to citizens across all Member States developing opinions and making sure that their concerns and ideas are fed into policy-making;
- communicating on the Commission's policy priorities and headline ambitions, taking into account the post-COVID-19 economic and social context and highlighting the recovery plan and NextGenerationEU, implementing the European Green Deal, and making Europe fit for the digital age;

- engaging with citizens and the players using all available channels of the overarching media landscape citizens in all Member States in a clear and concise manner.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

DG Communication, as a corporate communication service, brings Europe closer to its citizens by:

- **LISTEN** : providing intelligence to the College, Cabinets and Services
- **ADVISE** : ensuring coherence in Communication and domain leadership
- **ENGAGE** : reaching out and engaging with citizens.

1.3. Specific objectives

DG Communication has defined in its Strategic Plan 2020-2024 the following five Specific Objectives:

1. College and services use country specific intelligence, Eurobarometer results, media analysis and stakeholders'/citizens' feedback to inform political decision-making;
2. College receives strategic advice on communicating the political headline ambitions and on media landscapes in the Member States;
3. Corporate communication of the Commission's political headline ambitions is aligned across the Commission's departments;
4. Meaningful and tailored messages, focussed on the Commission's political headline ambitions, are communicated to citizens, media, multipliers and stakeholders;
5. Citizens engage with the EU through face-to-face events and online interactive platforms, such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, thus stimulating the sharing of EU values and interest in and ownership of EU topics.

1.4. Public intervention context

Communication interventions falls under the institutional prerogatives of the Commission.

1.5. Actions

In the next years the Directorate-General for Communication will provide:

1. Executive and corporate communication services: providing executive services to the President and the College in support of their communication efforts and to the Spokesperson's Service and European Commission senior management by ensuring political and economic intelligence and media advice, and by feeding high quality country specific information and analysis from a variety of sources into the European Commission's decision-making process. Furthermore, providing corporate communication products and services to the external communication domain of the European Commission.

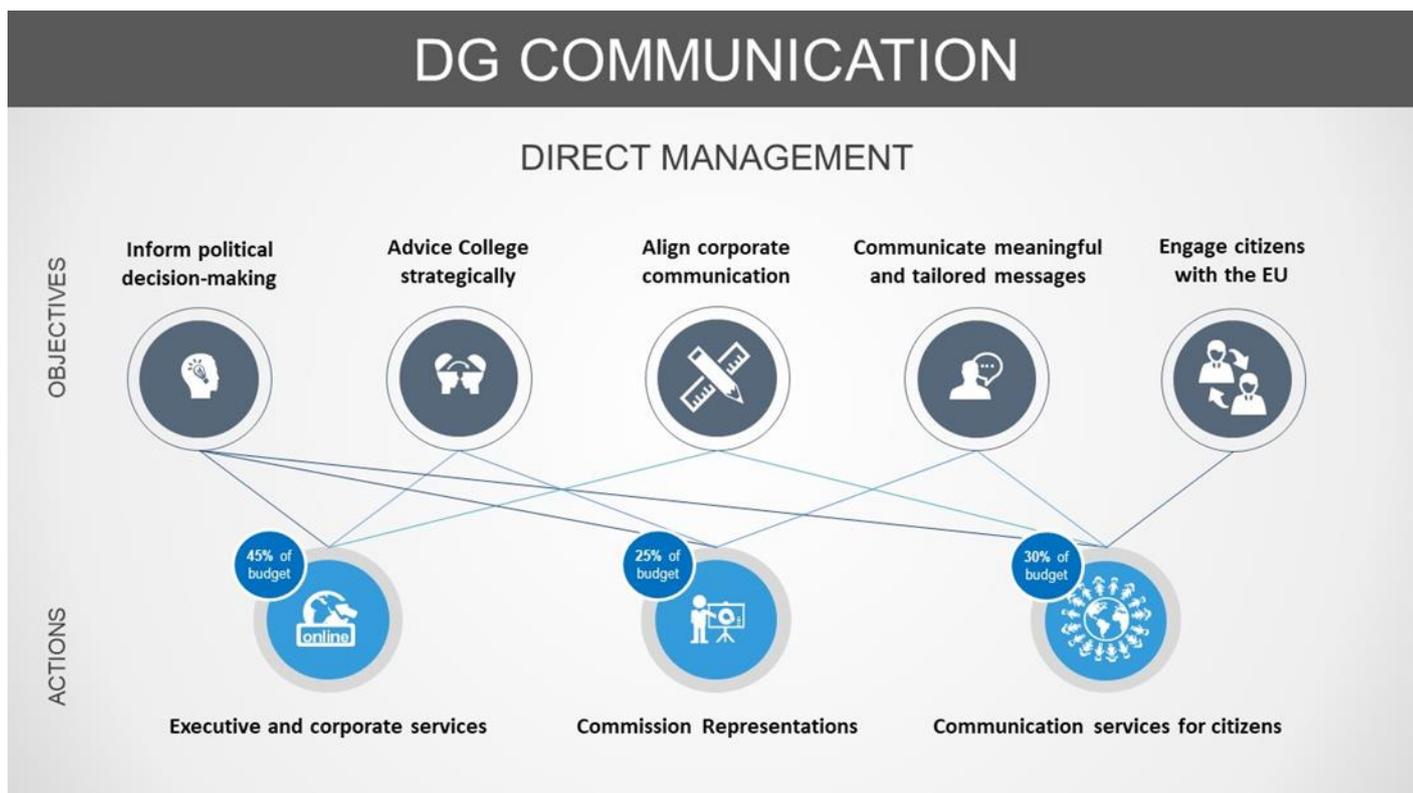
2. Representations of the European Commission in the Member States: acting as the official representatives of the Commission in the Member States and serving the interests of the whole Institution and the Union by connecting with national, regional, and local authorities, media, and stakeholders, and by reaching out to citizens in general.

3. Communication services for citizens: providing communication products and services directly addressed to citizens and ensuring that communication services for citizens are made available through simple, clear, and understandable messages, either via a mix of channels and media (traditional and new) or by directly communicating with citizens and stimulating exchange and engagement face to face.

1.6. Delivery mode

DG Communication is the lead Directorate-General for implementing the above-described activities, implementation through direct management.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Tasks are resulting from the European Commission’s prerogatives at institutional level, as provided for in Article 58(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193,30.7.2018 p. 1).

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	106.7	107.6	108.5	109.5	110.4	111.4	112.2	766.3
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Throughout the MFF 2014-2020, DG Communication was under Title 16 of the Commission budget. Under the new MFF 2021–2027 communication activities are included within Heading 2b “Cohesion and Values” under the policy cluster 7 “Investing in people and values”.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

DG COMM activities:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/communication_en

The Eurobarometer website provides key statistical information:

<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/screen/home#p=1&instruments=STANDARD>

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	106.7	766.3	14%
Payments	92.1		12%

The commitment appropriations needs for 2022 amount to €113,574,500 as defined in the Directorate-General for Communication Work Programme 2022¹. Indicated figure includes the following:

- 107,599,000 envisaged as annual DG COMM budget in MFF 2021-2027,
- 2,795,000 EUR envisaged for Information policy and strategic communication for external action under Communication on Corporate communication action in 2021-2023 under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, C(2020)9390 of 18 December 2020, and
- 3,180,500 EUR envisaged for pilot projects.

Their implementation is through direct (public procurement) management and grants.

Pilot projects, for which commitment appropriations are allocated in 2022, are the following:

- PP072109 - Temporary citizens' assemblies (1,990,000 EUR), and
- PP072114 - BELE - Building Europe with Local Entities (1,190,500 EUR).

Payment needs for 2022 and following years are estimated considering the average implementation rates of previous years, by budget line. Fresh commitments made in 2022 will implement payment appropriations between 30% and 60% of the amount committed – depending on the budget lines. The RAL (Reste à Liquider) carried over from previous years is implemented at around 80%.

Commitment appropriations and payment appropriations have been used, with a 100% implementation rate, to finance DG COMM activities stretching along three activity strands: Corporate services, Representations and Services to citizens. In 2021, significant budget redeployments (about 10% of DG COMM yearly operational budget), were made in favour of the Conference on the Future of Europe project, for which specific funding had not been foreseen during the 2021 budget procedure.

In 2023, DG COMM will maintain communication activities specified under current budget sub-lines (i.e. communication channels and form will be maintained). However, topics (actual content of communication messages) will be updated and reviewed to consider shifting communication priorities.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

DG Communication is the corporate communication service of the European Commission. Acting under the authority of the President, DG Communication leads the Commission's communication about the headline ambitions of the College and EU

¹ C(2021) 8346 dated 25.11.2021.

policies. It aims to inform and engage citizens on the EU role and policies based on common values and enable them to participate in European democracy.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

For general objective “*A modern, high-performing, and sustainable European Commission (general objective)*” achievements are evaluated by measuring positive and fairly positive views on the image for the European Union. In 2021, achieved result is 45% of respondents had either positive or fairly positive image against target value of also 45%.

Being a Presidential service, in 2021, DG Communication contributed to this general objective by ensuring that the College receives high quality communication advice and intelligence, and by providing information and communication services addressing citizens directly, with messages aligned to the Commission priorities. This, in turn, has an impact on how well-informed European citizens feel and whether they consider their voice heard in the EU. These factors consequently helped to reinforce the Union’s positive image (expressed by an indicator for all services contributing to this general objective). At the same time, DG Communication contributed to a more modern, high-performing Commission by continuously adjusting its communication-related tools and activities (such as the Commission websites, digital outreach, and the social media presence) to adapt to the constantly evolving communication environment.

To reach this general objective, DG COMM defined several specific objectives depending on the targeted client groups. As detailed in DG COMM Strategic Plan 2020-2024 intervention logic, there are 3 main focus groups: 1) College, Cabinets and Services; 2) line DGs, and 3) citizens, media, multipliers and stakeholders.

In 2021, the second year of the von der Leyen Commission focused on paving the way out of the global pandemic and the economic crisis to a greener, more digital, and more socially just Europe. In this challenging context, tailored made communication campaigns launched throughout the year by DG Communication were essential in raising awareness on why the European Union’s Recovery Plan is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Europe to emerge stronger, greener, and more digital. These external communication actions focused on highlighting the EU’s response to the crisis by disseminating inspirational ‘recovery stories’ with real examples of EU support across Europe, while in parallel preparing the launch of the most ambitious corporate campaign, NextGenerationEU. The objective of the campaign was raising awareness of the EU’s Recovery Plan.

The campaign kicked off in May 2021 with a series of adverts in newspapers across Europe targeting political stakeholders, with ‘Make it Real’ as the main tagline. In June 2021, another campaign was launched on social media channels and online media targeting public and young Europeans aged 16 - 24 - Europe’s next generation. This ad wave was linked to the President’s visits to EU countries whose national recovery and resilience plans were being endorsed by the Commission.

The campaign’s ‘Make it Green’ strand launched in October 2021, was featuring ‘sustainability’ themed assets, and disseminated on various social media channels. In this context, a 30-second ad clip on climate action was produced in partnership with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) and advertised on television, social media and in football stadiums. Working with third parties was challenging in terms of legal constraints and political messaging and required a creative approach.

In 2021, DG Communication continued making significant progress in the fight against disinformation, which was especially relevant in the context of the infodemic related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For specific objective No 1 “*College and services use country specific intelligence, Eurobarometer results, media analysis and stakeholders’/citizens’ feedback to inform political decision-making*” achievements were evaluated by counting the political reporting products. These were provided by the Representations and covered reactions in all Member States on various EU topics. In 2021, the achieved amount of political reporting products was 1.430 which is more than planned 1.060. This reflects intensified efforts of Representations to improve quality and timeliness of information for decision-making at College level. The Representations influenced EU decision-making by reporting on the situation on the ground across the Member States. This helped increase outreach at national, regional, and local levels. They continued playing a key role in communicating the EU’s role in the fight against the pandemic and communicated the recovery from the crisis through the NextGenerationEU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (with a focus on rebuilding the economy through the twin green and digital transitions). In addition, the Representations amplified the political messages of the President, with a focus on the National Recovery and Resilience Plans as well as the Green Deal, Digital Decade, Rule of Law, and Europe as geopolitical actor. They also engaged in targeted communication in the Member States by promoting the Conference on the Future of Europe and activities on the New European Bauhaus.

For specific objective No 2 “*College receives strategic advice on communicating the headline ambitions and on media landscapes in the Member States*” achievements were evaluated by counting audio-visual products provided to the College (messages, interviews, statements, clips). In 2021, achieved output is 1.925 against planned 850. This has been mainly driven by COVID-19 pandemic: the demand for audio-visual services and video productions replacing face-to-face meetings and events has increased. For instance, the use of the TV studios and video production at the Commission headquarters increased by over 200% in 2021. The corporate Audio-visual Service organised photo and video coverage for more than 280 missions by College members outside of Belgium. The successful coordination and integration of audio-visual products with social media continued and resulted in more than 110 corporate videos and around 180 social media videos. In addition to the factsheets on the ‘Safe COVID-19 vaccines for Europeans’ website, in 2021 DG Communication disseminated a total of 5.6 million publications and online material, out of which 68% in digital formats.

For specific objective No 3 “*Corporate communication of the Commission’s headline ambitions is aligned across the Commission’s departments*” achievements were evaluated by counting specific contracts concluded using Corporate

Communication Framework Contracts. In 2021, achieved output was 590 against targeted 300. Corporate Framework contracts are managed by DG Communication Corporate Communication Contracts and Evaluation teams. The higher achieved output compared to target was due to the diversification of the services offered to Directorates-General, via the new ‘Digital Communication’ framework contract. The support and advisory services for these contractual solutions are managed by the Corporate Communication Contracts Team. The Corporate Communication Contracts team concentrated on service improvement in 2021. Two new framework contracts were offered in 2021 (covering digital services and outreach and media relations), along with a new special procurement procedure: the Dynamic Purchasing System. The increased offer led to significant uptake, with almost 600 individual contractual solutions offered throughout the Commission.

For specific objective No 4 “*Meaningful and tailored messages, focussed on the Commission’s headline ambitions, are communicated to citizens, media, multipliers and stakeholders*” achievements are evaluated by measuring:

- a) target audience able to recall the messages of corporate campaigns. In 2021, achieved result was 47 % against planned value of 22%. The indicator measures the recall of the corporate campaigns’ messages of the audience reached. This is an average percentage for all campaigns per calendar year. Specifically, this figure refers to general asset recall, and not to message recall. Hence 47% of young respondents aged 16-34 stated that they have seen at least one of the NextGenerationEU campaign assets.
- b) users satisfied with the answers received from the Europe Direct Contact Centre. In 2021, achieved result is 90% of users against planned value of 83 %. This reflects higher than expected efficiency of communication activities implemented in the framework of work programme.

For specific objective No 5 “*Citizens engage with the EU through face-to-face events and online interactive platforms, such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, thus stimulating the sharing of EU values and interest in and ownership of EU topics*” achievements are evaluated by measuring engagement rate on social media. In 2021, achieved result was 36 seconds against a planned value of 64.2 seconds. It should be noted that engagement rate on Youtube is calculated based on Youtube Analytics: ‘Average view duration (seconds) on YouTube’ (calculated as the total watch time of the video divided by the total number of video plays, including replays). YouTube has optimized its algorithm to promote videos with a high average view duration, this indicator is thus an important metric to track.

In 2021, and in view of a 2022 re-opening, a comprehensive refurbishment of the Visitors’ Centre was launched. The New European Bauhaus inspired premises, design, concept, and visitor journey further improve the Centres capacity to receive physical, virtual and hybrid visitors in future. Furthermore, DG Communication worked on a new corporate Commission information centre, Experience Europe Brussels, opened in February 2022.

DG Communication continued providing an enhanced range of media monitoring and analysis products for different internal audiences, particularly the President and the College. As vaccination against COVID-19 became a priority, DG Communication ensured constant monitoring and analysis of related media coverage in the EU. It provided summaries and analysis of online and social media content, including identifying potential disinformation and misinformation. Additionally, Eurobarometer continued delivering data and intelligence on the state of public opinion in Member States, including through two standard Eurobarometer surveys, one special survey on the Future of Europe and a flash survey on vaccination.

3.2. Key achievements

1 430	1 925	590
political reporting products provided by the Representations covering reactions in all Member States on EU topics in 2021.	audio visual products (messages, interviews, statements, clips) were provided to the College in 2021.	specific contracts were concluded using Corporate Communication Framework Contracts in 2021.
47%	90%	110 000 000
of target audience was able to recall the messages of corporate campaigns in 2021.	of users were satisfied with the answers received from the Europe Direct Contact Centre in 2021.	visits (including repetitive visits) were made to the European Commission core site (ec.europa.eu) in 2021.
36	18 000	8 000
seconds was estimated as an actual engagement rate in 2021 on Youtube based on Youtube Analytics data.	visitors (including virtual visitors) have visited visitors’ centre in 2021.	Events were organized by Europe Directs in 2021.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

In 2021, DG Communication concluded two studies, the ‘Review of EC publications for citizens’ and the ‘Study on youth audience sub-segmentation’. The key findings of the studies were the following:

The ‘**Review of European Commission publications for citizens**’ managed by unit COMM.A2 is part of the Commission’s effort to take stock of its publications for citizens and to consolidate and improve its offer. The review looked at print and online publications produced by all Directorates-General for the general public - citizens of all ages, genders and socio-economic backgrounds. The study did not look at expert publications and reports. It provided an assessment of the extent to which Commission publications for citizens are user-friendly and tailored for their readers in terms of language, visuals, and ease of access, including for people with disabilities. It also assessed the extent to which services within the Commission and beyond cooperate when developing and distributing their publications for non-specialist audiences. The study’s findings can definitively contribute to the professionalisation of those involved in the drafting, production and dissemination of citizen publications.

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- Commission publications for citizens were considered relevant by readers and users, answering most of their information needs;
- There were good complementarities, and no major overlaps, between Commission publications for citizens and those produced by other main EU, national, regional, and local sources.
- The Commission used a range of online and offline channels to promote and distribute its publications to EU citizens, with social media regarded as the most effective approach. However, the Commission’s information multipliers also emphasised the continued importance of face-to-face contact and distribution of printed Commission publications
- Commission publications for citizens were largely perceived to be appropriate for their target audiences in terms of readability and usability;
- EU added value of Commission publications for citizens could be maximised by conducting more thorough audience research during early planning stages to ensure that the information needs of targeted audience segments are adequately met.

The study’s findings can definitively contribute to the professionalisation of those involved in the drafting, production, and dissemination of citizen publications.

The study on ‘Follow-up review and sub-segmentation of Commission materials and activities targeting 5–18-year olds’ also commissioned and managed by unit COMM.A2, tackles a very timely topic of sub-segmentation in the context of the ongoing European Year of Youth 2022. It is a follow-up to an earlier study requested at the time by the CCSC-sub-group “youth” on the Commission’s youth materials and activities, which concluded that – while in general the materials produced were appropriate and effective - there was a need for a deeper look at the different youth sub-segments. Therefore, the follow-up study looked into these sub-segments for communicating with children and adolescents through printed and online materials. The study resulted not only in a set of recommendations, but also offers operational, hands-on guidance to the whole communication community, in a forward-looking outreach strategy and contains a toolkit. The key findings are:

- Commission materials for children are largely relevant in terms of topics and address children’s EU-related information needs. The content of materials for 5–18-year-olds is easy to read and most of the materials can be accessed by their users in their preferred language,
- Overall, there is a good level of coherence and complementarity in terms of topics covered. Stakeholders appreciate the breadth of materials that the Commission offers by type and diversity of formats. There is a complementary approach to materials between the Commission’s materials and other EU institutions or organisations,
- Despite reach limitations, when known, the Commission materials for children are generally perceived to be engaging, of good quality and useful for them.
- There is good and efficient cooperation between author services and DG COMM in the development, revision and distribution of materials targeting 5–18-year-olds. Cooperation among Commission services has improved in recent years thanks to the availability of DG COMM for advice and support,
- Commission materials and activities for children provide added value in the following main areas: Providing up-to-date and complete, filling an information gap, in relation to national curricula, covering topics in an impartial and objective way and providing an EU perspective on the topic.

Concerning the forthcoming studies there are four on-going studies:

- ‘Study on target audience analysis for communicating Europe’ (September 2021 - July 2022);
- ‘Study on prizes and awards in the Commission’ (September 2021 - June 2022);

- ‘Study on Europe by satellite’ (2021 - 2022);
- ‘Study on the citizens panels as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe’ (September 2021 - May 2022).

The planned studies to start in 2022 or later:

- ‘Monitoring and evaluation of the communication actions under the NextGenerationEU umbrella’ (February 2022 - October 2024);
- ‘Study on the future of omnichannel digital communication in DG Communication’ (2022 - 2023);
- ‘Evaluation/Study on the Europe Direct Contact Centre’(October 2023 - March 2024);
- ‘Evaluation/Study on the Europe Direct Information Centres’ (2023 - 2024);
- ‘Evaluation/Study on EC Visitors’ Centre and on Experience Europe RP14’ (2024 - 2025);
- ‘Evaluation/Study on the joint strategy for the House of Europe (Before the EP elections of 2024);
- ‘Evaluation/study - European Elections 2024’ (June 2024 - August 2024);
- ‘Evaluation/study of the corporate minimum requirements for communication and visibility under the long-term budget 2021-27’ (2025 – 2026).

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: College and services use country specific intelligence, Eurobarometer results, media analysis and stakeholders’/citizens’ feedback to inform political decision-making

Indicator 1: Political reporting products provided by the Representations covering reactions in all Member States on EU topics

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	1 060	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 430									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Reports - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Political reporting tool
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 1
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is also an annual milestone.DG COMM has a goal of actively maintaining current intensity of political coverage. This approach requires constant communications effort.

Specific Objective 2: College receives strategic advice on communicating the headline ambitions and on media landscapes in the Member States

Indicator 1: Audio visual products provided to the College (messages, interviews, statements, clips)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	850	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 925									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of audio-visual products - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Survey

Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 2
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is also an annual milestone. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for audio-visual services and video productions replacing face-to-face meetings and events has increased. For instance, the use of the TV studios and video production at the Commission headquarters increased by over 200% in 2021.

Specific Objective 3: Corporate communication of the Commission’s headline ambitions is aligned across the Commission’s departments

Indicator 1: Specific contracts concluded using Corporate Communication Framework Contracts

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	300	370	370	370	370	370	370	370	370	370
	Actual Progress									Final
	590									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of contracts - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Survey
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 3
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The overall number of contractual solutions offered by DG Communication significantly surpassed the target: instead of the initially planned 300 specific contracts, DG Communication offered 590 such solutions. The increase was due to the diversification of the services offered to Directorates-General, in particular via the new ‘Digital Communication’ framework contract. The support and advisory services for these solutions are managed by the Corporate Communication Contracts Team.

Specific Objective 4: Meaningful and tailored messages, focussed on the Commission’s headline ambitions, are communicated to citizens, media, multipliers and stakeholders

Indicator 1: Target audience able to recall the messages of corporate campaigns

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	22%	22%	22%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
	Actual Progress									Final
	47%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Survey
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 4
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The indicator measured the recall of the corporate campaigns messages of the audience reached. This is an average percentage for all campaigns per calendar year. This 47% refers to general asset recall, and not to message recall. Hence 47% of young respondents aged 16-34 stated that they have seen at least one of the NextGenerationEU campaign assets.

Indicator 2: Users satisfied with the answers received from the Europe Direct Contact Centre

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	83%	83%	83%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%	86%
	Actual Progress									Final
	90%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Survey
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 4
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Link to MFF 14/20 Sp 3 , Indicator 3: Satisfaction rate on queries replied by the EUROPE DIRECT Contact centre
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is also an annual milestone; therefore, it is equal to target (after the initial increase).

Indicator 3: Visits to the European Commission core site (ec.europa.eu)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	42 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000	100 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	110 000 000									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of visits - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, EUROPA Analytics
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 4
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Due to technology update this indicator will measure visits and not unique visitors ; Link to MFF 14/20 Sp 1 Indicator 6: Number of unique visitors to the EUROPA website.
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	As the European Commission core site provides the main sources of information in reply to the COVID-19 pandemic, the traffic has increased considerably more than estimated. In particular, information related to the vaccination and the EU digital COVID certificate increased the traffic to the site.

Specific Objective 5: Citizens engage with the EU through face-to-face events and online interactive platforms, such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, thus stimulating the sharing of EU values and interest in and ownership of EU topics

Indicator 1: Engagement rate on social media

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
	Actual Progress									Final
	36									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Average view duration (seconds) on YouTube Average view duration in seconds -- Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	DG COMM social media metric
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 5
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Link MFF 14/20 SP 1 Indicator 7: Number of followers/fans/subscribers of the EU Commission social media corporate accounts including the Representations
Other methodological comments	The engagement rate on YouTube is 'Average view duration (seconds) on YouTube (calculated as the

	total watch time of the video divided by the total number of video plays, including replays). YouTube has optimized its algorithm to promote videos with a high average view duration, this indicator is thus an important metric to track.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Given its peculiarity, less resources have been invested in managing the YouTube account of the Commission which has resulted in lower-than-expected engagement rate. However, the target is to have a stable engagement rate of 60 seconds. There is a difference in baseline of 2019 compared to target since:-) YouTube has optimized its algorithm to promote videos with a high average view duration which has an effect of the result,-) DG COMM seeks to maintain average view duration of 60 seconds on YouTube which is directly related to available financing (this is evidenced by lower 2021 result).

Indicator 2: Visitors to the Visitors' Centre per year

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000	24 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	18 000									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of visits - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Visitors' centre statistics
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 5
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Link to MF 14/20 SP 1 Indicator 4: Percentage of visitors to the Commission very satisfied with the visits
Other methodological comments	Due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, physical visits did not take place in the same way with a significant impact on the numbers of groups and visitors. However, DG Communication expects this to be counterbalanced by a new strategy on virtual visits which are included in calculation of indicator.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, physical visits were not carried out in the same way during 2021 with a significant impact on the number of groups and visitors.

Indicator 3: Events organised by EDs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500	3 500
	Actual Progress									Final
	8 000									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of visits - Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC DG COMM, Europe Direct statistics
Link to the objective	This indicator is directly linked to Specific Objective 5
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The Europe Direct Information Centres generation's 'shelf life' was extended until 30 April 2021. The next generation EUROPE DIRECT (note change of name) started operations on 1 May 2021. The management process of the next generation hinges upon the organisation of events with long-lasting impact, targeting wider sub-sets of the population. Higher quality, involving significant organisation efforts, will inevitably lead to fewer events as compared to the numbers produced by the current generation on yearly basis. In addition, the unprecedented sanitary situation will result in fewer events staged by the current generation as compared to previous reference periods.

General objective: A modern, high-performing and sustainable European Commission

Indicator 1: Positive and fairly positive views on the image for the European Union

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2029
0	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%
	Actual Progress									Final
	45%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Annual
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EC Eurobarometer
Link to the objective	The indicator gives the share of positive and fairly positive views on the image of the European Union.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Link to MFF 14/20 General Objective 1, Indicator 1: Percentage of EU citizens having a positive image of the EU
Other methodological comments	N/A
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator is also an annual milestone; therefore, it is equal to target. DG COMM has a goal of actively maintaining current situation on the image for the European Union. This approach requires constant communications effort. After a large increase between summer 2020 and winter 2020-2021, the positive image of the EU remains at a relatively high level (45%) and at its' highest level since 2009 (20 EU Member States have positive image of the European Union, 6 Member States have neutral image and 1 Member State has negative image). The highest results are observed in Ireland (70%) and Portugal (62%).

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	2.44	18.00	18.00					38.44	5%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Climate spending is very volatile and moving target, hence, specific thematic focus of corporate communication campaigns is currently under discussions. Provided yearly figures are, therefore, a preliminary estimation. In general, climate change is extremely high on the campaign agenda, including the expected energy crisis which may increase it even more.

5.1.3. Key achievements

Examples include communication events, include those financed via corporate communication campaigns, during which specific topics on climate change are presented and discussed. DG COMM uses available communication channels to disseminate different communication messages, including messages on climate change and the effect this change has on everyone involved.

5.2. Contribution to gender equality

5.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 106.7							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The COMM Working Group on Equality was created in March 2021 (with note from the D-G, Ares(2021)1574087 of 2/3/2021) and includes representatives of all COMM Directorates and most units ([list of members](#)). It has met initially every month on 22/3, 28/4 and 25/5/2021 to prepare the COMM Equality Working Plan requested by SG by mid-2021; after the finalisation and

endorsement of the [COMM Working Plan on Equality by SMM](#) on 5 July 2021, it is meeting approximately every 3 months to monitor implementation: on 10/11/2021 and will meet again on 28/2/2022.

On monitoring, the [COMM Working Plan on Equality](#) adopted on 5 July, states that “The actions included in the Work Plan [...] will be monitored annually against the targets and deadlines mentioned in the tables. The COMM Equality Working Group will remain mandated to ensure implementation and reporting on the actions listed, and propose amendments and integrations if needed. [...] The Equality Coordinator will report to DG COMM’s Senior Management meeting once or twice a year to inform and seek guidance about the state of play. The Coordinator will also report regularly to the secretariat of the Task Force on Equality.”

The working group has prepared a first update of the reporting table for all the actions included in the plan by the end of 2021, as an intermediary step to keep a close monitoring of the implementation of the plan.

A new update will be produced in July 2022 as the planned annual report.

5.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

DG Communication is the corporate communication service of the European Commission. Acting under the authority of the President, DG Communication leads the Commission’s communication about the headline ambitions of the College and EU policies. As such, it is not directly contributing to sustainable development goals.

HEADING 3A: Market related expenditure and direct payments**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)****Lead DG: AGRI**

Associated DGs: COMP, ECFIN, ESTAT, JRC, RTD

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

Europe needs a smart, resilient, sustainable and competitive agricultural sector in order to ensure the production of safe, high-quality, affordable, nutritious and diverse food for its citizens and a strong socio-economic fabric in rural areas.

A new context emerged, characterised by a shift from multilateral to bilateral and regional agreements and new EU international commitments on Climate Change and on Sustainable Development Goals.

The European Green Deal reinforced the need to support the transition towards a knowledge-based fully sustainable agricultural sector. In that context, EU's agriculture and rural areas face challenges related to:

- the economic health of the farm sector, both at the level of income and competitiveness, in the current uncertain global context;

- the need to preserve natural resources in a context of climate change (requiring action both regarding mitigation and adaptation); and
- the need to preserve the economic and social fabric for the EU's rural areas.

The CAP had to be reformed to meet these challenges and be even more coherent with other EU policies to maximise its contribution to the Sustainable Development Objectives. The new CAP, agreed in 2021, will enhance its European added value by reflecting a higher level of environmental and climate ambition and addressing citizens' expectations for their health, the environment and the climate.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The global and cross-border nature of the challenges faced by the EU agricultural sector and rural areas requires a strong common policy at EU level.

EU Budget support from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) aims to further improve the sustainable development of farming, food and rural areas and shall contribute to achieving the following EU objectives, defined for the period 2023-2027:

- to foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security;
- to support and strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, and climate action and to contribute to achieving the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union, including its commitments under the Paris Agreement;
- to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.

1.3. Specific objectives

Ten key objectives will be the basis upon which the future common agricultural policy (CAP) strategic plans will be built and will be the cornerstone of a more results-oriented policy. The objectives are:

- a) to support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union in order to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union;
- b) to enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation;
- c) to improve the farmers' position in the value chain;
- d) to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy;
- e) to foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency;
- f) to contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes;
- g) to attract and sustain young farmers and new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas;
- h) to promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry;
- i) to improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high-quality, safe and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistance
- k) to modernise agriculture and rural areas by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and by encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training.

1.4. Public intervention context

European policy with a single European budget. The objectives of the CAP as laid out in Article 39 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) are:

- to increase agricultural productivity;
- to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community;
- to stabilise markets;
- to assure the availability of supplies;
- to ensure that supplies reach consumers at reasonable prices.

The Treaty objectives, together with horizontal policy clauses (e.g. on the protection of the environment, consumer protection and animal welfare), provide the framework for all EU initiatives and activities.

The CAP is financed through two funds:

- the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and

- the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

By its assurance and audit activities, the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) verifies that the conditions under which controls and payments have been carried out by the Member States give reasonable assurance that the CAP expenditure has been effected in conformity with EU rules and, where it is not the case, exclude the expenditure concerned from EU financing.

DG AGRI contributes to the negotiation of international agreements impacting on agricultural policy (trade in agricultural products, quality policy, food security etc.), contributes to the implementation of such international agreements, and manages the relations with third countries related to agriculture.

By its regulatory and enforcement actions, DG AGRI prepares legislative proposals, negotiates these with the other EU institutions, and monitors their implementation to ensure a harmonised application. The DG manages various Commission regulations laying down detailed implementing rules as well as their adaptation over time. DG AGRI also deals with infringements, control of implementation of the acquis, complaints and Ombudsman inquiries.

1.5. Actions

As from 2023, the implementation of bulk of the measures under the Common Agricultural Policy will take place in the form of 28¹ different CAP Strategic Plans. These plans will be programming instruments where Member States will present their proposed interventions to achieve the EU specific objectives.

The interventions will include actions funded by both the EAGF and the EAFRD. CAP Strategic Plans will be assessed and formally adopted by the European Commission and, once established, Member States will periodically report on the progress made in the implementation using a system of common indicators.

The EAGF will fund under the CAP Strategic Plans (CSP) the following types of interventions:

1. Direct Payments: a) Decoupled direct payments: the basic income support for sustainability; the complementary redistributive income support for sustainability; the complementary income support for young farmers; the schemes for the climate and the environment; b) Coupled direct payments

2. Sectoral interventions: a) fruit and vegetables sector; b) apiculture products sector; c) wine sector; d) hops sector; e) olive oil and table olives sector; f) other sectors (from 2024).

The EAFRD will fund the following types of interventions:

(a) environmental, climate and other management commitments; (b) natural or other area-specific constraints; (c) Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements; (d) investments; (e) installation of young farmers and rural business start-up; f) risk management tools; g) cooperation; h) knowledge exchange and information.

The implementation of the new CAP Strategic Plans begins as of 2023. At time of adopting the draft budget 2023, all Member States have submitted their CAP Strategic Plans. The intention is to approve all plans in time for the start in 2023.

A number of schemes financed from EAGF will continue to be implemented outside the CAP strategic plans, i.e.: private and public storage measures, exceptional measures; EU school scheme; information and promotion measures and support for the outermost regions and smaller Aegean islands.

For financing the private and public storage and exceptional measures, the new Union agricultural reserve is established for the first time at the beginning of 2023.

1.6. Delivery mode

Shared management; DG AGRI is the leading DG.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

¹ For constitutional reasons, Belgium will submit 2 CAP strategic plans.





1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 1). Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 187). Regulation (EU) 2021/2117 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021 amending Regulations (EU) No 1308/2013 establishing a common organisation of the markets in agricultural products, (EU) No 1151/2012 on quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EU) No 251/2014 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and (EU) No 228/2013 laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union (OJ L 435, 6.12.2021, p. 262).	2021 - 2027	290 533.95

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 lays down rules on general and specific objectives to be pursued with the support granted under the common agricultural policy (CAP), through the CAP Strategic Plans; types of intervention and common requirements for Member States to pursue those objectives as well as the related financial arrangements; CAP Strategic Plans, which are to be drawn up by

Member States and which set targets, specify conditions for interventions and allocate financial resources, according to the specific objectives and identified needs; coordination and governance as well as monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 lays down rules on the financing of expenditure under the CAP; the management and control systems to be put in place by the Member States; clearance and conformity procedures.

Regulation (EU)1308/2013 establishes a common organisation of the markets for agricultural products, as listed in Annex I to the Treaties (with the exception of the fishery and aquaculture products).

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	55 712.9	53 096.6	53 626.9	53 757.9	53 890.9	54 021.9	54 155.9	378 262.9
NextGenerationEU								8 070.5
	2 387.7	5 682.8						
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0
Total	58 100.7	58 779.3	53 626.9	53 757.9	53 890.9	54 021.9	54 155.9	386 333.4

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The financial programming is set in regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027.

Regulation (EU) 2020/2220² ensured the continuity in granting income support to farmers and in supporting rural development measures in 2021 and 2022.

Transfers between funds are possible according to Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, article 103. The amounts shown in the budget programming table reflect the decision of some Member States to make use of the flexibility transfers between both Pillars of the CAP, as notified to the Commission (up to financial year 2022).

EAFRD financial programming shows a frontloading in 2021 decided in the framework of the multiannual financial framework negotiations in July 2020.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 prolongs the current CAP regulations in 2021 and 2022, within the budgetary framework of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021-2027.

The new CAP, which will apply as of 1 January 2023, has been designed to cope with the challenges identified for the period 2023-2027. The central elements of the CAP are a new performance-based Delivery model, focussing on results rather than on compliance and 28 national CAP strategic plans. To support the elaboration of the CAP Strategic Plans, DG AGRI established a Structured Dialogue with Member States as well as prepared recommendations. DG AGRI, in close cooperation with other Commission services, coordinated the establishment of this Structured Dialogue and the adoption of the Recommendations³. As stated in the Farm to Fork Strategy⁴, the recommendations address the specific economic, environmental and social objectives of the future Common Agricultural Policy and in particular the ambition and specific targets of the Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. The recommendations describe the main challenges per Member State and how they can be

² Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 laying down certain transitional provisions for support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in the years 2021 and 2022 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013, (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards resources and application in the years 2021 and 2022 and Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 as regards resources and the distribution of such support in respect of the years 2021 and 2022.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-strategic-plans_en

⁴ COM(2020) 381 final

addressed in their Strategic Plans to meet the objectives of a viable agricultural sector, producing in a sustainable way and maintaining the social fabric of the rural areas.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries>

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	57 388.9	386 333.4	14%
Payments	54 006.2		13%

EAGF

Market related expenditure

Within the Common Market Organisation (CMO), sector-specific support programmes are operating at various points in their respective life cycles.

- For example, for the wine national support programmes, 2019-2023 is the third programming period since the reform in 2009. Support in the wine programmes is concentrated in restructuring of vineyards, investments and wine promotion.
- The apiculture programmes follow a three-year programming period. In 2021, the current programmes (period 2020-2022) were amended⁵ to cater for the extension until the end of 2022 (as provided for in the transitional regulation) and the increase in budget set in the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027.
- Support for producer organisations in the fruit and vegetables sector is implemented via operational programmes carried out over annual plans. As of 2023 Producer organisations will have the possibility for the already ongoing operational programmes to implement them under the provisions of the Common Market Organisations or to modify them in order to be compliant with the CAP Strategic Plans provisions.
- Before 2023, the support programmes to producers' and inter-branch organisations in the olive oil and table olives sector were implemented under a three-year programming period. Three Member States (France, Greece and Italy) benefit of this support programme. The current programming period started in April 2021 and runs until December 2022, as it was extended in the frame of the CAP transitional rules (Regulation (EU) 2020/2220). As of 2023 all new operational programmes will be implemented under the provisions of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation.
- The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme, bringing together the former school fruit and school milk schemes under a single legal framework, applies since school year 2017/2018. All Member States participate in it (the UK ceased to participate in 2021).

The EU no longer offers agricultural export refunds. However, with fairness and economic efficiency, the CAP strengthens the farm and agri-food sectors' ability to compete on overseas as well as domestic markets. European agriculture showed its resilience after the recent crises, finding alternative domestic markets and abroad (in particular in Asia and the US), as evidenced by the trade statistics.

Total export values from January to September reflect an increase in 2021 compared to 2020 (+ EUR 10.5 billion of agri-food exports, +8%) largely driven by a significant increase in wine (including vermouth, cider and vinegar) and spirits (contributing by 41% of the increase) also due to the gradual reopening of the hospitality industry. 2021 has been marked by the global economic recovery that, in turn, pushed upward commodity prices globally. This contributed to an increase in exports for cereals other than wheat (driven by barley) rapeseed and sunflower oil, while wheat exports declined both in volume and value. The rise in prices had also an impact on the EU import value that rose by 3.5% (+ EUR 3.2 billion) compared to the first nine months of 2020. The United Kingdom remains the main export destination of EU-27 agricultural products because of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded after the UK withdrawal from the EU. However, the UK has still not introduced full third country checks and controls on imports from the EU. In 2019, the Commission reported on the implementation of the apiculture programmes in previous years⁶.

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/974 of 9 June 2021 approving the amended national programmes to improve the production and marketing of apiculture products submitted by the Member States under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council

⁶ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the apiculture programmes, [COM\(2019\)635](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/COM(2019)635) final of 17.12.2019

The report shows that the uptake of the programmes remained high, showing their relevance. The number of beehives, one indicator of the impact of the EU support measures, continued its long-term increase, reaching approximately 17.5 million beehives in 2018. The latest available reporting by Member States on the number of beehives in 2020 (18.9 million hives) further confirms this upward trend.

The implementation of the EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme reached 19 million children in the 2019/2020 school year⁷ or around 18,9 % of the total number of children aged 0 to 18 in the EU-28. School children received more than 53 million kilos of fresh fruit or vegetables as well as 131 million litres of milk. They were involved in several educational measures - lessons, lectures or workshops; tasting classes; cooking workshops; school gardens; visits to farms, dairies, farmers' markets and similar activities.

Direct payments

Beyond the compulsory elements of the direct payments schemes, Member States have considerable flexibility in the implementation, which allows them to target support at their specific priorities.

The Commission services have assisted Member States in preparing and implementing the direct payments through, for example, guidance documents or discussions in expert group meetings. Implementation of the direct payments has steadily improved over the years and has stabilised at a very high level. This implementation of the direct payments has been also accompanied by a green Declaration of Assurance from the European Court of Auditors since 2016 - the first year of implementation of the 2013 reform of the direct payments schemes.

Transitional rules have been adopted to ensure the continuation of the system from financial year 2021. In particular, Member States had the possibility to take decisions in terms of the flexibility between the CAP pillars. As regards the process of convergence of the basic payment per hectare in those Member States using the system of payment entitlements for which Member states had set targets up to 2020, it was ensured that this can also be continued, although such continuation is only optional for Member States.

In claim year 2020 (corresponding to financial year⁸ 2021), the sixth year of implementation of the reformed system and the first year of the three years of transition to the future system, about 5.9 million farmers benefited from direct payments. A large share of this significant drop is actually due to the Brexit as for claim year 2019, almost 142 thousand UK farmers benefited for the last time from EU direct payments. Based on comparable data (i.e. excluding UK farmers for both years), the decrease is -1.4%, in line with the average declining trend⁹ in the total number of farmers). The total determined area (144.7 million hectares, relatively stable¹⁰ since the entry into force of the 2013 CAP reform) covered about 89% of the EU Utilised Agriculture Area (162.9 million hectares for EU 27).

Direct payments claimed by farmers in 2020 fall under the first year of the new multiannual financial framework (2021-2027). Claim year 2020 is the first year of transition between the system implemented following the 2013 reform, and the new direct payments that will result from the implementation of the CAP Strategic Plans from claim year 2023. In this context, a political agreement was found to make the technical adjustments needed to ensure continuation of the existing rules¹¹.

Direct Payment Schemes (Calendar year 2020/Financial year 2021)	Number of beneficiaries (in millions)	Determined area (in millions of hectares unless otherwise stated)
Basic Payment Scheme/Single Area Payment Scheme	4.5	135.1
Redistributive payment	2.0	36.0
Young farmers payment	0.4	7.1
Small farmers scheme	1.4	3.4
Voluntary Coupled Support (hectares - CY2019)	1.3	9.1
Voluntary Coupled Support (animals - CY2019)	1.1	57.3(*)

Source: DG AGRI.

(*) Number of heads.

⁷ Source: Member States monitoring reports sent by 31.1.2021, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/school-fruit-vegetables-and-milk-scheme/country_en. Selected data in agri food data portal, <https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/SchoolSchemeMonitoring/SchoolSchemeMonitoring.html>.

⁸ The agricultural financial year covers expenditure paid and revenue received and entered in the accounts of the Funds budget by the paying agencies in respect of financial year "N" beginning on 16 October of year "N- 1" and ending on 15 October of year "N".

⁹ The number of beneficiaries declines regularly (on average between -2.3% since 2012). This reflects the trend in the total number of farms (see for example [farm-structures_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)). The number of new farmers is always below the number of farmers exiting.

¹⁰ Since the first year of application of the CAP reform, the determined area has been relatively stable at 144-145 million ha (for EU 27).

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/288 of the European Parliament and of the Council

The ‘greening’ layer of direct payments accounts for 30 percent of Member States’ annual direct payment ceilings and covers annual obligations beneficial for the environment and climate (crop diversification, maintenance of permanent grassland, and the dedication of five per cent of arable land to ecologically beneficial areas ("ecological focus areas" or EFAs). As of 2020, 79% of the total EU agricultural area was subject to at least one "greening" obligation.

Common monitoring and evaluation framework

On 6 December 2021, the Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for CAP Strategic Plans has been adopted. This Regulation is part of a legislative package that introduces the performance monitoring and evaluation framework (PMEF), which takes the place of the common monitoring and evaluation framework (CMEF). The PMEF is intended to help the CAP to move from compliance to results and therefore to explain the achievements of the CAP rather than just reporting on CAP compliance and implementation.

This framework includes a set of output, result and impact/context indicators, each of which makes a specific contribution to assessing the implementation of the CAP, its progress towards targets, its impacts and contribution to the common objectives. Whilst impact/context indicators will help assess the overall achievement of CAP general and specific objectives, result indicators will be used to monitor progress in implementation towards the specific objectives in the CAP Strategic Plans, also in view of undertaking, where needed, remedial actions. Finally, output indicators, which keep track of the implementation of the interventions in the CAP Plan, will be used primarily in the context of the performance clearance. A selection of these indicators are presented visually and interactively in the [dashboard by theme](#), where a new dashboard on food and health quality protection has been published in 2021. These dashboards were completed in 2020 with an attractive visualisation of [context indicators](#), including maps at regional level. In these dashboards and in the [analytical factsheets](#) organised by the objectives of the new CAP and by countries, Member States used a large part of the information they needed for the elaboration of their Strategic Plans and notably for the SWOT analysis. In 2021 a new project has started to create [country factsheets](#), a dynamic dashboard based on the analytical factsheets, with a first release done before the end of the year.

In December 2021, a [report](#) to the European Parliament and the Council on the assessment of CAP performance between 2014 and 2020 and its impact across the EU has been published. The report provides an assessment of the implementation of the CMEF over 2014-2020.

Forthcoming implementation

Financial year 2023 will be the last year of implementing the direct payment under the direct payment regulation (EU) 1307/2013. The implementation of the CAP strategic plans will start with calendar year 2023, i.e. financial year 2024 for direct payments.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information for market measures

08 02 01 – Agricultural reserve	(appropriations + EUR 450.0 million)
Appropriations in 2022 budget:	-
Appropriations requested in 2023 DB:	450.0 ¹²

This Article finances private and public storage measures and exceptional measures, adopted after 15 October 2022

08 02 02 – Types of interventions in certain sectors under the CAP Strategic Plans	(appropriations + EUR 613.2 million)
Appropriations in 2022 budget:	-
Appropriations requested in 2023 DB:	613.2

This Article finances interventions for the fruit&vegetables, apiculture, wine, hops and olive oil&table olives sectors under the CAP Strategic Plans.

08 02 03 – Market-related expenditure outside the CAP Strategic Plans	(appropriations - EUR 577.2 million)
Appropriations in 2022 budget:	2 661.1
Appropriations requested in 2023 DB:	2 083,9

In 2023, expenditure for the fruit&vegetables, apiculture, wine, and olive oil&table olives sectors can be made both under and outside the CAP Strategic Plans.

This budget article finances market related expenditure outside the CAP Strategic Plans. This budget article finances also support for the outermost regions (POSEI), smaller Aegean islands, agricultural information and promotion actions as well as the school schemes, with 2023 budget needs for these schemes showing overall only a minor variation compared to 2022.

¹² The Agricultural reserve will be financed on one hand from the 2023 EAGF availabilities under the margin (C1 appropriations) and on the other hand from part of the appropriations of the crises reserve carried over from 2022 (C2 appropriations).

The pigmeat sector has been in serious difficulties for a number of months. Severe slowdown of exports to China, further spread of African swine fever to more Member States and continuing impact of Covid-19 restrictions are causing pressure on the Union market for slaughter pigs. Additionally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created additional market disturbance and impacted severely the Union pigmeat exports. In order to reduce the current supply-demand imbalance, 2023 DB contains appropriations for granting aid for private storage for pigmeat.

The 2023 budget appropriations for agricultural markets amounts to EUR 3 147 million, representing an increase of EUR 486 million. This is mainly due to the agricultural reserve that is counted under market measures as of DB 2023.

As usual, the Commission will update its estimates in an Amending Letter to the Draft Budget 2023, which will then take into account latest market developments and perspectives.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information for direct payments

08 02 05 – Direct payments	(appropriations - EUR 133 million)
Needs in 2022 budget before financial discipline (incl. crisis reserve):	38 494
Needs in 2022 budget after financial discipline:	37 997
Appropriations in 2022 budget after financial discipline:	37 446
Estimated assigned revenue available in 2022 budget:	551
Amount of financial discipline in 2022 budget (incl. crisis reserve):	497.3
Needs in 2023 DB:	37 770
Appropriations requested in the 2023 DB:	37 313
Estimated assigned revenue available in 2023 DB:	457

The maximum amount of direct payments which a Member State may pay in a financial year is limited by the ceiling set in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013. For calendar year 2022 (financial year 2023), the initial total of Annex III amounted to EUR 38 475 million. By 1 August 2021, certain Member States¹³ notified their decision to transfer amounts between direct payments and rural development, which overall resulted in a net decrease of EUR 826 million in the direct payment ceilings for calendar year 2022. The allocation of the national envelopes to the different schemes depends to a large extent on Member States' decisions. Within the changes due to the decrease in the overall amount, certain changes between schemes have occurred, reflecting Member States' implementation choices.

In financial year (FY) 2022, the financial discipline mechanism¹⁴ had to be applied to set up the crisis reserve (EUR 497.3 million in current prices). In FY 2023, the financial discipline is not needed: the crisis reserve will be discontinued. Instead there will be a new agricultural reserve of EUR 450 million established according to article 16(2) of Regulation 2012/2116.

For direct payments (chapter 08 02 05), compared to the 2022 budget before financial discipline, the 2023 budgetary needs decrease by EUR 227 million to an amount of EUR 37 770 million. It corresponds to an increase of EUR 270 million if compared to the 2022 amounts after financial discipline. Requested appropriations for this article decrease by EUR 133 million, due to the smaller amount of assigned revenue expected to be available to finance the Basic payment scheme (from EUR 551 million in FY 2022 to EUR 457 million in FY 2023). As a consequence, the requested appropriations amount to EUR 37 313 million in FY 2023.

The following comparisons are made without taking into account the effect of financial discipline in budget 2022, so as to show the actual trends for each scheme. The needs for the Basic payment scheme are estimated at EUR 14 810 million, which is EUR 182 million less than in FY 2022. The needs for the Single area payment scheme (SAPS) amount to EUR 4 475 million, an increase by EUR 27 million compared to budget year 2022. For the Redistributive payment, needs increase by EUR 23 million to EUR 1 659 million and the needs for the young farmers scheme decrease by EUR 51 million to EUR 487 million. For the Payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment, the needs decrease by EUR 10 million at EUR 10 912 million. Other schemes show minor changes compared to financial year 2022, reflecting the stabilisation in the execution of these schemes. The Voluntary coupled support scheme increases slightly by EUR 8 million to EUR 4 079 million. The Small farmers scheme is financed from the ceilings available for other schemes. Based on the experience with the execution in previous years showing a decreasing trend, the budget needs for this scheme are estimated at EUR 653 million, EUR 27 million lower than in 2022.

If compared with the 2022 budget after financial discipline, all schemes increase, except the Basic payment scheme (stable), and the Young farmer scheme and the Small farmer scheme that both decrease.

¹³ Croatia, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia notified transfers to rural development, while Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, France, Latvia and the Netherlands notified transfers to direct payments. In addition, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, Latvia, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Finland notified an amount for the estimated product of reduction of direct payments to be transferred to rural development.

¹⁴ Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information for SO 7 (POSEI)**Market-related expenditure**

08 02 03 01 – POSEI + Smaller Aegean Islands	(appropriations - EUR 3 million)
Appropriations in 2022 budget:	229
Appropriations requested in 2023 DB:	226

Direct payments

08 02 05 01 – POSEI + Smaller Aegean Islands	(appropriations + EUR 7 million)
Appropriations in 2022 budget after financial discipline:	437
Appropriations requested in 2023 DB:	444

For the support to the outermost regions (POSEI) and smaller Aegean islands, the programmes are divided into two types of measures: specific supply arrangements financed under item 08 02 03 01 and support for the local products which are split into market aids (item 08 02 03 01) and direct payments (item 08 02 05 01).

The requested appropriations for DB2023 remain almost unchanged for the market-related expenditure and for direct payments, as the Member States concerned notified only minor modifications of their programmes.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information for SO 8

To assist Member States carrying out on the spot checks on aid applications, satellite imagery acquired is made available to the national authorities allowing them to determine the area of agricultural parcels, to identify crops and verify their status. Compared to budget 2022, the costs for the acquisition of satellite images and data management for 2023 has been decreased to EUR 2.35 million in commitments and payment appropriations – against the EUR 3.95 million commitment appropriations of 2022 and EUR 6.35 million in payments - as result of the increased use of free Copernicus Sentinel data by MS opting for checks by monitoring controls and the streamlining of control methods. EUR 1.4 million in payment appropriations have been assigned for a co-delegation agreement between DG AGRI and DG DEFIS. This is divided into EUR 0.4 million to provide MS with DIAS (Data and Information Access Services) by using the framework agreement with the Copernicus Entrusted Entities and the remaining EUR 1 million to cover payment appropriations related to an area measurement study on the feasibility of automated area measurements from satellite imagery. In addition, for Draft Budget 2023, commitment appropriations (EUR 1.7 million) and payment appropriations (EUR 1.67 million) are requested for the administrative arrangement for related technical support needed to ensure and strengthen the quality and the technical implementation of the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS) as well as EUR 0.4 million of additional payment appropriations for the transition from CAPISA2 to CAPISA3.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information for SO 9

Budget item 08 02 06 03 - EAGF operational technical assistance will also finance the communication efforts of the Commission in relation to the CAP. The overall needs for Draft Budget 2023 for communication are estimated at EUR 19.7 million in commitment appropriations and 18.7 million in payment appropriations. This includes EUR 4.0 million destined for grants to third party organisations. Other external communication actions in 2023 financed under this budget item, such as conferences, media activities, attendance in fairs, publications, web and social media activities, will focus on the relevance of the CAP in particular in relation with the growth, jobs and investments priority theme and will amount to EUR 4.5 million, which includes 0.5 million for Information Measures relating to the Common Agricultural Policy (IMCAP) and contributions from the programmes to eGrants/SEDIA Central Validation Service. The scope, choice and intensity of these communication actions will be in line with the 2023 External Communication Action Plan of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

In 2023 the EAGF will also contribute in full to the Corporate Communication Strategy of the Commission with around EUR 11.2 million in commitment appropriations and 8.8 million in payment appropriations.

Justification of changes to the financial programming and/or to the performance information for SO 10

The **Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)** data are essential tools for the monitoring of agriculture income and business which are used for the evaluation and the impact analysis of the agricultural measures. They provide support to the decision-making process related to the CAP. The appropriations requested for 2023 for the FADN (EUR 16.7 million) are intended to finance the standard fee for FADN farm returns transmitted by the Member States (81 795 * EUR 180) and the development and maintenance of the information system used for the collection, processing, analysis, publication and dissemination of the farm accountancy data and analysis results (EUR 2.0 million).

Information from **Farm Structure Surveys** is systematically used in extended impact assessments, evaluation and policy conception, particularly regarding the regional situation of specific sectors. The content of the surveys is regularly adapted to answer new needs for agricultural and rural development policy and other policies (in particular regional, social and environmental policy). In 2023, there are no new commitment appropriations required for the agricultural census 2023-2026 as the amount for the whole period was already requested in 2022. Payment appropriation needs for 2023 are EUR 2.0 million to cover payments against past commitments.

Under **restructuring of systems for agricultural surveys**, the Draft Budget 2023 includes EUR 2.5 million in commitment and payment appropriations for the MARS agro-meteorological system used for monitoring crops and forecasting yields of the main crops in Europe and its neighbourhood. Furthermore, EUR 0.4 million in payment appropriations is included for the LUCAS project for Europe surveys gathering information on land cover, land use and landscapes, while EUR 6.5 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 4.3 million in payment appropriations is destined for the maintenance, development and use of modelling tools used by the Commission in its agricultural economic and policy analysis including MARS neighbourhood.

EAFRD

The EAFRD funding in budget years 2021 and 2022 is implemented under the CAP transitional rules, as agreed by the co-legislators at the end of 2020 (Regulation (EU) 2020/2220). This regulation aims to extend the rural development programmes by 2 years, whereby the extended programmes follow the existing legal framework, and adds the EAFRD allocation for the years 2021 and 2022 ('old rules – new money' principle). Furthermore, this transitional regulation also sets out the legal basis to introduce the part of the European Union Recovery Instrument earmarked to be implemented via the EAFRD into the rural development programmes in 2021 and 2022. These additional financial resources are implemented through RDP measures that are directed at addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

The reform of the CAP, with the introduction of Member States' CAP Strategic Plans, will be implemented as of 2023.

The total EAFRD budget request for 2023 amounts to EUR 12.9 billion in commitment appropriations and EUR 14.6 billion in payment appropriations, mainly to finance EAFRD support under the rural development programmes and payments under the CAP Strategic Plans for 2023, including a 1% pre-financing payment. A minor part of these amounts also covers the technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission (EUR 30.3 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 25.2 million in payment appropriations).

As from 2023, only payment appropriations in the form of external assigned revenues stemming from the European Union Recovery Instrument will be requested in line with the n+3 rule applicable to those funds (EUR 2.4 billion).

Implementation Status

The implementation of the 2014-2022 rural development programmes (RDPs) remains at cruising speed. In 2021, Member States submitted their sixth Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) on the implementation of the RDPs covering implementation until 31 December 2020.

For the 2014-2022 period, a number of initiatives were launched to improve efficiency and effectiveness of EAFRD expenditure and to ensure a smooth transition with the CAP Strategic Plans:

- To facilitate the implementation of the EU funds, the EAFRD implementing regulation was already modified in April 2016. In addition, the EAFRD basic act was modified in 2017 through the so-called Omnibus Regulation¹⁵, amongst others to improve risk management tools for farmers, reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries and simplify conditions for financial instruments. Finally, the implementing regulation on administration and control systems (Regulation (EU) No 809/2014) was also modified in July 2017 to simplify control rules for non-area related measures.
- Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) are being increasingly used by Member States and regions in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EAFRD support and to reduce the administrative burden. In 2019, around 76% of the RDPs were using at least one type of SCOs and the number is expected to increase. As an example, flat rates are used to cover indirect costs, unit costs for training activities or investments and lump sums for cooperation actions. Member States and regions are introducing more SCOs in the context of RDPs amendments and this trend is expected to continue. The Commission has greatly promoted the use of SCO through dedicated seminars and other networking activities.
- Since 2015, the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) organised over 50 events (workshops and capacity building) in order to share best practices and experiences between stakeholders (including, among others, managing authorities, paying agencies, EU-wide organisations, LEADER local action groups, evaluators, etc.). In 2021, 24 different events provided support to stakeholders regarding the performance of the rural development programmes 2014-2020 (extended to 2022), but they also addressed the implementation of the Transition Regulation and EURI funding, and the preparation and drafting of the national CAP Strategic Plans 2023-2027. The events were coordinated with the Commission services (in particular the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development), ensuring that key issues (such as the Green Deal and rural areas or operational design of CAP SP) were addressed. In addition, the ENRD significantly supported the networking and exchanges with stakeholders related to the Commission's Long Term Vision for Rural Areas (e.g. 4-day long Rural Vision Week conference), as well as some other specific issues of political relevance (e.g. the voice of regions and stakeholders in CAP SP preparation process). As the new CAP foresees the creation of a new EU-level CAP Network (to include current ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks), the work of the EU CAP Network in 2023 will include the scope for reinforced networking activities across the full breadth of the CAP SP, as well as a strong focus on support for innovation and knowledge sharing.
- An increased awareness of implementation feasibility and possible errors is guaranteed through an ex-ante assessment of the rural development measures by Member States, aiming to ensure they are verifiable and controllable and taking into account the results of controls in the previous programming period.

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2017/2393, OJ L 350, p.15

- Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 was amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/558 of 23 April 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. To facilitate the implementation of the EU funds and support final recipients affected by the Covid-19 health crisis the modified Common Provision Regulation allows the provision of a stand-alone working capital through EAFRD supported financial instruments. This had a significant positive implication with regards the demand for any of the instruments introducing this new possibility, reduced the administrative burden associated with control and monitoring of the instruments, and simplified the conditions for financial instruments.
- Subsequently, Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 was also amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/872 as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, an exceptional temporary measure was introduced aimed at providing relief to farmers or small-medium sized agri-businesses affected by COVID-19, and to ensure liquidity over the crisis period (max EUR 7 000 per farmer and max EUR 50 000 per SME). The EAFRD support for these measures is limited to a maximum of 2% of the total 2014-2020 EAFRD contribution to the rural development programmes. As part of the CAP transitional rules, the implementation of this exceptional measure was subsequently prolonged until 30 June 2021 (with expenditure for this measure now eligible if paid by latest 31 December 2021). 41 rural development programmes in 14 Member States (out of the 115 total RDPs in 28 countries) implemented this measure) for a total amount of EUR 628,6 million.
- Broadband access in rural areas continues to improve, with an increase of 42 percentage points in 8 years, but is still lagging behind urban areas. In 2020, 60% of rural households had next generation access compared to 87% of total EU households. There is a clear improvement on the previous year's results, though closing the connectivity gap of rural areas remains a challenge. The level of broadband access depends significantly on general developments in telecoms markets (and finance from other policy tools – including the European Regional Development Fund). The CAP plays its part by offering explicit support for setting up, expanding and improving broadband infrastructure, as well as for the provision of broadband internet access (i.e. improved connections to infrastructure), and access to e government. According to targets aggregated from the 2014-2020 RDPs, in the current programming period, the CAP will help nearly 13 million people living in rural areas to benefit from improved access to ICT services and infrastructure. In 2021, DG AGRI continued to work closely with DG REGIO, CNECT and COMP to further develop the network of Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs) in Member States and their regions, as well as a Brussels-based Support Facility, contracted and managed by DG AGRI. By the end of 2021, the BCO network was comprised of 27 National and 88 Regional BCOs in the EU, plus 6 BCOs in the Western Balkan countries and one BCO in Norway. In 2021, DG AGRI continued its application of the rural proofing checklist in cases where MS requested programming changes to broadband funding. Given the situation with Covid, training activity switched successfully to virtual training while it was not possible to carry out missions on the spot.

Programmes' implementation 2014-2022 (Common Strategic Framework), without pre-financing*

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2022 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member-states at end 2021 (2)	(2)/(1)%
1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	2 679.40	788.78	29.4%
2. Enhancing access to and use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT)	1 009.22	382.87	37.9%
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	40 008.71	20 560.29	51.4%
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	5 463.01	2 731.66	50.0%
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	29 298.92	19 400.22	66.2%
6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	34 893.87	22 206.82	63.6%
8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	2 896.40	1 332.82	46.0%
9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	14 999.26	7 055.45	47.0%
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	1 052.75	433.72	41.2%
TOTAL	132 301.53	74 892.64	56.6%

*The above breakdown of the financial plan among the thematic objectives is indicative and based on Member States' programmes (as of end 2021). The breakdown may still change due to possible changes in the Member States' programmes. The cumulative amounts declared by Member States are indicated up to Q3 2021. Cumulative payments do not include pre-financing as they cannot be broken down by thematic objective. Amounts for technical assistance and discontinued measures are not included as they do not contribute to any of the thematic objectives.

Overall, latest monitoring data on RDP budget execution shows that the year-on-year increase in expenditure is slowing down, confirming that implementation reached its cruising speed. By Q3 2021, 100% of EAFRD allocation for 2014-2020 was committed, representing more than 80% of the EAFRD allocation for the extended 2014-2022 period. By the end of Q3 2021, public expenditure declared by Member-States represented more than 75% of 2014-2020 programmed amounts, and 57% of the programmed amounts for the extended 2014-2022 period. This implementation level for the EAFRD stands above the average implementation rate of other ESI Funds in terms of payments declared. The implementation rate should be assessed considering different factors. First, the implementation period for the programmes runs until 2025 (except for UK). Second, the overall level of commitment at EU level reached 100% of the initial 2014-2020 EAFRD budget allocation by Q3 2020. Finally, in the case of rural development, a significant part of the expenditure is typically realised during the last years of implementation. The latter is mainly related to the late realisation of some investment projects, such as the ones for broadband development, which contribute to the relatively low implementation of thematic objective (TO) 2. The rather low execution rate of local development strategies (TOs 8 and 9) can be explained by a later implementation. Area related payments, generally associated with agri-environmental-climate commitments follow a more regular (annual) path, which explains the better implementation in TOs 5 and 6. For TO 1, the uptake and achievement of results is not yet fully in place. This is explained by the late start the measures chosen by MS, partially due to the need to adapt to the changes in the legal framework and the fact that some measures are new and have a longer project lifetime (e.g. cooperation projects and the new measure European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability).

Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Financial instruments (FI) are a key tool for providing access to finance for the farming sector and the rural economy. They also allow, by leveraging with private capital and by their revolving nature, to complement the rural development budget. EAFRD already met the target of doubling the use of FIs as compared to the 2007-2013 programming period.

By end 2021, FIs supported by the EAFRD are programmed in 32 RDPs in 13 Member States with a total EAFRD allocation of EUR 609 million. The amount declared to the Commission until end of 2020 equals EUR 291 million. By end 2021, 25 Paying Agencies declared expenditure for FIs under RDPs.

Under the technical assistance programme fi-compass, in total 38 cases of targeted coaching on financial instruments for EAFRD managing authorities' were carried out over 2016-2021 of which 4 new were done in 2021. We undertook 7 EU-wide conferences with 974 attending participants in total. They formed part of the 29 conferences on EAFRD-supported financial instruments organised in the period 2015-2021. In 2021, 5 new case studies featuring the implementation of EAFRD financial instruments in 5 Member States were prepared and published, bringing the total number of analysed and published EAFRD case studies to 14. The activities related to dissemination of information were adapted to the new way of online working during the Covid-19 health crisis period and were provided through social media, specific brochures, websites, communication newsletters, etc. Moreover, in 2021, a new activity was initiated, covering 3 fi-compass Jam Sessions Podcast Episodes featuring financial instruments in action and the new rules for implementing EAFRD financial instruments under the MSs CAP Strategic Plans, alongside 3 videos.

The Commission continued the discussions with the Council and the EP on the new CAP proposal and its secondary legislation, where FIs will continue to play an important part to foster investments (including in green and digital transition) in agriculture and rural areas, and which also introduced further legal and implementation simplifications. Contributions were also made to the operations of the Just Transition Mechanism, the launch of the Recovery and Resilience Fund (February 2021) as well as to finalisation and launch of various work streams of InvestEU such as the Sustainability Proofing Guidance, the Climate and Environmental Tracking guidance, product fiches, the InvestEU contribution agreement template, etc.

Forthcoming implementation

As a result of the implementation of rural development programmes, the following targets, amongst others, are expected to be achieved at the level of the Union at the end of the implementing period, which is extended to 2025: 30.5 million hectares of agricultural land concerned by commitments targeting biodiversity; 53% of the total rural population (159.1 million inhabitants) living in areas for which local development strategies are implemented by selected LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs); investments in improved energy efficiency for a 22 000 farms; support for more than 230 000 young farmers to set up their businesses and for more than 400 000 farmers to modernise and improve their production facilities. As for the rural business outside the farm's gate, some 42 000 rural entrepreneurs are to receive support to develop their businesses.

Throughout 2021, Member States continued to amend their rural development programmes in response to the persisting COVID-19 pandemic. In many cases, this implied changes in the RDP strategies and respective adaptations to the target values in the indicator plan as well as financial reallocations.

In the light of the **Russian invasion to Ukraine**, the European Council called upon the Commission to take urgent action to present options to address the rising food prices and the issue of global food security as soon as possible. The Commission reacted immediately, with a broad package of measures, included in the Communication on "**Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems**", adopted on the 23th March 2022. This communication 1) tackles the immediate engagement to safeguard food security in Ukraine and around the world; 2) examines the challenge of food affordability in the EU and a range of measures to support the EU agricultural sector and 3) presents a mid-term agenda for action to make our food system sustainable and less dependent on import of energy and feed.

The **European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism (EFSCM)**, is up and running and will increase cooperation to mitigate food security risks, and monitor the situation. To improve our monitoring ability, the Commission has

proposed that Member States communicate data on their private stocks of essential food and feed to have a timely and accurate overview of their availability.

To support EU farmers, the Commission has adopted the **following exceptional measures**:

- support measures of EUR 500 million to directly assist farmers most affected by the higher input costs and the closure of export markets. The Commission will submit its proposal to use the crisis reserve for this support package to the European Parliament and the Council. Member States can exceptionally complement this EU support by up to 200% with national funds. The Commission will also allow Member States to pay increased levels of CAP direct payments in advance to address the cash-flow difficulties that farmers are facing.
- exceptional and temporary derogation to allow the production of any crops on fallow land, while maintaining the full level of greening payment for farmers.
- In view of the particularly difficult situation of the pigmeat sector, the Commission has opened a new private storage aid scheme to stabilise markets.

Member States can also take **measures at national level**: a Temporary Crisis Framework for State Aid has been put in place to allow Member States to better support companies affected by the crisis, including farmers and fertiliser producers; also, Member States are using specific derogations and flexibilities to existing import requirements on animal feed.

The Commission is taking into account the war in Ukraine when assessing **the new strategic plans**: There is a clear need to strengthening resilience, reducing energy dependence and preserving and expanding the sustainable production capacity. These are all core elements of sustainable agriculture and also of the Farm to Fork approach. That's why the Commission will support activities such as boosting sustainable biogas production and use, improving energy efficiency, extending the use of precision agriculture, fostering protein crop production or spreading through the transfer of knowledge the widest possible application of best practices.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

EAGF

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	301 337.7	301 950.3	100%
Payments	301 193.8		100%

EAFRD

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	100 294.4	100 312.3	100%
Payments	65 102.2		64.9%

Implementation Status

The implementation of the 2014-2020 rural development programmes (RDPs) remains at cruising speed. In 2020, Member States submitted their fifth Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) on the implementation of the RDPs covering implementation until 31 December 2019.

For the 2014-2020 period, a number of initiatives were launched to improve efficiency and effectiveness of EAFRD expenditure:

- To facilitate the implementation of the EU funds, the EAFRD implementing regulation was already modified in April 2016. In addition, the EAFRD basic act was modified in 2017 through the so-called Omnibus Regulation¹⁶, amongst others to improve risk management tools for farmers, reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries and simplify conditions for financial instruments. Finally, the implementing regulation on administration and control systems (Regulation (EU) No 809/2014) was also modified in July 2017 to simplify control rules for non-area related measures.
- Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) are being increasingly used by Member States and regions in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of EAFRD support and to reduce the administrative burden. Currently around 76% of the RDPs are using at least one type of SCOs and the number is expected to increase. As an example, flat rates are used to cover indirect costs, unit costs for training activities or investments and lump sums for cooperation actions. Member States

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) 2017/2393, OJ L 350, p.15

and regions are introducing more SCOs in the context of RDPs amendments and this trend is expected to continue. The Commission has greatly promoted the use of SCO through dedicated seminars and other networking activities.

- More than 30 workshops and capacity building events have been organised by the European Network for Rural Development since 2015 in order to share best practices and experience and to help stakeholders (including, among others, managing authorities, paying agencies, EU-wide organisations, local action groups, evaluators, etc.) to work together in a strategic manner and enhance the performance of rural development programmes. The timing and the content of the events has been specifically designed in agreement with the Commission services (in particular the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development) according to the different stages of the programming cycle (e.g. defining selection criteria at the launching phase of the programmed, or addressing bottlenecks in RDP implementation in view of preparing for the Performance Review or starting the discussions on the CAP reform) and to better exploit the potential of the programmes to deliver on specific issues of political relevance (e.g. generational renewal, Smart Villages, biodiversity or farm resilience).
- An increased awareness of implementation feasibility and possible errors is guaranteed through an ex-ante assessment of the rural development measures by Member States, aiming to ensure they are verifiable and controllable and taking into account the results of controls in the previous programming period.
- Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 was amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/558 of 23 April 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. To facilitate the implementation of the EU funds and support final recipients affected by the Covid-19 health crisis the modified Common Provision Regulation allows the provision of a stand-alone working capital through EAFRD supported financial instruments. This has a significant positive implication with regards the demand for any of the instruments introducing this new possibility, reduces the administrative burden associated with control and monitoring of the instruments, and simplifies the conditions for financial instruments.
- Subsequently, Regulation (EU) 1305/2013 was also amended by Regulation (EU) 2020/872 as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, an exceptional temporary measure was introduced aimed at providing relief to farmers or small-medium sized agri-businesses affected by COVID-19, and to ensure liquidity over the crisis period (max EUR 7 000 per farmer and max EUR 50 000 per SME). The EAFRD support for these measures is limited to a maximum of 2% of the total EAFRD contribution to the rural development programmes. As part of the CAP transitional rules, the implementation of this exceptional measure was subsequently prolonged until 30 June 2021 (with expenditure for this measure now eligible if paid by latest 31 December 2021).
- Under the technical assistance programme fi-compass, in total 34 cases of targeted coaching on financial instruments for EAFRD managing authorities were carried out over 2016-2020 of which 4 new were done in 2020. We undertook 4 EU-wide conferences with 561 attending participants in total. They formed part of the 22 conferences on EAFRD-supported financial instruments organised in the period 2015-2020. In 2020, a study assessing the gaps in financing agriculture and agro-food sectors in 24 Member States was published and the 24 national reports were disseminated. The activities related to dissemination of information were adapted to the new way of online working during the Covid-19 health crisis period and were provided through social media, specific brochures, websites, communication newsletters, etc.
- Considering the state of play in the discussions with the co-legislators on the future CAP and in order to ensure continuity in support to CAP beneficiaries in 2021 and 2022, Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 was adopted of 23 December 2020 providing certain transitional rules for the CAP for 2021-2022. This regulation aims to extend the rural development programmes by 2 years, whereby the extended programmes shall follow the existing legal framework, and adding the EAFRD allocation for the years 2021 and 2022 ('old rules – new money' principle). Furthermore, this transitional regulation also sets out the legal basis to introduce the part of the European Union Recovery Instrument earmarked to be implemented via the EAFRD into the rural development programmes. These additional financial resources shall be implemented through RDP measures that are directed at addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.
- In addition, a regulation was adopted by the co-legislators end January 2020¹⁷ to provide amongst others the flexibility for Member States to transfer funds between the CAP pillars for calendar year 2020.

Programmes' implementation 2014-2020 (Common Strategic Framework), without pre-financing*

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2020 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member-states at end 2020 (2)	(2)/(1)%
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¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2020/127 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 January 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 as regards financial discipline as from financial year 2021 and Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 as regards flexibility between pillars in respect of calendar year 2020, [OJ L 27, 31.1.2020, p. 1-5](#)

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Commitments 2014-2020 EUR million (1)	Cumulative payments declared by Member-states at end 2020 (2)	(2)/(1)%
1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation Outputs:	2 127.65	531.08	25.0%
2. Enhancing access to, use and quality of, information and communication technologies Outputs:	922.21	298.66	32.4%
3. Enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector Outputs:	28 916.93	16 130.17	55.8%
4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy Outputs:	4 074.55	2 227.96	54.7%
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management Outputs:	21 306.47	16 134.09	75.7%
6. Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency Outputs:	25 452.96	18 449.04	72.5%
7. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility Outputs:	2 303.25	990.53	43.0%
8. Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty Outputs:	11 792.63	5 461.02	46.3%
9. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning Outputs:	888.10	346.65	39.0%
TOTAL	97 784.73	60 569.22	61.9%

*The above allocation of commitments into thematic objectives is indicative based on the Member States' programmes, situation at the end of 2020. The breakdown can be subject to changes due to possible modification of the RDPs. The cumulative amounts of payments declared by Member States are provided until Q3 2020. The cumulative payments **do not include pre-financing**, as they cannot be split per thematic objective. The amounts for Technical Assistance Measures and Discontinued Measures are not included as they do not contribute to any of the thematic objectives.

Overall, the Annual Implementation Reports screening for 2019 confirms a steady acceleration in spending levels compared to the first years of implementation. By end 2020, the budgetary commitments reached 100% of allocations for 2014-2020. Spending levels reached around 65% of total EAFRD resources for the same period (percentage of interim payments made to MS in comparison to total allocation). This is still a lower pace of implementation compared to the one reached at the equivalent point in time of the previous programming period (75%). This is due to the one year delay of the start several of the 2014-2020 rural development programmes. This implementation level for the EAFRD stands above the average implementation rate of other ESI Funds in terms of payments declared. The implementation rate should be assessed considering different factors. First, from the end of 2020, there remain still three years of the implementation period. Second, the overall level of commitment at EU level reached 100% until Q3 2020. Finally, in the case of rural development, a part of the expenditure is realised during the last years of implementation. The latter is mainly related to the late realisation of some investment projects, such as the ones for broadband development, which contribute to the relatively low implementation of thematic objective (TO) 2. The rather low execution rate of local development strategies (TOs 8 and 9) can be explained by a later implementation. Area related payments, generally associated with agri-environmental-climate commitments follow a more regular (annual) path, which explain the better implementation in TOs 5 and 6. For TO 1, the uptake and achievement of results is not yet fully in place. This is explained by the late start the measures chosen by MS, partially due to the need to adapt to the changes in the legal framework and the fact that some measures are new and have a longer project lifetime (e.g. cooperation projects and the new measure European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability).

Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Financial instruments (FI) are a key tool for providing access to finance for the farming sector and the rural economy. They also allow, by leveraging with private capital and by their revolving nature, to complement the rural development budget. EAFRD already met the target of doubling the use of FIs as compared to the 2007-2013 programming period.

By end 2020, FIs supported by the EAFRD are programmed in 33 RDPs in thirteen Member States with a total EAFRD allocation of EUR 609 million. The amount declared to the Commission till end of 2020 equals to EUR 185 million. By end 2020, 19 Paying Agencies declared expenditure for FIs under RDPs.

Under the technical assistance programme fi-compass, in total 34 cases of targeted coaching on financial instruments for EAFRD managing authorities' were carried out over 2016-2020 of which 4 new were done in 2020. We undertook 4 EU-wide conferences with 561 attending participants in total. They formed part of the 22 conferences on EAFRD-supported financial instruments organised in the period 2015-2020. In 2020, a study assessing the gaps in financing agriculture and agro-food sectors in 24 Member States was published and the 24 national reports were disseminated. The activities related to dissemination of information were adapted to the new way of online working during the Covid-19 health crisis period and were provided through social media, specific brochures, websites, communication newsletters, etc. The Commission also continued the discussions with the Council and

the EP on the new CAP proposal where FIs will continue to play an important part to foster investments in agriculture and rural areas, and which also introduced further legal and implementation simplifications.

Contributions were also made to the launch of the Just Transition Mechanism the Recovery and Resilience Fund as well as to the various work streams of InvestEU such as the Sustainability Proofing Guidelines (taxonomy), the Climate and Environmental Tracking, product fiches, etc.

Forthcoming implementation

As a result of the implementation of rural development programmes, the following targets, amongst others, are expected to be achieved at the level of the Union at the end of the programming period (target 2023 based on 2014-20 MFF allocations, as RDPs are not yet amended for the two-year transitional period): 28 million hectares of agricultural land concerned by commitments targeting biodiversity; 53% of the total rural population (147.5 million inhabitants) living in areas for which local development strategies are implemented by selected LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs); investments in improved energy efficiency for more than 17 000 farms; support for about 176 000 young farmers to set up their businesses and for more than 320 000 farmers to modernise and improve their production facilities. As for the rural business outside the farms gate, some 33 000 rural entrepreneurs are to receive support to develop their businesses.

The expected achievements, such as referred to above, depend on appropriate implementation rules for the EAFRD 2014-2020 expenditure, balancing purposeful policy framing and procedural simplification. The first effects on the simplification actions adopted through the Omnibus Regulation, namely regarding the use of simplified costs options and financial instruments as well as support for risk management could already be noticed in 2018: several Member States have requested to amend their rural development programmes in order to use these possibilities, while more and more Member States are extending the use of simplified cost options.

Throughout 2020 the majority of Member States amended their rural development programmes to include also short and long term responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. In many cases, this implied changes in the RDP strategies and respective adaptations to the target values in the indicator plan as well as financial reallocations.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2023-2027 will have started

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

To promote a viable food production

Between 2013 and 2019, the average EU factor income¹⁸ per worker increased by 15% in real terms. This increase was mainly due to major gains in labour productivity, mostly as a result of an outflow of labour from the agricultural sector.

The CAP as a whole has helped support and stabilise farm income. Market measures have helped limit domestic price volatility of most agricultural products and facilitated price recovery in sectors affected by a market crisis. Since 2014, EU price volatility has been lower than prices for all products on the international market (except butter and skimmed milk powder in recent years). Direct income support – representing around 25% of EU factor income (2014-2018 average) and reaching over 6 million beneficiaries (2019) – enabled farmers to cope better with the fall in income caused by falls in agricultural prices.

20% of CAP beneficiaries receive 80% of direct payments, which has raised questions about the fairness of the distribution of direct payments. However, this ratio essentially mirrors the distribution (and in some Member States the concentration) of land ownership; most large beneficiaries are family farms of between 20 and 100 hectares and receive more than EUR 7 500. About half of all beneficiaries are very small farms, with less than 5 hectares.

The 2014-2020 CAP resulted in a significant redistribution of direct payments to smaller farmers and to areas facing natural constraints. Between 2017 and 2019, the payments per hectare to farmers in the smallest category (producing under EUR 8 000 of standard output) increased by 18% compared to between 2011 and 2013.

Direct payments and rural development support represent close to 50% of farmers' income in mountain areas and CAP funding helps to make farms viable in the most remote rural areas. Nevertheless, the high level of total income support in mountain areas does not compensate fully for the income gap with non-mountain areas.

An analysis of income and distribution of direct payments by income shows room for improvement in targeting the support to those who need it most. In certain cases, the policy has had too limited an effect on reducing disparities between regions in a Member State, on the gradual reduction of payments, and on capping the level of payments per farm. Direct payments received by smaller

¹⁸ Agricultural factor income ([Eurostat](#)) measures the income derived from agricultural activities that can be used for the remuneration of own and rented production factors: labour, land and capital. See General objective 1, indicator 1.

farms remain below or just around the national average income in a number of Member States. In addition, there is no proof that the current provisions targeting support to active farmers have been effective.

The CAP continued to make a significant contribution to food security by achieving productivity gains and resilience in trade markets. The total factor productivity of EU agriculture increased by 6% from 2013 to 2019¹⁹ (EU-27). The CAP supported significant labour productivity gains (+24% from 2013 to 2020). By increasing the relative amount of capital available for farms and thus boosting their competitiveness, support for farm investments had an indirect positive effect on farm income.

The CAP also provided support to improve supply chain organisation, with the number of recognised producer organisations and associations of producer organisations being 7% higher in 2020 than 2016 and the share of fruit and vegetables production marketed by these organisations growing by 2.3 percentage points between 2014 and 2019 (to 45.6%).

The EU accounted for 18% of global agri-food exports in 2019²⁰. External factors (including the Russian import ban on EU products) weakened to some extent the competitive position of the EU's agricultural farm sector in most of the years from 2014 to 2020, but EU agri-food trade displayed a strong degree of resilience. Since 2018, the EU's competitive position improved slightly, adding one percentage point to the EU's share of world exports.

To promote a sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

The CAP provides an extensive level of 'baseline protection' for the environment via mandatory cross-compliance (on 84% of the EU's agricultural land in 2019) and greening obligations (80%, up from 76% in 2015)²¹. It then provides for more targeted but voluntary commitments under rural development (12-15% for agri-environment-climate measures and 3-5% for organic farming)²². The CAP's income support and support for areas with natural handicaps help prevent land abandonment, slow down intensification and specialisation of farming systems and maintain crop diversification and permanent grasslands²³.

All farms receive basic payments, irrespective of their degree of input use. As a result, these payments are often perceived as conflicting with the sustainable management of natural resources. The facts do not always support this perception. By decoupling support from production and linking it to compliance with standard environmental and climate practices, basic payments are not an incentive to increase production intensity. Proof of this is the level of direct payments per hectare received by the 10% most intensive farms, which fell by 12% to EUR 451 per hectare (between 2017 and 2019) compared to the level prior to the CAP reform from 2011 to 2013. By contrast, direct payments increased by 23% for the 10% most extensive EU farmers, to EUR 154 per hectare. At EUR 1 900, direct payments per worker on the most intensive farms are almost 78% lower than for the most extensive farms (EUR 7 700).

The cross-compliance mechanism makes CAP payments conditional on respecting a basic set of rules stemming from environmental (and other) EU legislation and good agri-environmental practice established under the CAP. Consequently, the CAP helps enforce the implementation of existing legislation relevant for the environment, with notable exception for soil, as this is not covered by specific EU legislation.

The new greening scheme brought in by the 2013 CAP reform tried to tackle this issue with an additional incentive, linking 30% of direct support to practices conducive to sustainable management of natural resources. 'Greening' was successful in preventing further environmental damage, but the incentive to change farming practices (in particular the obligation to diversify crops or to maintain ecological focus areas) was not relevant for all farmers. Although the greening scheme had the potential to promote environmental and climate practices, the choices made by Member States and farmers did not fully unlock this potential.

Given their tailored and targeted design, voluntary measures under rural development were the most effective in encouraging sustainable management of natural resources. Implementation choices greatly influenced the overall impact of these measures. Furthermore, their uptake by farmers and foresters was limited, notably due to complex eligibility conditions and premiums that are too low to stimulate change, particularly in certain productive areas. Agri-environment-climate commitments supported practices that limit the loss of soil organic matter, foster soil biodiversity and reduce soil pollution (even though reduced tillage on arable land was limited to specific areas).

By 2019, 8% of EU agricultural land was under organic farming. 66% of this land is farmed with CAP support. Organic farming clearly produces benefits for biodiversity, soil and water, climate mitigation and animal welfare, while reducing the use of chemical pesticides and antimicrobials.

EU greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture²⁴ have fallen by more than 20% since 1990, but they have stagnated since 2010. While reducing total emissions in agriculture remains essential to achieve the EU's climate objectives, it is worth highlighting the

¹⁹ https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardIndicators/Productivity.html?select=EU27_FLAG,1

²⁰ See EAGF Specific objective 1, indicator 1.

²¹ See EAGF Specific objective 6, indicator 5.

²² Organic farming, compared to conventional farming, resulted in a mean increase of 34% in the abundance and richness of species, and a mean increase of 23.5% in soil carbon stocks (kgC/ha) for cropland.

²³ Also highlighted in [Scenar 2030 - Pathways for the European agriculture and food sector beyond 2020](#), which assessed the implication of a counterfactual 'no CAP' scenario on land use and the environment (among other aspects). This showed that without CAP, land abandonment (including grassland) would be higher (with a reduction of 6.9% in utilised agricultural area and 8.8% in grassland area).

²⁴ See General objective 2, indicator 1.

significant increase in output efficiency (i.e. lower emissions per unit of output): agricultural production has increased by 9% since 2010. This strengthens the resilience of the sector and food security.

Overall, the CAP provides a wide range of tools for sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, but Member States did not seize all opportunities to improve the environmental sustainability of farming and to step up climate action. The CAP could have been more effective with a more strategic approach, more targeted measures and funding, and if beneficiaries had been more ambitious in implementation rather than minimising changes. Nevertheless, the CAP did provide EU added value by raising ambition and laying down minimum spending levels for this general objective.

To promote a balanced territorial development

The decline in the labour force in EU agriculture has slowed down from -3.8% per year between 2005 and 2011 to -1.4% per year between 2011 and 2019. Employment reached 9.1 million full-time equivalents by the end of 2019. The ageing farming population is one of the top challenges facing EU rural areas, as only 11% of EU farmers are under 40 years old (2016).

The CAP has facilitated generational renewal by supporting the economic sustainability of jobs. However, it is insufficient on its own to remove the main entry barriers to farming, which are access to land and capital and the attractiveness of working and living conditions of rural areas.

CAP support mainly targets farming, but evidence shows the significant spill-over effects on the wider rural economy, notably because it boosts local spending and provides employment. The agri-food sector provides 40 million jobs in rural areas. In addition, despite the low share of funding, CAP support can be key to improve infrastructure, services and connectivity, especially in remote areas.

The CAP helps slow the rate of depopulation and land abandonment in the EU. It also plays a social role and the distribution of CAP support is very inclusive (with half of recipients receiving less than EUR 1 250 per year). Agriculture and the CAP significantly help reduce poverty in rural areas²⁵.

EAFRD

The EAFRD allocates the largest share of public expenditure (EU funding plus national funding) to Specific objective 4 ‘restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems’ and the initial targets set for 2023 (prior to the 2-year extension of the programming period) to support land management practices beneficial for the biodiversity, water and soil have all been reached.

Measures specifically designed to address climate action (Specific objective 5) only represent a small share of the total public support of rural development. However, the number of planned hectares under management contracts to address the reduction of greenhouse gas emission has been reached, whereas for example investments in renewable energy (indicator 3) continue to lag somewhat behind.

In general, investment type of measures take a longer time to be fully implemented compared to annual type of measures, which explains to a large extent the persistent gap to the targets.

	planned 2014-2022 (billion EU)	% of total ²⁶	realised expenditure (end Q3 2021, as percentage of 2014-2022 planned expenditure)
SO1	cross cutting objective		
SO2	41.7	22%	50%
SO3	20.3	10%	50%
SO4	88.6	46%	66%
SO5	11.6	6%	45%
SO6	26.4	14%	45%

Further progress has been made in terms of programme performance. For example, by end 2020, about 200 000 farms have been selected to receive financial support to restructure and modernise their holdings, and to achieve productivity gains. On climate and environmental actions in agriculture (e.g. carbon sequestration, reduction of greenhouse gases and ammonia emissions), good progress has been made, in particular with farmers joining voluntary agri-environment-climate schemes to develop environmentally-friendly farm management. The targets to reach by end of 2025 are: (i) 19% of EU agricultural land under

²⁵ As shown in several studies, including 2 recent evaluations: https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/rural-areas/impact-cap-territorial-development-rural-areas-socioeconomic-aspects_en and https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-publishes-study-impact-leader-balanced-territorial-development-2022-mar-17_en.

²⁶ Total is less than 100% because approx. 3% of planned total public expenditure cover technical assistance and implementation of discontinued measures carried over from previous programming period.

management for biodiversity, (ii) 16% for better soil management, and (iii) 17% for better water management. Two of the 2023 targets for these indicators were reached by the end of 2020 and the third one was over 98% of completion.

At the end of 2020, the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) was supporting more than 9 000 interactive innovation projects, against an overall target at the end of the implementation period of more than 14 000 projects. Knowledge and innovation developed through the EIP-AGRI projects are shared through national innovation and rural networks and the EIP-AGRI network. By end 2020, nearly 1.8 million people had taken part in vocational training activities supported by the EAFRD. In the same period, 4.9 million people had benefitted from improved infrastructures for information and communication technologies, against an overall target of 12.1 million people, by the end of 2025.

The implementation of area and animal-related support in 2014-2020 (e.g. related to environmental commitments and animal welfare) is well advanced. In this context, rules concerning the EAFRD payment deadlines to the beneficiaries were already introduced as from calendar year 2019, in order to align with direct payments and with a view to ensure timely disbursement of the Union support to EAFRD beneficiaries. This is also expected to further facilitate the implementation of those commitments. Some delays are still observed in relation to measures that can take several years to be completed (long-term investments such as broadband, other infrastructures) or that are conditional to the implementation of a business plan, which can take up to five years to be 'completed' (business start-up). Significant progress in the implementation of those measures has been made.

The CAP measures on generational renewal continue to have a positive impact on attracting and keeping young farmers in rural areas and improving employment, despite the difficulty to isolate the effects of individual CAP measures addressing generational renewal and the strong influence of external factors. However, these measures are often insufficient on their own, to address two main barriers to generational renewal: access to land and capital that depend mostly on national legal, social and fiscal policies.²⁷

The 2023-2027 CAP takes into account the main lessons learnt so far from the current rural development programming period, amongst others by reducing the level of prescription of the interventions and improving the synergies with the other instruments of the CAP (i.e. direct payments and sectoral programmes). This new CAP will have to pay specific attention to attracting young farmers and will also promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas.

The rural development support will also provide a decisive input into the new call for enhanced environmental and climate actions linked to the green deal initiative. The 2023-2027 CAP plans will include the following types of interventions, funded by the EAFRD: (i) environmental, climate and other management commitments; (ii) compensation for natural or other area-specific constraints; (iii) area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements; (iv) investments; (v) installation of young farmers and rural business start-up; (vi) risk management tools; (vii) cooperation; (viii) knowledge exchange and information.

Performance related to Specific Objective 1

This Specific Objective aims at transferring knowledge and fostering innovation in rural areas, with a focus on the following areas:

- Fostering innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas (Focus Area 1A);
- Strengthening the links between agriculture, food production, and forestry and research and innovation (Focus Area 1B);
- Fostering lifelong learning and vocational trainings in the agricultural and forestry sector (Focus Area 1C).

The specific objective is cross-cutting which is why no public expenditure has been attributed to it as such.

Indicator 1 (percentage of RDP expenditure planned for the three measures Knowledge transfer & information action, advisory services and cooperation) shows that by end 2020, 32% of the target planned for 2023 has been realised, corresponding to 37% of the 2025 target.

Indicator 2 (number of cooperation operations) shows that by end 2020, 54% of the target planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 44% of the 2025 target.

Indicator 3 (total number of participants trained) shows that by end 2019, 51% of the target planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 47% of the 2025 target.

The uptake and achievement of results is not yet fully in place. Part of this can be explained by the fact that cooperation and EIP-AGRI projects feed into this specific objective, which require a lot of preparatory work in the setting up phase, including the search for project partners. This leads to longer project lifetimes with reportable results emerging only at a later stage. Other factors explaining also the low implementation are the long administrative procedures that the Member States have put in place and which may discourage potential beneficiaries to apply, the lack of dissemination of information and publicizing of such measures, and in general, the fact that implementation of the related measures has started relatively late. Remedial actions have included the revision of the legal provisions governing the provision of advisory services to farmers and forestry holders, in 2017 (less stringent procedural requirements for the selection of advisors) and continuous dialogue with the Member States in view of correcting the limiting factors mentioned above. Several seminars have been organised by the European Network for Rural Development in 2019, 2020 and 2021 to exchange good practices related to improved efficiency under these measures.

Performance related to Specific Objective 2

²⁷ See the summary of the support study for the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal in the agricultural sector in the EAGF programme statement.

Specific Objective 2 aims at improving farm viability and competitiveness, with a focus on

- improving the economic performance, restructuring and modernisation of supported farms in particular through increasing their market participation and agricultural diversification (Focus Area 2A)
- facilitating the entry of adequately skilled farmers into the agricultural sector and in particular, generational renewal (Focus Area 2B)

For the period 2014-2022, Member States planned EUR 41.7 billion of public expenditure for this specific objective, corresponding to 22% of the total rural development planned public expenditure. By Q3 2021, 50% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1 (share of agricultural holdings received support for investments in restructuring and modernisation) shows that by end 2020, 70% of the target value planned for 2023 had been achieved corresponding to 66% of the 2025 target.

Indicator 2 (share of agricultural holdings with support to business development/investments for young farmers) shows that by end 2020, 87% of the target value planned for 2023 had been achieved corresponding to 89% of the 2025 target.

The level of achievement of the targets continues to be satisfactory. It should be noted that for investment operations, normally implementation takes several years. In general, investment support increases the economic performance and market participation of the supported farms. Investments may also imply environmental benefits. Support to the entrance of adequately skilled farmers, including young farmers, can have positive effects on farm viability, especially in relation to farm productivity and competitiveness.

Additionally, operations under this specific objective contribute positively to the market participation of primary producers, farm diversification, maintenance of employment in rural areas, generational renewal in agriculture, environmental benefits, improvement of working and living conditions of farmers.

Performance related to Specific Objective 3

Specific Objective 3 aims at promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture, with a focus on the following areas:

- Improving the competitiveness of primary producers by better integrating them into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply-circuits, producer groups and organisations and inter-branch organisations (Focus Area 3A);
- Supporting farm risk prevention and management (Focus Area 3B).

For the period 2014 – 2022, Member States planned EUR 20.3 billion of public expenditure for this specific objective, which corresponds to 10% of the total rural development planned public expenditure. By Q3 2021, 50% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1 (share of agricultural holdings receiving support for participating in quality schemes, local markets, short supply circuits, and producer groups/organisations) shows that by end 2020, 55% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved corresponding to 68% of the 2025 target.

Indicator 2 (share of farms participating in risk management schemes) show that by end 2020, 36% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved corresponding to 52% of the 2025 target. It is still lower than expected, mainly due to the fact that this type of support is still relatively new in the Member States and needs some time to be fully managed. In order to facilitate the uptake of risk management schemes, some changes in the design of the instrument were introduced in 2017 and 2020.

Member States report several achievements, such as in terms of competitiveness of primary producers by better integration in the food supply chain and introduction of quality schemes, quality of food production, promotion of local markets and short supply, participation of farms in risk prevention and management schemes and prevention of risks from flooding.

Additionally, contributions to this specific objective come from LEADER, vocational trainings, cooperation projects (including EIP-AGRI operational groups), and farm advisory services on the increase of food quality and the creation of added value, as well as on developing the knowledge base on risk prevention in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

Performance related to Specific Objective 4

Specific Objective 4 aims at restoring, preserving, and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, with a focus on the following areas:

- restoring, preserving, and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, and in areas facing natural or other specific constraints, and high nature value farming, as well as the state of European landscapes (Focus Area 4A)
- improving water management, including fertilisers and pesticide management (Focus Area 4B)
- preventing soil erosion and improving soil management (Focus Area 4C)

For the period 2014 – 2022, Member States planned EUR 88.6 billion of public expenditure for this specific objective, which corresponds to 46% of the total rural development planned public expenditure. By Q3 2021, 66% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

Indicator 1a (percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to support biodiversity and/or landscapes) shows that by end 2020, 103% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 89% of the 2025 target.

Indicator 2a (percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve water management) shows that by end 2020, 98% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 84% of the 2025 target.

Indicator 3a (percentage of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion) shows that by end 2020, 101% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 90% of the 2025 target.

Member States report several achievements, such as in terms of agricultural and forest land covered with management contracts to enhance biodiversity and landscape, restoring, preserving, and enhancing biodiversity (e.g. Farmland Bird Index), improvement of water quality and management, especially through a better management of fertilisers and pesticides, prevention of soil erosion and improvement of soil management, and preservation of genetic species in grasslands and livestock.

Performance related to Specific Objective 5

Specific Objective 5 aims at promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food, and forestry sectors, with a focus on the following areas:

- Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture (FA 5A)
- Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing (FA 5B)
- Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by-products, waste and residues and other non-food raw material, for the purposes of the bio-economy (FA 5C)
- Reducing greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture (FA 5D)
- Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry (FA 5E)

For the period 2014 – 2022, the Member States planned EUR 11.6 billion of public expenditure under this specific objective, which corresponds to 6% of the total rural development planned public expenditure. By end 2020, 45% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

- Indicator 1 (share of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems) shows that by end 2020, 66% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 76% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 2 (total investment for energy savings and efficiency) shows that by end 2020, 37% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 29% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 3 (total investment in renewable energy production) shows that by end 2020, 38% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 32% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 4a (percentage of livestock units concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing GHG and/or ammonia emissions) shows that by end 2020, 146% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 87% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 4b (percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting to the reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions) shows that by end 2020, 81% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 94% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 5 (share of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration and conservation) shows that by end 2020, 82% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 94% of the 2025 target.

In general, indicators relating to area- or animal-based management commitments are closer to the targets than those relating to investment support, where uptake in general is, for the time being, lower than planned, due to the different nature of the respective interventions (annual payments versus investment projects that can take some time to materialise). Implementation delays have been subject to continuous dialogue with the Member States.

Performance related to Specific Objective 6

Specific Objective 6 aims at promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, with a focus on the following areas:

- Facilitating diversification, creation, and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation (Focus Area 6A)
- Fostering local development in rural areas (Focus Area 6B)
- Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas (Focus Area 6C).

For the period 2014-2022, Member States planned EUR 26.4 billion of public expenditure under this specific objective, which corresponds to 14% of the total rural development planned public expenditure. By Q3 2021, 45% of the planned public expenditure has been realised.

- Indicator 1 (number of jobs created in supported projects) shows that by end 2020, 29% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 23% of the 2025 target.

- Indicator 2a (percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies) shows that by end 2020, 113% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 118% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 2b (percentage of rural population benefitting from improved services/infrastructures) shows that by end 2020, 125% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 141% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 2c (jobs created in supported LEADER projects) shows that by end 2020, 84% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 60% of the 2025 target.
- Indicator 3 (percentage of rural population benefitting from new or improved ICT services/infrastructures) shows that by end 2020, 31% of the target value planned for 2023 has been achieved, corresponding to 128% of the 2025 target.

Member States report achievements in several fields such as diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, jobs creation and maintenance in rural areas, development and access to services and local infrastructure in rural areas, participation in local development strategies, employment opportunities created via local development strategies, and broadband expansion and better use of ICT in rural areas.

The indicator value for services/infrastructures (ICT) is relatively low partly due to the fact that many of these projects are large and may require several years to be implemented.

Explanation on specific objectives and the establishment of targets

For the 2014-2022 rural development programmes, for each of the specific objectives, the Commission has defined result-type "Target Indicators" in the rural development (RD) Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES). At least one target indicator is available for each of the 18 RD focus areas. The application of each of these indicators is mandatory for all the rural development programmes including the corresponding focus area. For each indicator target levels are established ex-ante for year 2025 and actual achievements are assessed regularly during the implementation period. It is therefore possible to aggregate at the level of the Union both their planned levels for the year 2025 and, through regular monitoring and reporting, their actual levels of achievement year by year. Therefore, these CMES Target Indicators represent an optimal way to monitor and report on the performance of the programmes.

The baseline is 0 at the start of the programming period. The information concerning the latest known results reflecting 2020 implementation became available to the Commission as of the annual implementation reports submitted by 30 June 2021.

For the EAFRD there is no ex-ante monitoring of the outputs via setting the annual forecasts for the implementation. The targets for the operational outputs are set for 2025.

NB: All targets and latest known results have been modified because the United Kingdom is no longer included in the aggregate. Certain targets have also been updated because of modifications in RD Programmes, which were made in accordance with the legislation for Rural Development. Only in the course of 2021 more than 180 programme amendments²⁸ were adopted by the Commission, some of them adjusting their 2025 target values. The justification for these amendments varies programme to programme, but they are mostly triggered by changes in national or regional development needs, changing economic conditions and the varying demand for different types of support, that necessitate reallocation of funding among the investment areas concerned, affecting obviously the targets set for the programmes.

When interpreting the actual results, caution should be applied as interventions tend to have a longer programme cycle – actual achievements may not be visible from the beginning. The implementation of the 2014-2022 programming period lasts until 2025 (n+3 rule), therefore the achievement values refer to the situation at the 7th year of a 12-year long implementation cycle.

3.2. Key achievements

EAGF

Market related expenditure

5.9 million	400 000	79%	18.9 million	19%
Farmers benefitted from direct payments in 2020	farmers benefitting from the young farmers scheme in 2020	of the total EU agricultural area was subject to at least one "greening" obligation in 2020	beehives supported in 2020	Of children in the EU benefit from the school scheme in 2019/2020

²⁸ Some programmes were amended more than once.

EAFRD

The results and outputs achieved by the end of 2020 (latest figures available²⁹) are fully representative of what is expected from the implementation. With programme implementation at cruising speed, the situation is likely to further improve in the next years, especially regarding operations linked to the creation of jobs, for which an improvement is already visible but more is expected in the coming years. The latter are operations that normally take more time to be completed and produce, with achievements materialising usually by the end of the programming period according to previous experience. Some positive results can already be pointed out, with 113% already achieved of the final target for rural population covered by local development strategies.

Key environmental and climate achievements in 2020³⁰ include:

2.0 million	869 000	17.1%	EUR 1 850 million	1 630 000	3.8 million
hectares of agricultural and forest land covered by management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation	hectares of irrigated land had switched to more efficient irrigation systems	of agricultural land were covered by management contracts contributing to biodiversity	investments in energy efficiency or renewable energy production reached	livestock units were concerned by investments in livestock management in view of reducing greenhouse gases or ammonia emissions	hectares were under land-management contracts targeting reduction of greenhouse gases or ammonia emissions

Key achievements regarding farm viability and competitiveness and knowledge transfer include (by 2020):

1.78%	1.41%	1.8 million
of the EU total agricultural holdings who received aid for investments support in restructuring and modernisation 2025 target is 2.70%	of the EU total holdings who received aid for a development plan for young farmers 2025 target is 1.59%	beneficiaries received vocational training in agriculture 2025 target is 3.9 million

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The following evaluations were published in 2021, contributing to a report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the common monitoring and evaluation framework including an assessment of the performance of the common agricultural policy 2014-2020 (COM/2021/815 final)³¹.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas, published on 8 April 2021³². The evaluation concluded that the CAP’s impact on generational renewal is mostly positive, but remains limited notably in regions lacking basic infrastructure and services. The CAP on its own is not sufficient to address main entry barriers into farming, such as access to land and access to capital. The measures included in the CAP are supporting the economic sustainability of young farmers, but the full potential of such measures is not exploited.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the impact of the CAP measures on the general objective "viable food production", published on 12 May 2021³³. The evaluation concluded that direct income support strongly contributes to stabilising farm income, with direct payments and support to areas facing natural constraints playing an important role. Market measures, EU quality schemes and various rural development measures contributing to productivity growth also have a role in supporting farm income by limiting downward price volatility and improving competitiveness. However, despite a steady and continuous improvement, the income gap between agricultural and non-agricultural income remains considerable.

²⁹ Latest data are collected from the Annual Implementation Reports 2020 (submitted in 2021). The data on the implementation in 2021 will become available in the second half of 2022.

³⁰ Year on year drop due to removing UK figures.

³¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2021%3A815%3AFIN>

³² https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/rural-areas/impact-common-agricultural-policy-generational-renewal-local-development-and-jobs-rural-areas_en

³³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/products-and-markets/impact-cap-measures-general-objective-viable-food-production_en

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the CAP's impact on climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, published on 1 June 2021³⁴. The evaluation concluded that CAP has helped reduce GHG emissions, improving the climate footprint per unit of agricultural output. Mitigation is mainly achieved by protecting existing carbon stocks, notably thanks to the maintenance of permanent grasslands supported by extensive livestock grazing systems. There is potential to further increase carbon storage in EU soils. In terms of climate adaptation, it is mainly achieved through support towards diversity of crops and farming systems, investment support for adaptation to new climate conditions, limiting soil erosion and improving resilience to floods. However, better targeting of CAP support would lead to an increase in efficiency.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry, published on 10 August 2021³⁵. The evaluation concluded that mandatory country-of-origin labelling provides for the meaningful information to consumers and for control of compliance by competent authorities. The effect of the country-of-origin labelling rules on market and trade dynamics was marginal, with the cost of adaptation absorbed in the supply chain and not transferred to consumers. Although the evaluation did not detect systemic issues with enforcement of the rules, it identified differences in the quality of controls between EU Member States. The evaluation also indicated that consumers' low understanding of the terms and definitions used on labels leaves room for improvement. In addition, growing demand for environmental care pushes for continuous efforts to better understand the environmental and market impact of origin labelling rules.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the information policy on the common agricultural policy, published on 8 December 2021³⁶. The evaluation concluded that information policy on the CAP plays an important role in increasing public awareness about the CAP and its role. The information actions on the CAP increase understanding of the policy and improve perception among stakeholders and EU citizens. Actions carried out by the Commission and the grants projects complement each other in order to reach wider audiences on CAP related topics, conveying messages that are relevant for their audiences. The evaluation also acknowledges scope to further improve the information measures and adapt them to the new CAP and to societal demands. Cooperation with the national authorities as regards communication to EU citizens might also be stepped up.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on territorial development of rural areas: socioeconomic aspects, published on 13 December 2021³⁷. The evaluation concluded that poverty and land abandonment would be more pronounced in the absence of the CAP, however administrative burden limits the efficiency of CAP support in rural areas. While the CAP is effective in strengthening farm viability and supporting the maintenance of farms in rural areas, the uneven distribution of support limits the CAP's effectiveness in reducing economic disparities between farmers and different areas. CAP support has a significant spill-over effect into the wider rural economy, especially in less developed regions, and generates gross-value added and employment in rural areas across the EU, and contributes to generational renewal. There is room for improvement regarding coherence and synergies with other EU funds, as well as national and regional policies. While direct payments are delivered with a relatively low administrative burden, they are not particularly targeted towards the social aspects of territorial development or the needs of vulnerable or socially-excluded rural groups.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on biodiversity, soil and water (natural resources), published on 17 December 2021³⁸. The evaluation concluded that the CAP provides EU added value by setting a higher level of ambition than might be available under a purely national approach, requiring minimum levels of financial support, and supporting knowledge sharing across Member States. However, the potential of the CAP in addressing sustainable management of natural resources was not fully exploited over 2014-2020. Member States did not allocate sufficient funding to the most targeted measures, and/or chose a minimalistic approach for cross-compliance and greening conditions. The evaluation reaffirms the continued relevance of the CAP's objective to address sustainable management of natural resources, and acknowledges the CAP's potential to effectively address sustainable management objectives by providing extensive protection through cross-compliance, greening obligations and more targeted voluntary commitments under rural development support. The evaluation also concluded that the CAP can prevent land abandonment and slow down specialisation of farming systems, contributing to the maintenance of diversified land use, farming and permanent grasslands.

Commission staff working document on the evaluation of Geographical indications and traditional specialities guaranteed protected in the EU, published on 21 December 2021³⁹. The evaluation concluded that Geographical Indications (GIs) and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed (TSGs) schemes offer a wide range of benefits for stakeholders, including a fair return and competition for farmers and producers. While they are not applied systematically in all Member States, and face low consumer

³⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/sustainability/evaluation-cap-climate-change-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions_en

³⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/products-and-markets/mandatory-indication-country-origin-labelling-certain-meats_en

³⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/regulation-and-simplification/information-policy-common-agricultural-policy-1_en

³⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/rural-areas/impact-cap-territorial-development-rural-areas-socioeconomic-aspects_en

³⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/sustainability/impact-cap-biodiversity-soil-and-water-natural-resources_en

³⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cmef/products-and-markets/geographical-indications-and-traditional-specialities-guaranteed-protected-eu_en

awareness and understanding in some Member States, they do provide a clear EU added value. GIs and TSGs ensure the integrity of the internal EU market and provide common standards for trade with third countries.

Two studies were commissioned in 2021 to contribute to the **synthesis of input from public consultations on organic farming** (SWD(2021)65)⁴⁰ **and the long-term vision for rural areas** (SWD/2021/167)⁴¹.

In addition the following studies were finalised in 2021, whose results will be published in 2022:

- Support study to the evaluation of the impact of LEADER towards the general CAP objective "balanced territorial development"
- Study on agri-food imports and their role in the EU supply chains
- Study (pilot project) on the restructuration of the Honey Bee chain and Varroa Resistance Breeding & Selection Program
- Study on the EU sugar sector's capacity to adapt to a post-quota market environment and strategies to strengthen its resilience sugar sector price volatility
- Synthesis report of Member States' POSEI reports
- Study on EU agri-food exports via e-commerce to China
- Study for the development of a common framework for the quantitative advice of crop nutrient requirements and greenhouse gas emissions and removal (FAST study)
- Study of the CAP measures and instruments promoting animal welfare and reduction of antimicrobials use

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as ensuring the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union.

Indicator 1: O.3 Number of CAP support beneficiaries

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 1: To support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	- The detailed information by intervention and type of intervention relates to all beneficiaries who directly receive CAP support (not only farmers). - By contrast, the aggregated figures relate only to farmers- In order to avoid double counting, which means that where a given unit of output is covered by multiple relevant interventions, or by several operations within the same intervention, that unit of output is counted only once in the aggregate value, there will be the need for a unique identifier for each beneficiary. - Beekeepers are not accounted as farmers, i.e. they are not accounted in the aggregate.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: C.25 Agricultural factor income

⁴⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12555-Organic-farming-action-plan-for-the-development-of-EU-organic-production_en

⁴¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021SC0167R%2801%29>

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	1: EUR (in real terms)/AWU2: Index 2010 =100%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	1: Eurostat, Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Agricultural Labour Input Statistics2 - 3: Eurostat, Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA)
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 1: To support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Similar indicator expressed as an index (2010=100)
Other methodological comments	Context indicator
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: R.6 Redistribution to smaller farms: Percentage additional direct payments per hectare for eligible farms below average farm size (compared to average)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 1: To support viable farm income and resilience of the agricultural sector across the Union to enhance long-term food security and agricultural diversity as well as to ensure the economic sustainability of agricultural production in the Union
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	- Coupled income support to livestock payments are accounted into the numerator. - Cotton is excluded from this indicator, as the Member States have no margin of manoeuvre on this intervention: the amounts to be paid are laid down in the legislation. - Support to Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC) is not included here because although supporting income, the indicator aims at measuring the redistribution of direct payments.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: Enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation

Indicator 1: R.9 Farm modernisation: Share of farms receiving investment support to restructure and modernise, including to improve resource efficiency

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	

Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 2: To enhance market orientation and increase farm competitiveness both in the short and long term, including greater focus on research, technology and digitalisation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Improve the farmers' position in the value chain

Indicator 1: R.10 Better supply chain organisation: Share of farms participating in Producer Groups, Producer Organisations, local markets, short supply chain circuits and quality schemes supported by the CAP

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 3: To improve the farmers' position in the value chain
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as promote sustainable energy

Indicator 1: I.10 Contributing to climate change mitigation: Greenhouse gases emissions from agriculture

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	1, 3, 4: Tonnes (Megatonnes) of CO2 equivalents per year for the absolute value and % for the change compared to baseline. 2, 5: %6: tonnes of CO2 equivalents/ha 7: tonnes of CO2 equivalents/LU
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	The indicator is based on the annual national inventory submissions to the EU and subsequently the UNFCCC through the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (Regulation 2018/1999). This reporting framework moreover describes requirements for monitoring and reporting under the Effort Sharing Regulation and LULUCF Regulation, e.g., Geospatial data sources for meeting IPCC approach 3 for LULUCF, such as services from the Copernicus programme, IACS/LPIS, LUCAS and others compliant with the INSPIRE directive. The inventory is compiled by each Member State, and then collated and quality-assured by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Topic Centre for Air Pollution and Climate Change Mitigation (ETC/ACM).
Link to the objective	To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Context indicator
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: R.14 Carbon storage in soils and biomass: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments to reduce emissions, maintain and/or enhance carbon storage (including permanent grassland, permanent crops with permanent green cover, agricultural land in wetland and peatland)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 4: To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: R.17 Afforested land: Area supported for afforestation, agroforestry and restoration, including breakdowns

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 4: To contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration, as well as to promote sustainable energy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 5: Foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency

Indicator 1: O.34 Number of hectares under environmental practices (summary indicator on physical area covered by conditionality, eco-schemes, agri- and forest- environment- climate management commitments)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural

	resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Similar indicator but at result level (share of area under environmental practices)
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: I.15 Improving water quality: Gross nutrient balance on agricultural land

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	kg N/ ha/ year
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), based on data reported by the countries (currently only available for those countries that report. Compulsory transmission of Gross Nutrient Balance data are planned to be part of the future legislation on agricultural statistics, in the Regulation on Statistics of Agricultural Input and Output (SAIO), planned to be adopted by the Commission by the end of 2020. Eurostat: Gross nutrient balance [aei_pr_gnb] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/aei_pr_gnb_esms.htm https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/t2020_rm310_esmsip2.htm
Link to the objective	To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Data come from multiple sources including the consumption of mineral fertilisers and seeding and plant material, livestock population and manure import and exports, use of other organic fertilisers in agricultural production, atmospheric deposition, biological nitrogen fixation, crop and fodder production and crop/fodder residues removal or burning, and areas of various types of crops. The land types included are arable land, permanent crops and permanent grassland. Further, coefficients are required, among other to estimate nutrient excretion per livestock and fodder yields. For countries that do not provide data, estimates are calculated and published by Eurostat based on various available data sources, most importantly the Eurostat fertilizers, crop and livestock statistics, National inventory submissions to UNFCCC and CLRTAP, Fertilizers Europe and FAO database. The EU aggregate is also estimated.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: I.16 Reducing nutrient leakage: Nitrates in ground water - Percentage of ground water stations with nitrates concentration over 50 mg/l as per Directive 91/676/EEC

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	% of groundwater stations above the concentration threshold (50 mg NO3/l)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Data from the Nitrates Directive reporting system (DG Environment): national and river basin level. European Environment Agency (EEA) – Nutrients in freshwater: Data voluntarily reported by Member States (EEA Member Countries) via the WISE/SOE (State of Environment) data flow annually. EEA website, based on data reported to EIONET: Waterbase_rivers, Waterbase_groundwaters, CSI020 , http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/nutrients-in-freshwater
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	
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Indicator 4: I.14 Sustainable and reduced use of pesticides: Risks, use and impacts of pesticides

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	1: kg2: Index based on annual quantities of active substances placed on the market in the form of plant protection products multiplied by the relevant weights100 (= average for the period 2011-2013)3: kg
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	1-3: Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/sustainable-use-pesticides/harmonised-risk-indicators/trends-harmonised-risk-0_en All data not publicly available yet due to confidentiality reasons, but currently being addressed with the revision of annex 2 of Reg. (EC) No 1185/2009 concerning statistics on pesticides to overcome this problem and ensure that data will be publicly available. The trends (compared to a baseline of 100, rather than expressed in kg) for the EU, and for MS that agreed to have their national trends published, are available at the following webpage: https://ec.europa.eu/food/plants/pesticides/sustainable-use-pesticides/farm-fork-targets-progress_en
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The HRI 1 indicator is based on the quantities of active substances sold in pesticides each year. Active substances are classified in 4 groups and 7 categories according to Annex IV to the Directive 2009/128/EC. A weighting is developed for each group: quantity sold of active substances are multiplied for the respective weights in order to calculate a harmonised index that can be monitored over time.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: R.19 Improving and protecting soils: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments beneficial for soil management to improve soil quality and biota (such as reducing tillage, soil cover with crops, crop rotation included with leguminous crops)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: R.20 Improving air quality: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments to reduce ammonia emission

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: R.21 Protecting water quality: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments for the quality of water bodies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: R.22 Sustainable nutrient management: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments related to improved nutrient management

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 5: To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: R.24 Sustainable and reduced use of pesticides: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) concerned by supported specific commitments which lead to a sustainable use of pesticides in order to reduce risks and impacts of pesticides such as pesticides leakage

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	To foster sustainable development and efficient management of natural resources such as water, soil and air, including by reducing chemical dependency
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 6: Contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes

Indicator 1: C.33 Agricultural area under organic farming

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	1: number of ha 2: %
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Eurostat – Organic farming annual data collection Eurostat – Farm Structure Survey (FSS)/Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS) Eurostat – Crop production statistics For national data: Area under organic farming table [org_cropar https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=org_cropar&lang=en] from 2012 onwards For regional data: Table [ef_lus_main https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=ef_lus_main&lang=en] contains data from 2013 onwards. Data from FSS is available on request to Eurostat.
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 6: To contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: I.21 Enhancing provision of ecosystem services: Share of agricultural land covered with landscape features

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	1: % 2: Still to be defined (Could be complemented with some statistics to reflect on spatial configuration of features)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Copernicus Land Monitoring Service fed with LPIS/IACS. Copernicus is the European Union's Earth Observation Programme - high resolution layers: https://land.copernicus.eu/pan-european/high-resolution-layers Land use/cover Area frame statistical Survey (LUCAS-landscape features module): https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/LUCAS_-_Land_use_and_land_cover_survey
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 6: To contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: R.29 Development of organic agriculture: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) supported by the CAP for organic farming, with a split between maintenance and conversion

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 6: To contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: R.34 Preserving landscape features: Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under supported commitments for managing landscape features, including hedgerows and trees

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 6: To contribute to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, enhance ecosystem services and preserve habitats and landscapes
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 7: Attract and sustain young farmers and other new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas

Indicator 1: R.36 Generational renewal: Number of young farmers benefitting from setting up with support from the CAP, including a gender breakdown

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
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Unit of measurement	Number of young farmers
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 7: To attract and sustain young farmers and other new farmers and facilitate sustainable business development in rural areas
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	A young farmer can set up on an existing farm. The reference to “young farmer” is to be understood as a reference to a beneficiary of the installation grant for young farmers (Article 75) and/or the complementary income support for young farmers (Article 30). This is the simplest solution to avoid double counting. The sub-indicators by gender are used only for monitoring purposes (i.e. they are not to be planned and they are not part of the performance review exercise).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 8: Promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry

Indicator 1: R.37 Growth and jobs in rural areas: New jobs supported in CAP projects

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of jobs created in full time equivalent (FTE)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	To promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Only new jobs actually created should be counted, which excludes jobs maintained. It relates to employment when the project is up and running, i.e. if the project is creation of a farm shop, it does not include employment created during the design/construction phase – consultant/architect/builders, but the employment, which is created when the shop is running (manager, sales assistants, etc.) Voluntary work should not be counted but self-employment is included. The indicator is calculated in FTE; therefore, if an existing halftime job is transformed into a fulltime job, the value of the indicator is 0.5. When this information is not available (for CIS-YF) the farmer is accounted as 1 FTE. To count 1 FTE job created, the duration of the contract should be one year or more (e.g. a six-month contract at 100% is 0.5). This indicator covers jobs created via support from CAP strategic plans, which covers jobs created in the agricultural sector, and non-agricultural employment.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: R.38 LEADER coverage: Share of rural population covered by local development strategies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 8: To promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including circular bio-

	economy and sustainable forestry
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	While LEADER interventions can include ones for preparatory support, this indicator counts the population covered in the territories with approved LAG partnerships and strategies for implementation. For simplification at the initial planning stage the LEADER intervention could be attributed to only this indicator. LEADER intervention (Article 77) may be concerned in a number of other resulted indicators, which will be only indicated based on the approved strategies through a later modification of the Plans and through the annual reporting.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: R.41 Connecting rural Europe: Share of rural population benefitting from improved access to services and infrastructure through CAP support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 8: To promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The indicator refers to the potential beneficiaries in municipalities or in a given area (e.g. covered by the LAG).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 9: Improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high quality, safe, and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, the reduction of food waste, as well as improving animal welfare and combatting antimicrobial resistances

Indicator 1:I.28 Limiting antimicrobial use in farmed animals: sales/use of antimicrobials in food producing animals

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Population Correction Unit (PCU)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) project, started by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) upon a request from the EC in 2009 to develop a harmonised approach for the collection and reporting of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals from EU Member States. Data is collected on a voluntary basis on sales of antimicrobial veterinary medicinal products (VMP) at package level from the EU Member States (MSs), EEA countries and Switzerland. - European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (2017) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52017DC0339 - ESVAC interactive database https://esvacbi.ema.europa.eu/analytics/saw.dll?PortalPages - ESVAC Annual Reports http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/regulation/document_listing/document_listing_000302.jsp#annual
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 9: To improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high quality, safe, and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistances

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Once the new Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products is to be applied (January 2022), all MS are obliged to collect data on sales and use of antimicrobials in animals, to enable in particular the direct or indirect evaluation of their use in food-producing animals at farm level, following a stepwise approach for different animal species, within the time limits set.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: R.43 Limiting antimicrobial use: Share of livestock units (LU) concerned by supported actions to limit the use of antimicrobials (prevention/reduction)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 9: To improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high quality, safe, and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistances
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In January 2022, the new Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products will start to apply. It provides for a wide range of practices to promote a more prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in animals, e.g. by restricting prophylactic and metaphylactic use. In order to help maintain animals healthy and prevent infections from occurring, therefore reducing the need to use antimicrobials, preventive measures may be taken, such as: improved biosecurity measures, improved animal husbandry, better hygiene practices, vaccination.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: R.44 Improving animal welfare: Share of livestock units (LU) covered by supported actions to improve animal welfare

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 9: To improve the response of Union agriculture to societal demands on food and health, including high quality, safe, and nutritious food produced in a sustainable way, to reduce food waste, as well as to improve animal welfare and to combat antimicrobial resistances
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In order to improve animal welfare, Member States may support actions (notably commitments or investments) such as: • supplying water, feed and animal care in accordance with the natural needs of animal husbandry; • improving housing conditions, such as increased space allowances, flooring surfaces, enrichment materials, natural light; • offering outdoor access; • promoting practices which avoid mutilation and/or castration of animals, or in specific cases when mutilation or castration of animals is deemed necessary, provide for the use of anaesthetics, analgesia and anti-inflammatory medication or immune-castration.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 10: Modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training

Indicator 1: R.1 Enhancing performance through knowledge and innovation: Number of persons benefitting from advice, training, knowledge exchange, or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups supported by the CAP in order to enhance sustainable economic, social, environmental, climate and resource efficiency performance

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Annual performance reports
Link to the objective	Specific Objective 10: Modernising agriculture and rural areas by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas and by encouraging their uptake by farmers, through improved access to research, innovation, knowledge exchange and training
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Other cooperation than EIP, with a training and innovation dimension could be accounted here. Whatever the length of the training/advice action (hours or days), the beneficiary is accounted the same way (in full). There might be double counting of beneficiaries, as a person could benefit of training through various channels and several times during the programming period. However, avoiding double counting in the planning and reporting would be too burdensome in view of the benefit it would bring. Regarding the implementation of research programs in apiculture, all participants to the research activity (including scientists) are not accounted here.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)

General Objective 1: To promote a viable food production

Indicator 1: Agricultural factor income

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									
115										
	Actual Progress									Final
	116	114	113	129	126	132	131	132		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Index (2010=100)
Cut-Off Date	07/02/2022
Data source	Eurostat - economic accounts for agriculture (online data code: aact_eaa06)
Narrative	Results show a growing trend despite annual variations inevitable in the economy.
Methodology	https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/Qlik_Downloads/InfoSheetSectorial/infoC25.html
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	C24 Agricultural factor income in PMEF
Other methodological comments	As the trend is more important than a comparison across countries, the index is preferred over the absolute values. Figure for 2021: first estimate. Updated baseline and previous values due to change in Eurostat database.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/aact_esms.htm
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Agricultural productivity

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2005	Milestones									
100	Actual Progress									Final
	101.1	102.7	104.1	104.5	105.2	107.5				
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Index (3-year moving average)
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	DG AGRI calculation based on Eurostat data
Narrative	Total factor productivity is increasing in the EU primarily with the increase in labour productivity and land productivity. Increase in labour productivity is due to a continuous agricultural labour outflow but also significant improvements in labour conditions with the help of machinery and equipment.
Methodology	Total factor productivity (TFP) compares total outputs relative to the total inputs used in production of the output. As both output and inputs are expressed in term of volume indices, the indicator measures TFP growth. The TFP a composite indicator for land, capital and labour productivity growth. This is an index, in the first step 2005 is set at 100, then 3 year-averages are calculated to smoothen the effect of weather for instance on the indicator.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The current CAP regulations continue to apply in 2021 and 2022 (Regulation (EU) 2020/2220). Only as of 2023 the new CAP Strategic Plans will enter into force.
Other methodological comments	https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/context-indicator-fiches_en.pdf Indicator C.27 - Total factor productivity in agriculture
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

General Objective 2: To promote a sustainable management of natural resources and climate action

Indicator 1: Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									Long term target
486 362	Actual Progress									Final
	441 058	434 343	435 190	443 293	435 483	428 420				
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Thousand tonnes of CO2 equivalent
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Annual European Union GHG inventory (sectors 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 4.c and 4.d). The inventory is based on national submissions to the UNFCCC and to the EU Monitoring Mechanism of CO2 and other GHG emissions. It is compiled and held by the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change (ETC/ACC) and data are published in the Eurostat database. - EU27 data
Narrative	Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture declined over the period between 1990 and 2012 and stabilised over the period 2013 and 2019.
Methodology	https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/Qlik_Downloads/InfoSheetEnvironmental/infoC45.html
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	C43 Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture in PMEF
Other methodological comments	Values have changed compared to figures provided in the previous Programme Statement because the EEA has updated figures also for previous years. Qualitative target: To decrease
Full metadata available at this address	https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/data/national-emissions-reported-to-the-unfccc-and-to-the-eu-greenhouse-gas-monitoring-mechanism-16
Justification of the trend	

General Objective 3: To promote a balanced territorial development

Indicator 1: Rural employment rate

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2023

0.63	Actual Progress								Final
	0.64	0.65	0.65	0.66	0.67	0.68	0.68		
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	% Employment rate for the age group 15-64
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Eurostat – Labour Force Survey - EU27
Narrative	Positive trend until 2019 closing the gap with urban employment rate.
Methodology	https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/Qlik_Downloads/InfoSheetSocioEconomic/infoC5.html
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/reg_lmk_esms.htm
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 1: To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and enhance its value share in the food chain

Indicator 1: Share of EU agricultural exports in world market

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2016	Milestones									
0.195	Actual Progress									Final
				0.193	0.197	0.203	0.200			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of total world agricultural exports
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	IHS Markit/Global Trade Atlas (GTA) (almost 98% world coverage)
Narrative	The EU27 has maintained and slightly expanded its worldwide market share, both according to the EU28 and EU27 calculation metric.
Methodology	(EU exports to Extra-EU)/(World exports incl. EU)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Qualitative target: Share in world market maintained
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	EU agri-food exports maintained and even slightly improved their world market share between 2017 to 2019.

Indicator 2: Share of value added for primary producers in the food chain

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									
0.29	Actual Progress									Final
	0.28	0.27	0.26	0.27	0.25					
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Eurostat – National Accounts, Structural Business Statistics
Narrative	After a period of decline, the situation recently stabilised concerning the value added retained by primary producers. The CAP provides for measures to help improving the position of farmers in the food value chain, by supporting farmers’ cooperation, encouraging the use of contracts and market transparency as well as supporting quality production with higher returns to farmers (e.g. organic, PGI, PDO). EU policies also regulate unfair trading practices that may penalise farmers as weaker operators within the food supply chain.
Methodology	The indicator looks at the structure of the food chain and calculates the share of the primary production (agriculture), processing sector and retail sector for the total value added generated by

	different participants of the food chain (primary production, food manufacturing, food distribution and food service activities).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The current CAP regulations continue to apply in 2021 and 2022 (Regulation (EU) 2020/2220). Only as of 2023 the new CAP Strategic plans will enter into force.
Other methodological comments	Qualitative target: Improved situation of primary producers in food chain
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/result-indicator-fiches-pillar-i_en.pdf Indicator R.03_PI Value added for primary producers in the food chain
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: To foster market stability

Indicator 2: Public intervention, ratio of volume of the products bought in the intervention storage and the total EU production of those respective products (All sectors)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
All sectors										
2017	Milestones									
2.1%	Actual Progress									0%
					0%	0%	0	0		Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Market monitoring data DG AGRI and Eurostat (based on Member States' notifications) on Public Intervention stocks and agricultural production
Narrative	Public Intervention is used only in case of market crisis, that is why intended target is 0%
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	No quantity entered in public intervention and public storage in the animal products sectors in 2019, 2020 and 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/facts-and-figures/markets/production/production-sector/animal-products/milk-and-dairy-products_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Private storage: number of products placed into the publicly aided private storage

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Milestones										
										0
Actual Progress										
	2	4	4	1	0	0	4	0		Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of products
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Market monitoring data DG AGRI and Eurostat (based on Member States' notifications) on Private Storage Aid stocks and agricultural production
Narrative	Private storage aid (PSA) is used only in case of market crisis, that is why the target is 0.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	No PSA was available for animal products (dairy and meats) and olive oil in years 2018 and 2019. It was introduced in 2020 in the framework of low olive oil prices following high EU stocks and of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis for skimmed milk powder, butter, cheese, beef, sheep meat and goat meat.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/facts-and-figures/markets/production/production-sector/animal-products/milk-and-dairy-products_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: To better reflect consumer expectations

Indicator 1: EU commodity prices compared to world prices - weighted average

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									
1.2	Actual Progress									Final
	1.09	1.06	1.1	1.13	1.19	1.11	1.16	0.98		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Ratio (1 means "equal to world prices")
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	DG Agriculture and Rural Development, based on European Commission, USDA, World Bank, IGC, London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange, National sources (EU27).
Narrative	The indicator confirms that most of EU agricultural prices are close to the world prices, confirming the growing opening of the EU market, a dynamic that begun with the 1992 CAP reform and was amplified by the 2003 CAP reform. Sugar, the latest sector to be reformed, is a case in point, with the impact of the reform of the sugar market being reflected in the gap being closed between the EU and the world prices. Yearly variations occur, and the situation is different depending whether the EU is a price maker or a price taker for a specific market.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The current CAP regulations continue to apply in 2021 and 2022 (Regulation (EU) 2020/2220). Only as of 2023 the new CAP Strategic plans will enter into force.
Other methodological comments	The ratio between EU and World agricultural commodity prices has changed from the data presented in the previous Programme Statement due to a change of the reference price for pigmeat (US). Qualitative target: Prices brought closer to world prices
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4 : To sustain farmers' income stability by providing direct income support

Indicator 1: Share of direct support in agricultural entrepreneurial income (family farm income)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									
0.4	Actual Progress									Final
	0.41	0.43	0.43	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38			
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	07/02/2022
Data source	EAGF Financial Report and EUROSTAT Economic Accounts for Agriculture
Narrative	The indicator looks at the ratio of direct payments to agricultural income. Direct payments stay more or less stable but agricultural income changes annually. EU 27 figures for 2020.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Figures updated based on the latest updates from Eurostat. Qualitative target: To maintain the ratio stable
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 5: To promote a more market oriented agriculture, by ensuring a significant level of decoupled income support

Indicator 1: Percentage of total direct payments which is decoupled

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
0.9224	Actual Progress									Final

	0.9354	0.9269	0.8889	0.8887	0.8848	0.8855	0.8841	0.8746		
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	26/01/2022
Data source	Budget execution figures
Narrative	2012: 92.13%
Methodology	As from financial year 2016 the figures take into account that in accordance with the methodology for implementation of the Small farmers scheme, as chosen by the Member States, part of the expenditure under that scheme is "decoupled". Execution of the Budget 2021 provisional figures. The ratio has decreased with the introduction of voluntary coupled support in direct payments (first implemented in financial year 2016). It has remained fairly stable since then, with a slight decrease due to the progress in the execution of the scheme.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Qualitative target: To maintain the ratio stable
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 6: Contribute to the enhancement of the environmental performance of the CAP through the greening component of the direct payments. Contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture and to making the Common Agricultural Policy more compatible with the expectations of the society through the cross compliance system. Contribute to preventing soil erosion, maintaining soil organic matter and soil structure, ensuring a minimum level of maintenance and avoiding the deterioration of habitats, and protecting and managing water through the standards of good agricultural and environmental condition of land

Indicator 1: Percentage of CAP payments covered by cross compliance

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									
0.824	Actual Progress									Final
	0.835	0.857	0.816	0.848	0.827	0.819	0.813	0.802		
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	09/02/2022
Data source	DG AGRI – Budget execution figures
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The percentage decreased slightly in 2021 (compared to 2020), mainly because of increased investment expenditure compared to annual measures under the EAFRD . Measures that are not falling under cross-compliance tend to have an increasing execution over the period and thus the % covered by cross-compliance usually decreases by the end of the programming period. Qualitative target: Maintain percentage
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Control rate for GAEC

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2016	Milestones									
100%	Actual Progress									Final
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
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Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Control statistics notified annually by MS
Narrative	Baseline: All paying agencies fulfilled the mandatory control rate.Target: 100% implementation of the minimum regulatory control rate.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In 2020, due Covid-19 restrictions, the minimum control rate was reduced to 0.5%.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: The ratio of permanent grassland within a Member State in relation to the total agricultural area

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Before 2015	Milestones									
Reference ratio:										Reference ratio should not decrease more than 5%
	Actual Progress									Final
	Ratio has not decreased beyond the limit of 5%	1 MS communicated decline above threshold of 5%, triggering a reconversion obligation	2 MS communicated decline above threshold of 5%, triggering reconversion obligation	No MS with ratio falling below the limit of 5%	1 MS communicated decline above threshold of 5%, triggering reconversion obligation	No MS with ratio falling below the limit of 5%	1MScommunicateddeclineabovethresholdof5%,triggeringreconversionobligation			
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	MS annual notification (ISAMM – Information System for Agricultural Market Management and Monitoring)
Narrative	The maintenance of the ratio of permanent grassland means that there should not be, at national or regional level, a decrease by more than 5% of the current ratio of permanent grassland in relation to the total agricultural area by comparison with a reference ratio reflecting this ratio at a reference period. Data before 2019 for EU28, data for EU-27 as of 2020.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In 2020, the data is available for 27 MS. As of 2020, the comparison ratio (rate of change compared to the reference) registered negative values in eight MS (in which one exceeding the -5% threshold, including 9 regions of the three MS with regional calculation. However, in most cases the changes of MS’/regional annual ratios under greening and of the ‘comparison ratio’ resulted from a reallocation of permanent grassland (PG) areas within the terms of the ratio rather than their actual decrease. Instead, the figures reflected combined effects of an increase of/conversion to organic PG and, to a lesser extent, of decreasing PG under SFS (these areas are exempted from greening rules thus not counted within the reference/annual/comparison ratios). It was also affected by changes to agricultural areas. While some MS deemed such situations sufficient to adapt the reference ratio, others did not do it, resulting in lower or negative figures of ‘comparison ratio’.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Share of area under greening practices

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2015	Milestones									
0.75	Actual Progress									Final
		0.75	0.77	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79			
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	MS annual notifications (ISAMM - Information System for Agricultural Market Management and Monitoring).
Narrative	The coverage depends on the areas under the direct payment system and on changes e.g. to the farm structure and farming system. The figures reflect the relatively stable share of areas under the greening.
Methodology	The share is calculated as total agricultural area for farms with at least one greening obligation on total agricultural area from Eurostat statistics revised by DG AGRI.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Provisional information based on communications from Member States, where the assessment of notifications remains to be completed in some cases. Data before 2019 for EU28, data as of 2020 for EU-27. Qualitative target: Maintain the share
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 7: To promote local agricultural production and to ensure a fair level of prices for commodities for direct consumption and for processing by local industries in the Outermost Regions of the EU and in the Aegean Islands

Indicator 4: Execution rate of the POSEI budget

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									
										1
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.9896	0.9927	0.9957	0.9932	1.0001	0.9955	0.9919	0.9935		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	DG AGRI – Budget execution figures
Narrative	
Methodology	Execution of the POSEI budget under EAGF, comprising a part under market measures and a part under direct payments. The direct payment share of the expenditure includes the amount of financial discipline.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 8: To provide the Commission with reasonable assurance that Member States have put in place management and control systems in conformity with EU rules designed to ensure the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions financed by the EAGF, EAFRD, SAPARD and IPARD and, where this is not the case, to exclude the expenditure concerned from EU financing so as to protect the EU's financial interests

Indicator 1: Percentage of expenditure (EAGF+EAFRD) with statistics or 100 % check

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									
										95%
0.9	Actual Progress									Final
		0.94	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.98			
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022

Data source	CATS/COMBO database based on the Annual Declarations from the Paying Agency
Narrative	Percentage of expenditure (EAGF+EAFRD) with statistics or 100 % check (Art. 9(1) of Regulation (EU) No 809/2014)
Methodology	Data for Financial Year
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is a continuation from the period 2014-2020. This indicator will remain fully applicable and representative until FY 2022. In line with the CAP Post 2020 proposal, taking into account the transitional regulation, as of FY 2023 a gradually increasing amount of expenditure will not be covered by the obligation for the Member States to provide the control statistics. The use of this indicator for the future Programme Statements should therefore be carefully considered.
Other methodological comments	2021 not yet available, as 2021 Annual Declarations will only be received after 15.02
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The legislative framework provides for the obligation of the Member States to send control statistics for a major share of the CAP budget. Since FY2016, the target has been achieved. For a certain part of the schemes under market measures (ABB02), there is no requirement in the legislation for the Member States to provide control statistics. Given the decreasing trend of expenditure under ABB02 and the stable situation for ABB03 and ABB04, it is expected that the evolution of the indicator will remain stable.

Specific Objective 9: To inform and increase awareness of the CAP by maintaining an effective and regular dialogue with stakeholders, civil society, and specific target audiences

Indicator 1: Public awareness of CAP

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of Europeans who believe that agriculture and rural areas play important role for their future										
2015	Milestones									
94%	Actual Progress									Final
		95%		92%			95%			
Are we on track :										
Percentage that have heard about support that the EU gives farmers through its CAP										
2015	Milestones									
69%	Actual Progress									Final
		69%		67%			73%			
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Special Eurobarometer: European, agriculture and the CAP, Standard Eurobarometer
Narrative	The indicator shows the perception of the public about agriculture and public support to agriculture. There is a clear improvement for both indicators from the previous survey.
Methodology	Face to face interviews conducted following the methodology foreseen in DG COMM framework contract.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The practice is to conduct such Special EB surveys on Europeans, agriculture and the CAP every two years. The next one will take place in 2022. Qualitative target: Maintain and if possible increase awareness of the CAP
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/commfrontoffice/publicopinion/index.cfm/Survey/getSurveyDetail/instruments/SPECIAL/surveyKy/2229
Justification of the trend	

Previous Program 2 : European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Specific Objective 1: Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture forestry and rural areas (Priority 1)

Indicator 1: % of expenditure for the three measures Knowledge transfer & information action, advisory services and cooperation in relation to the total expenditure for the RDP (Focus area 1A: Fostering innovation and the knowledge base in rural areas)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									2,74%
	0%	0,01%	0,07%	0,19%	0,42%	0,70%	1,01%			Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	104 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Number of cooperation operations planned under the cooperation measure (groups, networks/clusters, pilot projects) (Focus area 1B: strengthening the links between agriculture and forestry and research and innovation)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									14 069
	93	93	721	1 819	2 777	4 536	6 136			Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of operations
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	104 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Total number of participants trained (Focus area 1C: fostering lifelong learning and vocational training in agriculture and forestry sectors)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									3 859 585
	3 104	3 104	246 068	1 035 425	1 446 827	1 445 998	1 799 802			Final
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	90 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. For the Specific Objective 1 the indicators as set in the rural development common monitoring and evaluation system are identified and presented with targets for 2025. The common performance framework does not

	apply to Specific Objective 1, because no EAFRD budget is allocated to that cross cutting Priority. Therefore no information on the milestones is collected from the Member States. Nevertheless, as in case of the remaining specific objectives, the Commission will be able to collect and present the real outputs for these indicators in the future.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: Enhancing farm viability and competitiveness of all types of agriculture in all regions and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable management of forests (Priority 2)

Indicator 1: % of agricultural holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring (Focus area 2A: facilitating the restructuring of farms facing major structural problems, notably farms with a low degree of market participation, market-oriented farms in particular sectors and farms in need of agricultural diversification)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0.001	0.0012	0.003	0.0067	0.0114	0.0152	0.0178			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	104 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: % of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan for young farmers (Focus area 2B: facilitating generational renewal in the agricultural sector)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0.0006	0.0006	0.0011	0.0047	0.0096	0.0119	0.0141			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	91 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (23% of the initial target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: number of agriculture holdings with RDP support for investment in restructuring or modernisation and number of agricultural holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investment for young farmers. This non mandatory indicator concerns 104 RDPs
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Promoting food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture (Priority 3)

Indicator 1: % of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets and short supply circuits, and producer groups (Focus area 3A: better integrating primary producers into the food chain through quality schemes, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	0,61%									1,28%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0,01%	0,01%	0,19%	0,41%	0,59%	0,80%	0,87%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	97 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (34% of the initial target for 2023) was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: number of agricultural holdings supported under quality schemes, local markets/short supply circuits, and producer groups. This non mandatory indicator concerns 73 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: % of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes (Focus area 3B: supporting farm risk management)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2025
0	4,41%									4,32%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0,04%	0,04%	0,63%	1,33%	1,78%	2,05%	2,26%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	54 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (90% of the initial target for 2023) was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: number of agricultural holdings participating in risk management schemes. This non mandatory indicator concerns 34 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry (Priority 4)

Indicator 1: Focus area 4A: Restoring and preserving biodiversity, including Natura 2000 area and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts contributing to biodiversity										
2013	Milestones									2025
0	0.1191									0.1919

	Actual Progress								Final
	0.057	0.0599	0.1123	0.1362	0.1499	0.1664	0.17		
Are we on track :									
Percentage of forest area under management contracts contributing to biodiversity									
2013	Milestones								2025
0									0.018
	Actual Progress								Final
	0.0001	0.0009	0.002	0.0026	0.0035	0.0045	0.008		
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Agricultural land: Out of the 107 programmes which include this Priority, 104 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone was 70% of the initial target for 2023. Forest areas: Out of the 107 programmes which include this Priority, 73 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Focus area 4B: improving water management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts improving water management										
2013	Milestones								2025	
0									0.1682	
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0.045	0.0473	0.0912	0.1136	0.121	0.1354	0.137			
Are we on track :										
Percentage of forest area under management contracts improving water management										
2013	Milestones								2025	
0									0.0075	
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0.0004	0.0021	0.0025	0.0029	0.0053	0.0118	0.0137			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Agricultural land: Out of the 107 programmes which include this Priority, 103 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone was 70% of the initial target for 2023. Forest Area: Out of the 107 programmes which include this Priority, 34 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Focus area 4C: improving soil management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts preventing soil erosion and improving soil management										
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0.045	0.0488	0.0969	0.116	0.119	0.1294	0.135			
Are we on track :	On track									
Percentage of forest area under management contracts preventing soil erosion and improving soil management										
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0.001	0.0012	0.0013	0.0032	0.006	0.0098	0.0124			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentages
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Agricultural land: Out of the 107 programmes which include this Priority, 99 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in RD programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for RD. The indicative milestone was 70% of the initial target for 2023. Forest area: Out of the 107 programmes which include this Priority, 48 are relevant for this sub-indicator. The indicative milestone, which represents an average for the three Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Agricultural land (AL) under management contracts contributing to biodiversity (ha) + AL under management contracts improving water management (ha)+ AL under management contracts improving soil management and/preventing soil erosion (ha). This non-mandatory indicator concerns 94 RDPs. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RDPF
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 5: Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors (Priority 5)

Indicator 1: % of irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation systems (Focus area 5A: increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0.0014	0.0014	0.0199	0.0305	0.0569	0.0759	0.0933			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentages
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	56 programmes include this Focus Area are concerned by this quantified target. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Total investment in energy savings and efficiency (Focus area 5B: increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	835 372 276									3 575 254 200
	Actual Progress									Final
	61 089 500	61 089 500	112 435 500	277 034 700	480 005 100	754 744 600	1 053 624 300			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	EUR
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	45 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (30% of the initial target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (EUR) (5B) + Number of investment operations in renewable energy production (EUR) (5C). This non mandatory indicator concerns 62 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Total investment in renewable energy production (Focus area 5C: Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for purposes of the bio-economy)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	730 338 147									2 472 094 600
	Actual Progress									Final
	2 173 100	2 173 100	56 198 100	252 359 700	392 326 600	582 858 000	796 758 000			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	EUR
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	71 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (30% of the initial target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Number of investment operations in energy savings and efficiency (EUR) (5B) + Number of investment operations in renewable energy production (EUR) (5C). This non mandatory indicator concerns 66 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Focus area 5D: Reducing nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agriculture

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of LU concerned by investments in life-stock management in view of reducing the GHG and ammonia emissions										
2013	Milestones									2025
0										5,83%
	Actual Progress									Final

	0,10%	0,33%	0,38%	1,06%	1,85%	3,72%	5,07%			
Are we on track :	On track									
Percentage of agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and ammonia emissions										
2013	Milestones									2025
0	1,44%									2,55%
	Actual Progress									
	0,39%	0,39%	1,31%	1,73%	2,0%	2,25%	2,44%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	Livestock: Out of the 48 programmes which include this Focus Area, 25 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. Agricultural land: Out of the 48 programmes which include this Focus Area, 33 are relevant for this sub-indicator. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The indicative milestone (49% of the initial target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (5A). This non mandatory indicator concerns 79 RDP. Although this Performance Framework Indicator also takes into account part of the Focus Area 5A operations, this milestone is not representative for indicator 1 which has a particular implementation process compared to other operations taken into account in this indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: % of agricultural and forest area under management to foster carbon sequestration (Focus area 5E: Fostering carbon sequestration in agriculture and forestry)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	0,53%									1,18%
	Actual Progress									
	0,26%	0,26%	0,78%	1,23%	1,38%	1,38%	1,38%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	82 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. The indicative milestone (48% of the initial target for 2023), which represents an average for both Target Indicators, was based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Agricultural and forest land under management to foster carbon sequestration/conservation (ha) (5E) + Agricultural land under management contracts targeting reduction of GHG and/or ammonia emissions (ha) (5D) + Irrigated land switching to more efficient irrigation system (ha) (5A). This non mandatory indicator concerns 79 RDP. Although this Performance Framework Indicator also takes into account part of the Focus Area 5A operations, this milestone is not representative for indicator 1 which has a particular implementation process compared to other operations taken into account in this indicator.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 6: Promoting social inclusion poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas (Priority 6)

Indicator 1: Number of jobs created through supported projects (outside LEADER) (Focus area 6A: Facilitating diversification, creation of new small enterprises and job creation)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0										77704
	Actual Progress									Final
	17	17	971	3565	10731	17482	18110			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of jobs
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	72 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. No milestones are available because there is no equivalent common Performance Framework Indicators in the RD Performance Framework. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Focus area 6B: Fostering local development in rural areas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Percentage of rural population covered by local development strategies										
2013	Milestones									2025
0										0.5243
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.212	0.2187	0.5533	0.6189	0.6266	0.6266	0.6266			
Are we on track :	On track									
Percentage of rural population benefiting from new or improved services / infrastructures										
2013	Milestones									2025
0										0.0394
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.007	0.0098	0.1165	0.1376	0.143	0.16	0.212			
Are we on track :	On track									
Number of jobs created through supported projects (LEADER)										
2013	Milestones									2025
0										55 752
	Actual Progress									Final
	8	8	425	4 107	12 967	24 226	33 650			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	% (sub-indicators 1 and 2); number of jobs (sub-indicator 3)
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	Local development strategies: Out of the 106 relevant adopted programmes, 104 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone was 98% of the initial target for 2023. New or improved services/infrastructure: Out of the 106 relevant adopted programmes, 70 are relevant for this sub-indicator. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.

	The indicative milestone was 24% of the initial target for 2023.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	LEADER jobs: Out of the 106 relevant adopted programmes, 104 are relevant for this sub-indicator. The indicative milestone is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Population covered by Local Action groups (LEADER). This non-mandatory indicator concerns 107 RDPs. The indicative milestone, which represents an average for both Target Indicators, is based on the application of Performance Framework proxy indicator: Number of operations supported to improve basic services and infrastructures in rural areas. This non-mandatory indicator concerns 71 RDPs. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: % of rural population benefiting from new or improved IT infrastructures (Focus area 6C: Enhancing accessibility to use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2025
0	1,39%									5,90%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0%	0%	0,50%	0,70%	1,07%	1,29%	1,80%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	%
Cut-Off Date	14/01/2022
Data source	Rural development programmes and annual implementation reports
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	49 programmes include this Focus Area and are concerned by this quantified target. Certain targets have been updated from last PS because of modifications in Rural Development programmes, which were made in accordance with the legislation for rural development. The indicative milestone was 24% of the initial target for 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)	7 115.99	7 152.77	7 198.33	18 486.19	18 486.19	18 486.19	18 486.19	95 411.82	33%
European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)	10 095.98	10 403.39	5 681.93	5 681.93	5 681.93	5 681.93	5 681.93	48 909.04	47%
Total	17 211.95	17 556.16	12 880.26	24 168.12	24 168.12	24 168.12	24 168.12	144 320.86	37%

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

During the CAP transitional period 2021 and 2022, the following tracking method applied:

EAGF

The climate action contribution is calculated accordingly: the payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (budget article 08 02 05) is split into three equal tiers, in analogy to the three compulsory farming practices applicable. The tiers receive the following Rio marker:

- the Rio markers take into account the climate contribution of the three compulsory green direct payment obligations: 1st tier 0% (crop diversification), 2nd tier 40% (ecological focus area), 3rd tier 100% (permanent grassland);
- plus a Rio marker of 40% applied to 20% of the remaining direct payments taking into account cross-compliance (i.e. 8% of budget article 08 02 05 direct payments without payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment and without payments for the Small farmers scheme which are not subject to cross-compliance).

EAFRD

Calculation⁴² based on the value of commitments respectively for Budget 2021 and DB 2022 indicative annual allocation to focus areas based on all 118 adopted rural development programmes.

The methodology for the calculation of the Contribution to climate mainstreaming is the following: 100% of the annual commitments in the Priority Area 4 and Priority Area 5, plus 40% of the annual commitments in the focus area 3B and 6B. The Commission's estimates of the overall climate contribution of both CAP funds are based on an EU wide agreed methodology. The method used by the Commission is sound, it has been prepared in a transparent and coordinated manner; it is based on Rio markers and it was communicated to the European Parliament and the Council. The tracking methodology for EAFRD is a reasonably reliable estimate for climate related expenditure and minimizes administrative burden.

For the financial year 2023 for the EAGF, the same methodology as for 2021 and 2022 is used. For the EAFRD, the methodology set in the CAP strategic plan regulation is used (see below).

From 2024, the estimate for both funds corresponds to the methodology set in Regulation 2021/2115, article 100(2):

- 40 % for the expenditure under the basic income support and the complementary income support (EAGF);
- 100 % for expenditure under the eco-schemes (EAGF);
- 100 % for expenditure for the interventions addressing environmental and climate-related specific objectives under EAFRD;
- 40 % for expenditure for natural or other area-specific constraints (EAFRD).

The estimate from 2023 is based on the figures submitted by Member States in their draft CAP plans at the date of 23/03/2022. The Commission has not formally approved the CAP plans. The amount per year is the average of the total amounts indicated for the total period.

The estimate will be updated after the approval of the Member States CAP strategic plans.

6.1.3. Key achievements

EU GHG emissions from agriculture have fallen by more than 20% since 1990, yet they have stagnated since 2010, while agricultural production has continued to grow. Although this highlights gains in climate footprint per unit of output, there is a need to reduce total emissions further to achieve the EU's ambitious climate targets for 2030. Based on the EU climate tracking methodology, the CAP contribution to climate action is estimated at 26% for the period 2014-2020 (EUR 103 198 million), well above the 25% commitments: EUR 45 504 million for EAGF (15%) and EUR 57 694 million for EAFRD (58%). Because of its nature, the CAP has better addressed reduction of emissions from managed agricultural soils, increased carbon sequestration or protection of carbon stocks, than for livestock. The Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs) and the Greening measures play a major role in protecting permanent grasslands and the EU soil carbon stock. GAECs include obligations to keep a minimum soil cover, maintenance of soil organic matter through appropriate practices, including banning the burning of arable stubbles and appropriate land management. These measures also significantly contribute to improve adaptation of soils to changing climatic conditions. Greening practices cover crop diversification, maintenance of permanent grasslands and establishing Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) on 5% of arable land. A number of measures have significant effects on adaptation and mitigation. For the period 2021-2027 (from 2023 onwards), actions under the CAP are expected to contribute 40% of the overall financial envelope of the CAP, at EU level, to climate objectives. Using information provided by Member States the Commission will evaluate the contribution of the CAP to the climate objectives using a simple and common methodology based on the OECD Rio Markers. This so-calculated climate-relevant expenditure serves as input to monitor progress on the goal for climate mainstreaming across all EU programmes, with a target of 25% of EU expenditure contributing to climate objectives.

The actual share of the CAP budget contributing to climate objectives will be estimated ex-post by the Commission by applying a weighting factor to the actual expenditure for each type of intervention. Weighting factors (based on the international OECD Rio

⁴² In accordance with Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 215/2014 of 7 March 2014 laying down rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund with regard to methodologies for climate change support, the determination of milestones and targets in the performance framework and the nomenclature of categories of intervention for the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Marker methodology) will be 0%, 40% or 100%, expressing respectively a nil, moderate or significant contribution to climate objectives. Article 100 of Regulation 2021/2115 lays down the coefficients to be used: 40% for Basic and Complementary Payments and 100% for Eco-scheme Payments. The European Parliament and the Council have fully endorsed the climate mainstreaming methodology for the CAP and any further changes to climate tracking in the Common Agricultural Policy have been postponed by the co-legislators to at least until after 31 December 2025.

6.1.4. Performance

The CAP evaluation⁴³ includes a modelling estimation of a reduction in emissions by 4.6% compared to a baseline without CAP (in a scenario with medium emission reduction coefficients and based on the 2016 uptake of Pillar II measures, raising to 8.8% in the highest scenario). Pillar I (EAGF) contributes most to this reduction (19.8 million tonnes CO₂eq corresponding to 3.5%), via greening and more specifically the protection of the environmentally sensitive permanent grasslands and the ecological focus areas. All actions also improve adaptation of these areas to climate change. As regards Pillar II (EAFRD), the measures for which impact was quantifiable (i.e. investments in physical assets - measure 4, investments in forest area development - measure 8, agri-environment-climate - measure 10.1, organic farming - measure 11 and Natura 2000 payments - 12.1) have helped to reduce GHG emissions by ~6.4 million tonnes CO₂eq/year. This corresponds to 1.1% of total emissions from agriculture based on 2016 measures uptake. The support to areas facing natural constraints prevents land abandonment and loss of grassland and thus protects carbon stocks in soil, which have a positive effects on the adaptation to climate change in these areas. The CAP post 2020 will have an increased ambition, based on an enhanced conditionality that will cover all Basic Payments and the new ecoschemes, which are fully contributing to the climate objectives of the CAP.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

EAGF

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	5 354.00	5 373.00	5 397.30	5 414.40	5 431.70	5 448.70	5 466.10	37 885.20
Share compared to total envelope	13.26 %	13.31 %	13.26 %	13.00 %	13.00 %	13.00 %	13.00 %	13.12 %

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

EAFRD

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	4 588.90	3 806.30	3 623.60	3 623.60	3 623.60	3 623.60	3 623.60	26 513.20
Share compared to total envelope	29.91 %	29.91 %	28.01 %	29.93 %	29.93 %	29.93 %	29.93 %	29.64 %

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

During the CAP transitional period 2021 and 2022, the following tracking method applied:

EAGF

The contribution to biodiversity is calculated as follows:

- for the payment for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment (budget item 08 02 05 05) a Rio marker of 40% is applied;
- plus a Rio marker of 40% is applied to 10% of the remaining direct payments taking into account cross-compliance (i.e. 4% of budget article 08 02 05) without payments for agricultural practices beneficial for the climate and the environment and without payments for the Small farmers scheme which are not subject to cross-compliance.

EAFRD

Calculation based on the value of commitment respectively for Budget 2021 and Draft Budget 2022 indicative annual allocation to focus areas based on 118 rural development programmes.

The methodology for the calculation of the contribution to biodiversity is the following: 100% of the annual commitments in the Priority Area 4 with exception of the amounts for the areas facing natural constraints plus 40% of the annual commitments in the focus area 5E.

⁴³ SWD in preparation.

The estimates from 2023 correspond to the extrapolation of average contribution of years 2021 and 2022 for the following years until 2027. An effective, transparent and comprehensive methodology on biodiversity mainstreaming will be set out by the Commission, in cooperation with the European Parliament and the Council.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

Protecting biodiversity and strengthening the resilience of ecosystems are indispensable for achieving our sustainable growth objectives. As foreseen in the Commission Communication ‘A budget for Europe 2020’, financing the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and its objective was to halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity in the EU requires the mainstreaming of biodiversity throughout the EU budget, both within the EU via the main funding instruments and through external action funding.

Based on the EU tracking methodology, the CAP contribution to biodiversity is estimated at EUR 66 billion for the period 2014-2020.

In 2020, the draft budget shows that the CAP has been central to achieving high levels of biodiversity spending of EUR 10 307 million of which EUR 5 891 million (EAGF) and EUR 4 416 million (EAFRD). The CAP contribution is estimated to be 75.8% of the total EU financing to biodiversity

Considering the two-year transitional period⁴⁴ agreed for the CAP, the current biodiversity tracking methodology should be maintained up to the end of 2022. From the year 2023 a new methodology more suitable to the new CAP should be agreed and applied.

The Commission’s proposals for the 2021-2027 EU Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) have retained the approach of mainstreaming biodiversity objectives in all major EU funding instruments. Following the Inter-institutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission the EU is working towards the ambition of “providing 7,5 % in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and in 2027 of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals”

This target should be operationalised under individual EU funds and programmes with an updated methodology to track biodiversity. For the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) the Commission agreed that: “The revision will aim at more closely aligning the Commission’s methodology with new legislative changes, taking into account and backed by scientific evidence. This tracking methodology should be closely aligned with that of the OECD” in consistency with the recommendation in the special report of the European Court of auditors on farmland biodiversity.

6.2.4. Performance

The CAP for 2014-2020 plays an important role and provides a range of instruments that can contribute to supporting biodiversity. The cross-compliance system contributes to reaching ambitious biodiversity goals by linking some CAP payments to the respect of a set of environmental rules, and setting a baseline for other incentive measures supported by CAP funds. The wide area coverage and the compulsory nature of cross-compliance and greening measures amplify their positive effects. In addition, agri-environment-climate actions and organic farming as well as Natura 2000 payments are the main rural development measures contributing to biodiversity objectives and targets. They have significant effects in encouraging farmers to reaching ambitious biodiversity goals through the support for biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices such as maintaining existing semi-natural habitats and landscape features, or creating new habitats, which are very beneficial for biodiversity. More than 17% of EU agricultural land is under rural development management contracts supporting biodiversity and/or landscape through promoting management practices going beyond mandatory requirements and providing environmental public goods.

The potential of other relevant rural development measures should not be underestimated. In this context, the role of non-productive investments in establishing and/or restoring landscape features such as hedgerows, stonewalls, wetlands etc. can also play an important role as well as measures for knowledge-building, innovation and co-operation. Training and provision of farm advice also play a significant role in promoting biodiversity relevant farming practices and approaches.

For the CAP post 2020 the key changes that the biodiversity tracking should take into account are the move of certain elements of the greening measures of the current CAP to the enhanced conditionality, the new eco-schemes, and the more coherent overall structure of the interventions in the CAP Strategic Plans.

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

EAGF

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
98.00	78.00	0.00					176.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

EAFRD

2021-2022 Estimates	2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
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⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2020/2220 adopted on 23 December 2020

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
98.00	78.00	0.00					176.00

6.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The contribution to clean air is calculated as follows for years 2021-2022:

40% of the expenditure of Focus Area 5B (energy efficiency) plus 40% of expenditure of Focus Area 5D (reducing greenhouse gases and ammonia emissions from agriculture).

The methodology is not yet available for the following years.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

Table for CAP, combining EARDF and EAGF

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 55 023.20							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Rural development policy contributes to gender equality as the gender perspective is considered during the preparation and implementation of the RDPs. Under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Policy, the CAP supports social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Under this priority, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) supports inter alia, the development of basic services in rural areas as well as for local initiatives; it finances the start-up of non-agricultural and agricultural activities and promotes the cooperation between local actors. This can help to address the special challenges that women sometimes face in rural areas and in the agricultural sector, such as the lack of quality basic services in some rural areas (such as childcare services, broadband, transports). Moreover, all rural development measures have the potential to contribute to gender equality to a various extent, e.g. by providing support to improve skills, facilitate business development, etc. Besides that, Contribution to gender equality is specifically sought in the rural development policy through:

- the possibility to submit thematic sub-programmes for women in rural areas (although no Member State did so),
- the possibility to target rural development support to women through the application of selection criteria and,
- the obligation to respect an ex ante conditionality on gender equality.

It is currently not possible to establish accurate data on the portion of the CAP funding which goes to women as the data is not disaggregated by sex especially in the case of EAGF, direct payments and a number of the beneficiaries have a legal rather than natural identity.

The Commission enhanced gender dimension in the preparation of the Commission’s proposal for the CAP Strategic Plans. It is important also to note that the proposals for the future CAP require Member States to establish a partnership that shall include relevant bodies including those responsible for gender equality and non-discrimination. Member States shall involve those partners in the preparation of the CAP Strategic Plans. Furthermore, under the new Delivery model for the CAP, Member States will have greater flexibility to design their CAP interventions in line with their needs, but at the same time including gender issues, in respecting the EU Charter of the Fundamental rights. The Commission continuously invites Member States to consider gender in their SWOT analysis and address it in their needs assessment for the strategic plans. In the recommendations addressed to Member States as well as in the accompanying communication in the context of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Commission asks Member States to give careful consideration of the specific needs of women in agriculture and rural areas in order to deliver on gender equality.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The CAP aims to ensure a **fair standard of living for farmers** – and more broadly, to **reduce poverty** in rural areas.

Relevant CAP tools include direct payments to farmers, market support instruments, and rural development support for job creation and training (agricultural and non-agricultural).

At global scale, with 80% of the very poor depending on agriculture for their livelihoods, the EU is facilitating responsible private investments in developing countries, notably in the agri-food sector to create growth and jobs and address root causes of irregular migration.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The CAP aims to help provide a stable (as well as safe and sustainably produced) supply of food at reasonable prices for consumers. Doing so for EU consumers contributes in itself to global food security. The EU makes a further contribution by supplying large amounts of food (worth around EUR 120 billion a year) according to global demand and without any export refunds, in contrast to previous decades.

Relevant CAP tools include direct payments and market instruments (to safeguard production potential against serious disruption), the EU School Scheme (which encourage healthy diets among schoolchildren), and various tools which foster the environmental aspect of sustainability (see SDG 15).

Illustrative example

The EU school scheme supports the distribution of fruit, vegetables and milk to schools across the European Union as part of a wider programme of education about European agriculture and the benefits of healthy eating. The consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables and of milk in the EU does not meet the international or national nutritional recommendations while that of processed food that is often high in added sugar, salt, fat or additives is on the rise. Unhealthy diets, together with low physical activity, result in overweight and obesity. This is why the EU takes action to help children follow a healthy diet and lead healthy lifestyles.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The CAP aims to improve knowledge transfer in the farm and forestry sectors and in rural areas overall, as a means of improving sustainability and productivity of agriculture and the economic, environmental and social conditions in rural areas.

Relevant tools include support through rural development programmes for training, coaching, workshops, demonstration projects, use of tailored advice etc. – for persons engaged in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors, as well as for land managers and SMEs operating in rural areas.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The CAP aims to foster sustainable management of natural resources. This explicitly includes the objectives of improving water management (including in terms of water quality) and making the farm sector more water-efficient.

Pertinent tools include the water-relevant components of cross-compliance and "greening" (see SDG 15 for further information), various payments through rural development programmes to make farming less intensive (especially agri-environment-climate measures), and support for investments in more efficient irrigation systems.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

The CAP aims to increase efficiency of energy use in farming and food processing, as well as to facilitate the supply and use of renewable sources of energy.

Relevant tools include rural development support for investments in generating renewable energy (including on the farm) and in infrastructure for its distribution – with regard to biomass and other renewable sources (for solar, geothermal and wind power).

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The CAP aims to improve the viability of all types of agriculture in all regions, as well as to foster wider social inclusion and reduce poverty in rural areas.

Relevant tools include direct payments and market instruments (for the development of the farm sector, to which many other sectors are connected), the recent initiative to tackle unfair trading practices, as well as risk management tools and rural development support for business start-ups (for new young farmers and non-agricultural businesses) and investments in further business development.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The CAP aims to foster innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, as well as to help provide what is needed for general economic development in rural areas (including access to IT services).

Relevant tools include rural development support for the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors (especially through the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability) as well as for broadband infrastructure, general small-scale infrastructure and training.

Illustrative example

The CAP offers explicit support for setting up, expanding and improving broadband infrastructure, as well as for the provision of broadband internet access (i.e. improved connections to infrastructure), and access to e government.

According to targets aggregated from the 2014-2020 rural development programmes (**covering the current extended programming period 2014-2022**), the CAP will help **nearly 13 million** people living in rural areas to benefit from improved access to ICT services and infrastructure.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

One of the CAP's main objectives is to provide a stable, sustainably produced supply of safe food at affordable prices for consumers. This includes for examples an EU framework on organic farming, and the integration of environmental concerns, such as biodiversity, water management and use and climate change, into the CAP. The CAP is committed to sustainable use of natural

resources and the environmentally-sound management of waste, also for food losses. The objectives of the CAP are in line with, and work towards the achievement of the SDG commitments made at the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. With regard to the key tools which help to ensure environmentally sustainable production, see SDG 15.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The CAP aims to assist **climate change mitigation** and **adaptation**.

Relevant tools include those elements of cross-compliance and "greening" (see SDG 15) pertinent to climate change - as well as rural development support for a range of practices and investments that cut greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions from farming (e.g. through more climate-friendly equipment), fix carbon in the soil (e.g. through forest-planting) and make farming more climate-resilient (e.g. with less water-intensive cropping patterns).

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The CAP aims to ensure the **sustainable use of natural resources** – including in terms of biodiversity, soil, water and landscapes.

A wide range of tools are relevant. Within the system of direct payments to farmers, "cross-compliance" links payments to various basic environmental, public, animal and plant health and animal welfare standards. Beyond that, the "greening" layer of the system rewards farmers for implementing crop diversity, preserving permanent grassland and maintaining biodiversity-friendly zones or landscape features. Within rural development policy, various area-based payments help farmers to pursue organic farming, improve animal welfare, implement certain Natura 2000 requirements, farm sustainably in areas facing natural disadvantages (especially mountainous areas), and (through agri-environment-climate measures) make extra efforts to benefit soil, water, air and wildlife. Support for eco-friendly investments can cover resource-efficient technologies, establishment of landscape features, and various forest-related activities (planting, protection against fire and other natural threats etc.) Support for training, the use of advice, and innovation is also relevant.

Illustrative example

Recent production and market trends show the importance that organics has gained over the last decade. Organic farming responds to a specific consumer demand for sustainable food products, promoting more sustainable farming practices and contributing to the protection of the environment and improved animal welfare.

For the 2014-2020 period, the rural development support planned for organic farming amounts to EUR 11.2 billion.

The share of the EU's utilised agricultural area with organic farming has increased from 5.6% in 2012 to 8.5% in 2019 corresponding to an increase from 10.05 to 13.80 million hectare.

HEADING 3B: Other programmes of Natural Resources and Environment

European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund

Lead DG: MARE

Associated DGs: ECFIN, HOME

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

As a global ocean actor and a major producer of seafood, the EU has a responsibility to protect and sustainably use the oceans and their resources. This is also in its socio-economic interest regarding the availability of food supplies, the competitiveness of the maritime economy and the livelihood of coastal communities.

In this respect, the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) for the 2021-2027 period supports the common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU’s international commitments for international ocean governance. Such

support is an enabler for sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine biological resources, for food security through the supply of seafood products, for the growth of a sustainable blue economy and for healthy, safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans. It also contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the United Nations ('conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources'), to which the EU is committed.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The EMFAF supports the CFP, the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance along the following four priorities:

1. fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources;
2. fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union;
3. enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities;
4. strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed.

These are further explained in section 1.5. The EMFAF also contributes to the implementation to the European Green Deal, and in particular to the Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, including their external dimension, but also for the preparation of the EU Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. For this purpose, the Commission prepared a new approach for a sustainable blue economy, to replace the Blue Growth strategy from 2012. This Communication¹ (adopted in May 2021) has a particular focus on the contribution of the blue economy to economic recovery).

1.3. Specific objectives

The following Specific Objectives for the EMFAF are established under shared management, as defined in Annex II of the Regulation.

- Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities
- Increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions through the replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels
- Promoting the adjustment of fishing capacity to fishing opportunities in cases of permanent cessation of fishing activities and contributing to a fair standard of living in cases of temporary cessation of fishing activities
- Fostering efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, as well as reliable data for knowledge based decision-making
- Promoting a level-playing field for fishery and aquaculture products from the outermost regions
- Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems
- Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production, while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term
- Promoting marketing, quality and added value of fishery and aquaculture products, as well as processing of those products
- Strengthening sustainable sea and ocean management through the promotion of marine knowledge, maritime surveillance or coast guard cooperation
- Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture communities

Under direct management, the areas to be supported are:

- Implementation of the CFP;
- Promotion of clean and healthy seas and oceans;
- Market intelligence;
- Maritime policy and development of a sustainable blue economy;
- European marine observation and data network;
- Maritime security and surveillance;
- International ocean governance.

1.4. Public intervention context

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/ocean/blue-economy/sustainable-blue-economy_en

The EU has exclusive competence for the conservation of marine biological resources², both in EU waters and in relation to the international obligations deriving from UNCLOS³ and from other UN agreements to which the EU is a Party. The exclusive competence equally applies to the bilateral fisheries agreements signed with third countries. All these areas are regulated by the CFP. The EMFAF helps Member States, and thereby stakeholders, to comply with the rules of the CFP necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the policy, such as the sustainable management of fisheries. The EMFAF is directed at maintaining sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors, as well as the local communities dependent on fisheries. This is supported through innovation and diversification of activities to reduce environmental impacts and enhance protection and biodiversity while sustaining this important economic sector. The EMFAF supports the implementation of programmes designed by MS to support the specific needs of the sector in the MS.

1.5. Actions

Article 3 of the EMFAF Regulation defines four distinct priorities for the programme.

Under priority 1, the EMFAF should ensure that fishing activities are environmentally sustainable in the long-term and managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies. In particular, it aims to achieve and maintain sustainable fishing based on the Maximum Sustainable Yield and to minimise the negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem. That support includes innovation and investments in low-impact, climate resilient and low-carbon fishing practices and techniques.

Under priority 2, the EMFAF may support the promotion of a sustainable aquaculture, and the promotion of marketing, quality and value added of fishery and aquaculture products, as well as the processing of these products.

Under priority 3, it may support actions that contribute to enabling sustainable blue economies in coastal, island and inland areas, and to fostering the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture communities.

Under priority 4, the EMFAF may support actions to strengthen international ocean governance and enable safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans through the promotion of marine knowledge, maritime surveillance and coastguard cooperation.

Brexit has so far had a limited impact on programme planning and implementation. The Commission will continue to monitor its effects and will respond as appropriate.

1.6. Delivery mode

As during the 2014-2020 programming period, the EMFAF will mainly be managed under shared management (87% of the budget allocation), where the Common Provision Regulation (CPR)⁴ lays down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund, the EMFAF, plus the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument. Thus, the EMFAF shares common rules with the other ESI funds covered by the CPR, providing for common objectives, principles and rules related to planning, programming, monitoring and reporting. The EMFAF further specifies details within this framework, including the common result indicators, types of interventions and climate coefficients which must be used when planning and reporting.

The remaining part of the financial envelope (13%) is implemented through direct or indirect management modes. The direct management part of the fund will be managed either directly by the Commission or delegated to an Executive Agency. The fund will finance CFP related projects, market intelligence, scientific advice, sustainable blue economy and International Ocean Governance, as well as contributions to international organisations or to the functioning of the Advisory Councils. The budget under direct management shares the same set of common result indicators and principles as shared management to allow full and consistent reporting on the achievements of the EMFAF as a whole.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

² 3 (1) (d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

³ United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>

PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT	SCOPE UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT
<p>(1) Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources</p>	<p>Strengthening economically, socially and environmentally sustainable fishing activities</p>	<p>Provision of scientific advice and knowledge for the purpose of promoting sound and efficient fisheries management decisions under the CFP</p>
	<p>Increasing energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions through the replacement or modernisation of engines of fishing vessels</p>	<p>Regional cooperation on conservation measures</p>
	<p>Promoting the adjustment of fishing capacity to fishing opportunities in cases of permanent cessation of fishing capacity and contributing to a fair standard of living in cases of temporary cessation of fishing activities</p>	<p>Development and implementation of a Union fisheries control system</p>
	<p>Fostering efficient fisheries control and enforcement, including fighting against IUU, as well as reliable data for knowledge-based decision-making</p>	<p>Functioning of Advisory Councils</p>
	<p>Promoting a level-playing field for fishery and aquaculture products from the outermost regions</p>	<p>Voluntary contributions to the activities of international organisations dealing with fisheries</p>
	<p>Contributing to the protection and restoration of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystems</p>	<p>Promotion of clean and healthy seas and oceans</p>

PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT	SCOPE UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT
<p>(2) Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities, and processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products, contributing to food security in the Union</p>	<p>Promoting sustainable aquaculture activities, especially strengthening the competitiveness of aquaculture production while ensuring that the activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term</p> <p>Promoting marketing, quality and value added of fisheries and aquaculture products, as well as processing of these products</p>	<p>Development and dissemination of market intelligence for fishery and aquaculture products by the Commission</p>

PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT	SCOPE UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT
<p>(3) Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities</p>	<p>Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas and fostering the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture communities</p> <p><i>Community-led local development</i></p>	<p>Promotion of a sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient blue economy</p> <p>Promotion of an integrated governance and management of the maritime policy, including through maritime spatial planning, sea basin strategies and maritime regional cooperation</p> <p>Enhancement of the transfer and uptake of research, innovation and technology in the sustainable blue economy</p> <p>Improvement of maritime skills, ocean literacy and sharing of socio-economic and environmental data on the sustainable blue economy</p> <p>Development of project pipelines and innovative financing instruments</p>

PRIORITY	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT	SCOPE UNDER DIRECT MANAGEMENT
<p>(4) Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed seas and oceans</p>	<p>Strengthening sustainable sea and ocean management through the promotion of marine knowledge, maritime surveillance and coastguard cooperation</p>	Implementation of the European marine observation and data network (EMODnet)
		Promotion of maritime security and surveillance, including through data sharing, coastguard and agencies cooperation and fight against criminal and illegal activities at sea
		Voluntary contributions to international organisations active in the field of ocean governance
		International cooperation in the context of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international agreements
		Implementation of ocean partnerships between the Union and relevant ocean actors
		Implementation of international agreements that aim to promote better ocean governance
		Implementation of international agreements to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
International cooperation on ocean research and data		

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 (OJ L 247, 13.7.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	6 108.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

REGULATION (EU) 2021/1139 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004 (hereafter “the EMFAF regulation”) entered into force on 14 July 2021.

In addition to the legal basis mentioned above, the shared management strand of the EMFAF is regulated by the (CPR), which lays down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund, and the EMFAF. It also lays down financial rules for all the aforementioned Funds, plus the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument.

The rules on management, programming, monitoring and auditing to be applied by the shared management strand of EMFAF are provided for in the CPR, whereas the rules for direct and indirect management are provided for either in the EMFAF Regulation itself or in the Financial Regulation 2018/1046 of 18 July 2018.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	109.1	1 133.9	1 100.7	1 067.7	980.0	834.4	846.7	6 072.6
NextGenerationEU								

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The EMFAF programme combines implementation under three modes of management: shared, direct and indirect implementation mode. Shared management as implemented by the Member States, forms the biggest part of the programme and accounts for 87% of the total programme coverage.

The financial programming covering activities under direct and indirect management (a combined total of 13% of the programme) follows a very horizontal trend year after year, offering stability in the implementation.

When it comes to shared management, the multi-annual programming is presented in Annex V of the EMFAF Regulation, and presents an increase in the appropriations in 2022 and 2023, offering to the Member States sufficient financial resources to launch the EMFAF actions at the beginning of the programming period. However, by the end of 2021, no EMFAF programmes were adopted yet which resulted in re-programming of all 2021 appropriations to the period 2022-2025 in equal tranches. The same trend and delays in Member States' readiness in presenting mature drafts of their partnership agreements and operational programmes for the period 2021-2027 is observed for all European structural funds. The delays are to a large extent to be explained by the overlap of the two programming periods – EMFF 2014-2020 and EMFAF 2021-2027 where in 2021-2022-2023 the EMFF programme is still in full swing of implementation, leaving limited resources and time to the Member States to concentrate on the preparation of the new 2021-2027 period. The persisting Covid crisis also inevitably led to some delays in the preparation process. In addition, the Hellenic operational programme requested a transfer of €11.2 million from EMFAF to the BMVI fund, which also has an impact on the programming.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The EMFAF maintains a similar overall range of support as the 2014-2020 EMFF. The structure has been simplified and streamlined, with increased commonalities with the common rules applied to other shared management funds set out in the CPR. The EMFAF has a more flexible structure with the elimination of detailed and specific measures, giving Member States more flexibility provided that support falls under the scope of the Priorities and Specific Objectives, is not explicitly ineligible and is in accordance with applicable Union law. The monitoring and reporting structure has also been simplified to align with the core performance structure of the MFF, to cover both shared and direct management, to use fewer, more targeted common result indicators, and deliver more frequent reporting.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Link to impact assessment accompanying the legislative proposal:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD%3A2018%3A295%3AFIN>

Link to sea basin analyses:

<http://www.cc.cec/sg/vista/home?specificDossierDetails&SDRef=DTS/2020/6454&ComCat=SPINE>

EMFAF webpages

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/funding/emfaf_en#ecl-inpage-743

EMFF Implementation Report 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/system/files/2021-09/emff-implementation-report-2020_en.pdf

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	106.5	6 072.6	2%
Payments	11.1		0%

Under **shared management**, no budget implementation was recorded under the EMFAF programme. For details refer to Section 1.8.4 Financial Programming Explanation.

The EMFAF and CPR regulations were both adopted in mid-2021. Although Member States had been submitting (initial and partial) drafts of their 2021-2027 programmes beforehand, and the Commission was already providing advice and guidance on these, efforts understandably stepped up in the second half of the year with extensive work conducted providing advice and informal observations to Member States. The EMFAF programming process was also slowed by the delayed work on Partnership Agreements, the emphasis given to the preparation of Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) plans, and the focus of the most impacted Member States on the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) support post-Brexit. Programme negotiation and adoption is a lengthy and complex process; experience from previous programming periods shows that it may last up to 2 years, depending on Member States' particular circumstances.

Successful implementation of fisheries, aquaculture and maritime policies, as well as coastal communities development, still continues, as Member States also remain focused on disbursement of EMFF funds.

When it comes to EMFAF **direct/indirect management**, 98% of the budgetary appropriations were implemented, thus achieving all objectives of the underlying work programmes. This resulted in various actions launched in the fields of maritime policy, scientific advice, international ocean governance, voluntary contributions to regional fisheries organisations and contributions to the actions managed by the UN agencies. For details and examples of the spending, refer to Section 3.1.2. The multi-annual financial programming for the period until 2027 foreseen a horizontal trend of financing, without any big fluctuations.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	6 368.7	6 381.6	100%
Payments	4 105.4		64%

By the end of December 2020 all commitments under shared and direct management actions were completed. All appropriations available under the EMFF fund were successfully committed. As of January 2021 no further commitments are possible for EMFF.

The implementation of the programme was however in full speed in 2021, both in terms of the fund executed under direct management actions, and the part implemented by the EU Member States.

When it comes to **shared management**, the above table covers the gross level of payments made by the Commission to the managing authorities in the Member States, not taking into account the amounts actually disbursed by the Member States or recovered by the Commission. For further detail on the implementation, please check the Open Data Platform: [Open Data Portal for the European Structural Investment Funds - European Commission | Data | European Structural and Investment Funds \(europa.eu\)](https://open-data-portal-for-the-european-structural-investment-funds-european-commission-data-european-structural-and-investment-funds.europa.eu).

For 2020 (the most recent year for which complete, validated data are available on the shared management implementation), the pace of implementation at the level of the Member States increased: EUR 797 million (14% of the total EMFF allocation) was committed into specific actions in 2020 (EUR 661 million in 2019). Cumulatively, EUR 4.1 billion of EMFF funding was committed by the MSs, corresponding to 71.6% of the total EMFF funding available. Payments claimed by beneficiaries continued to advance and reached EUR 2.4 billion (or 42% of the total EMFF funding). These sums concern approximately 68,000 operations.

At the end of 2021, as regards shared management, cumulative EMFF net payments to Member States totalled just under EUR 3 billion. This represents 53% of the total amounts allocated to the programmes, and shows progress from the position at the end of 2020 (43%).

Comparison of implementation with the 2007-13 European Fisheries Fund (EFF) programming period

The cumulative payment position is approximately eighteen percentage points lower than that for the corresponding point in the EFF payment cycle. Although COVID has undoubtedly hindered to some extent the implementation, other factors that are likely to have had an influence include:

- The pre-financing paid under EFF was higher than under EMFF;
- Late adoption of the EMFF regulation in 2014, 5 months into the programming period (the EFF regulation was adopted in 2006, i.e. before the programming period had started);
- The process of designation of authorities for the EMFF, which was placed under the control of Member States (under the EFF, Member States could not implement until the Commission had completed its systems compliance assessments). However, the process of designation often took longer still, leading to a late start in programme implementation;
- Tighter de-commitment rules under the EFF: n+2, rather than n+3. This was a natural “accelerator” for implementation of the EFF.

Decommitment

Key reasons

The cumulative EMFF amount that was de-committed in 2018, 2019 and 2020 totals EUR 97.6 million. At the end of 2021, the maximum de-commitment amounts could go up to an additional EUR 42.4 million. However, the final amount will only be known once the concerned MSs will have sent a justifications to reduce this amount following Art 87 of the CPR Regulation. The justifications will then be evaluated by the Commission.

Measures taken to keep decommitments at a reasonable level

MS are reminded each autumn during the Expert Group meeting of the n+3 decommitment risk, and geographical Units take all reasonable steps to encourage MS to submit claims in due time.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

2021 was another challenging year for Member States and the Commission. A complete picture of the effects of the outbreak on financial absorption and programme performance will not be available until later this year, when Member States submit their Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs).

Throughout 2021, the Commission continued to support the implementation of the fisheries and maritime policies through the EMFF, encouraging Member States to improve the absorption of the EU funds, including for dedicated climate and biodiversity related actions, and to help build resilience in the wake of the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Continuous efforts are dedicated to encouraging and supporting Member States in reinforcing implementation of the EMFF, and in preparing and strengthening their EMFAF programmes prior to their adoption during 2022. The Commission is in very regular contact with Member States, not just via periodic Expert Group and annual review meetings, but also in handling Member States' ongoing EMFF programme amendments; it also provides advice and assistance to Member States as they develop their EMFAF programmes, providing prompt, clear feedback on the drafts.

The EMFAF Regulation was adopted in July 2021. Intensive work with the Member States, and the establishment of internal procedures for the assessment of EMFAF programmes took place throughout 2021. The necessary supporting secondary legislation was developed and discussed in the EMFF and EMFAF expert groups and committee. Most of the secondary legislation was adopted at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022, the adoption process is expected to be completed early 2022.

Considering the approaching end of the financial period for the EMFF and its final stage of implementation as well as the fact that the EMFF due to its small size is only one of many tools that contribute to the wider policy objectives, the EMFF performance indicators have been updated as presented in Section 5 of this programme statement to provide a meaningful picture of the EMFF performance at this moment in time.

The revision of the EMFF performance indicators is based on the consideration that the performance framework for the 2014-2020 EMFF period entailed some weaknesses. In particular, the Implementing Regulation defining the indicators for the EMFF prominently included context indicators. These are independent of the impact of the EMFF and are related to the performance of the overall fisheries policy. One of the objectives of the EMFF is to contribute to the Common Fisheries Policy, however the EMFF with its small size is only one instrument among various other factors that has a direct impact on the Common Fisheries Policy. Therefore, the assessment of the performance of the EMFF programme could not be carried out based solely on the impact indicators which were proposed as EMFF key performance indicators, but had to also rely on additional information (such as the Member States' Annual Implementation Reports). This issue has been addressed in the legal base for the EMFAF programme by defining performance indicators which directly measure the performance of the EMFAF and are much less dependent on other factors than the indicators associated with the EMFF. They are defined in Annex I of the EMFAF Regulation and disclosed in section 4 of this programme statement.

The EMFF contributes to the achievement of the four overarching objectives of Art 5 EMFF Regulation in a targeted and incremental way, however EMFF impact alone is not sufficient to realistically affect the performance at the level of the CFP. In the EMFF Annual Implementation Reports, the Commission presents the limited and essential contribution of the fund towards the CFP objectives and the overarching policy objectives, in particular by linking the annual number of operations and financial allocations supported by the Fund to these objectives.

In addition to the EMFF related performance information disclosed in this section, the EMFF Implementation Reports (compiled by FAME) are published on the Fisheries and Maritime Affairs website of the Commission. They provide further information about the programme performance, based in particular on operation-level data reported by the Member States. Together these data provide a complete picture of EMFF performance⁵.

Performance indicators for the EMFAF in the programme statement are those listed in Annex I of the EMFAF Regulation. As the MSs are still in the programme negotiation process and no EMFAF programmes have been adopted yet by the Commission, targets for the EMFAF indicators cannot be provided at this point. The baseline and target related data will be completed once the programmes have been adopted. The overall targets will be established on the basis of the data as provided by the Member States in their national programmes. For those performance indicators, for which no data is provided by the Member States in their national programmes, the targets will be established based on specific methodology to be developed, and the historic data available from the previous programming period.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Shared Management

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 has started. By the end of 2021, no single EMFAF Member State programme had been adopted. The Member States need to have their Programmes adopted by 31 December 2022. At the time of writing (March 2022), 9 Member States have formally submitted their EMFAF programmes, and the Commission is urging the other national authorities for submission by mid-2022 (to enable the programme decisions to be adopted in due time, thereby minimise the risk of loss of Funds). EMFF payments continue to be executed, however, which ensure the continuity of the policy achievements.

Direct and Indirect Management

As actions implemented under direct and indirect management provide for smooth continuity from the EMFF to and throughout the EMFAF fund it appears to be reasonable to merge the description of performance into a single section. This section therefore covers both EMFF and EMFAF activities without distinction. The description of programme achievements is organised by listing the priorities covered by the EMFAF legal basis.

Priority 1 of EMFAF Regulation 2021/1139 - Fostering sustainable fisheries and the restoration and conservation of aquatic biological resources

Consistent with the objectives of the CFP, voluntary contributions to **Regional fisheries management organisations** (RFMOs) contribute to the development of scientific knowledge and science-based management decisions, promote compliance and the fight against IUU fishing and further improve the impact of the operations of organisations like the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization amongst others. In the specific case of the GFCM, the voluntary contributions have supported the implementation of selected activities approved by the GFCM at its annual sessions and in the framework of the mid-term strategy (2017-2020) towards the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries, as well as in the context of the strategy for the sustainable development of Mediterranean and Black Sea aquaculture. They also contributed in identifying and developing new priorities beyond 2020 towards ensuring the sustainability of Mediterranean and Black Sea fisheries and aquaculture.

In 2021, the provision of regular **scientific advice** has been ensured through the renewal of the different administrative arrangements in place with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) and JRC. The continuation of this support has been reinforced thanks to the publication of the call to select the new STECF (2022-2025) in the last quarter of the year. In addition, a total of six studies were launched in 2021 to cover knowledge gaps in relevant CFP fields such as climate footprint of postharvest activities related to fishing and aquaculture, the Marine Protected Areas or the management of fish stocks according to the EU sustainable management of external fishing fleets Regulation.

Priority 2 of EMFAF Regulation 2021/1139 – Fostering sustainable aquaculture activities and processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products, thus contributing to food security in the Union

In 2021 in the area of **market intelligence**, the Commission financed several actions like a Market Observatory (EUMOFA), a Eurobarometer (EU Consumer Habits Regarding Fishery and Aquaculture Products) and other studies (e.g. Assessment of the impacts of the policy options for the revision of the marketing standards for fisheries and aquaculture products). These actions could provide the Commission with analyses and advice focusing on economic and social aspects of the maritime economy.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/oceans-and-fisheries/system/files/2021-09/emff-implementation-report-2020_en.pdf

Priority 3 of EMFAF Regulation 2021/1139 – Enabling a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture communities

In 2021 the fund helped deliver maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the EU, on the one hand through the EU MSP Platform (<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>), an assistance mechanism supporting Member States in the development of maritime spatial plans, on the other hand through MSP projects in various European sea basins, allowing an integrated cross-border approach to planning different uses at sea. Internationally, the MSPglobal project, produced jointly by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and DG MARE, concluded after three years, delivered the “MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning”, which will help governments, partners and practitioners worldwide in their MSP processes, moving away from isolated sectoral management to an integrated planning framework for their maritime jurisdiction.

Following the adoption of new Strategic Guidelines for competitive and sustainable EU Aquaculture by the Commission in May 2021, an aquaculture assistance mechanism will be set up to help support the implementation of the guidelines.

The Commission continued to support the hosting of the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles, launched in 2018 by the UN Environment Finance Initiative UNEP FI. The project gathered further commitment from financial institutions and players. By December 2021, the number of signatories were increased from the 17 founding members to 70.

In 2021 the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) finalized the Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Center (BSVKC) BSVKC website, a new modern interface, where regional stakeholders find information related to the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA) for the Black Sea and Blue Economy sector, improving synergies between maritime stakeholders and blue economy projects.

The Aspban project (About us – ASPBAN) was launched in May 2021. This project is one of the flagship initiatives in the Atlantic sea-basin that aims at the creation of an Atlantic port accelerator network. This project has already won an Atlantic Award in October 2021 at the Atlantic Stakeholder Forum event in Dublin.

The programme has supported during the same period the creation of a new initiative on ocean literacy, EU4Ocean, has renewed support via grants to 8 projects dealing with competences acquisition and training programmes in formal, non-formal and informal settings through another Call on Blue Careers, and has also provided grants through the dedicated Blue Labs Call to scientific consortia providing innovative Blue Economy products.

Within the contract with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) regarding the transitional phase of Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE), the Cooperation Agreement was adopted amongst CISE member states, and the second, improved version of the CISE node (through which member countries connect to CISE) was launched.

Priority 4 of EMFAF Regulation 2021/1139 – Strengthening international ocean governance and enabling seas and oceans to be safe, secure, clean and sustainably managed

The EMFAF budget line dedicated to **International Ocean Governance** continued to promote the objectives of the International Ocean Governance Agenda, notably providing support to international organisations, regional and sectoral bodies and entities that are active in the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans. The actions carried out were also targeting important scientific gaps identified through the work and policies on the deep seas. For the first time, contributions to Trust Funds of the United Nations were possible, enhancing the EU’s role in multilateralism.

Support to the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) has resulted in steady progress in terms of users and products since 2018: it has increased its users and visitors by a factor of at least 5 (with more than 200.000 unique visitors), across its 9 portals; has increased the number of services it provides, becoming an operational service and an EC asset, offering thousands of datasets, representing variables across the 7 thematic disciplines (Bathymetry, Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Sea Bed Habitats, Physics, Human Activities) and hundreds of Data Products, harmonised across the European Seas; has fully open access and follows international standards; has provided a number of reports regarding Ocean Observation in Europe, including targeted assessments and surveys, technical guidance and community recommendations.

In the framework of the support grant managed by CINEA, the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) held a plenary in Paris in July 2021 and a workshop (November 2021) on “Modern technologies in the Fisheries control system”. DG MARE prepared a Practical Handbook for Coast Guard Cooperation which was adopted as the Commission Recommendation in July 2021. The ECGFF comprises coast guards of EU MS and Schengen countries to promote understanding and development of maritime issues of common interest across borders and sectors, both civil and military, as well as to contribute to progress in the various Coast Guard Functions activities.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Programme performance in specific areas was as follows:

Direct and Indirect Management:

See up in the section 3.1.2.

Shared Management:

Operations financed via shared management continue to help improve the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture, as well as to maintain and protect the natural environment, encourage innovation and adoption of new technology and increase cooperation and partnerships between businesses, thus contributing to the achievement of these objectives.

The specific EMFF objectives and the Union Priorities to which they relate are listed in the table below.

Article 5(a): Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture	UP1, 2, 5
Article 5(b): Fostering the implementation of the CFP	UP3
Article 5(c): Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas	UP4
Article 5(d): Fostering the development and implementation of the Union’s Integrated Maritime Policy in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP	UP6

Some illustrative examples of projects under these four headings appear below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
EMFF objective (a) Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture	BG	Lavrak. Adding value to fisheries products by introducing on board processing activities.	Increase the added value of catches, thanks to the purchase and installation of equipment to sort, shock-cool and store fish directly on board. The refrigeration rooms and fish holds were modernised and fitted with energy-efficient insulation. The purchase of a new specially designed refrigerated transport vehicle has further increased product quality and prolonged the shelf life of the catch.	2019	The combination of higher production volume and increased added value supports downstream employment in fish processing, distribution and tourism services. Climate change mitigation and adaptation is linked to Lavrak Ltd’s ability to diversify its catches thanks to the new equipment. Improved storage and processing conditions have reduced the quantities of discards. Reducing fishing effort.
	IT	Maricap, Marine aquaculture	Solar panels for the warehouse to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate dependence on the power grid. The purchase of a refrigerated truck, which is needed to deliver a high-quality product to markets on the mainland, nearly 70 km away. The refrigeration system reduces problems due to ferries being delayed by bad weather. The modernisation of the aquaculture plant with two additional cages installed at sea. In addition, an innovative and patented feed distribution system was installed. By allowing a purpose-built boat to distribute pre-prepared feed to eight tanks at the same time, the system significantly reduces feed waste, environmental impact (fuel use) and working time.	2017-2018	25% increase in turnover between 2018 and 2019. In 2019 production was 230 tons. By 2024 Maricap expects to produce 700 tons per year. Energy consumption In 2019, electricity production from the new solar panels was 16.1 MWh. In 2020, production was 11.7 MWh up to mid-August. More than 35% of the power produced by the PV system is used on site, and the rest is exported. Recycling/waste Action was taken to eliminate the use of polystyrene fish storage boxes. Instead Maricap uses boxes made from recycled plastic or biodegradable boxes. This has solved all the issues related to recycling of the previously used polystyrene boxes. Waste has been reduced by 50,000 units/year, or a total weight of about 6000 kg of polystyrene. The company has three partners, eight employees, and three contract workers on call. Two of the contract workers – one with a fixed-term and one with an open-ended contract – owe their jobs directly to the EMFF support.

	DK	Producing fish and seaweed	A local company is piloting the integration a vertical seaweed cultivation system into the recirculated aquaculture system (RAS) industry to reduce the environmental impact of land-based fish production.	2019-2022	<p>As resource scarcity increases, nutrient flows from land to sea are contributing to marine eutrophication, and consequently to a loss of biodiversity. To address both issues, the Djursland FLAG in Denmark has supported a local company, Pure Algae, to introduce the vertical cultivation of Ulva - an opportunistic green macroalgae - to a land-based recirculated aquaculture system (RAS) that produces fin fish. The aim is to change the linear nutrient flows from land to sea into circular nutrient flows to conserve bioavailable nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, in the production facilities.</p> <p>This land-based fish production unit allows CO2 emissions and nutrients, produced from aquaculture activities, to be captured and used to grow the macroalgae through Integrated Multitrophic RAS (IMRAS). In this way, the waste water from aquaculture is prevented from escaping into the environment and damaging marine ecosystems; instead it is used to grow seaweed, thereby creating a valuable new revenue stream. This in turn, generates a double crop production.</p> <p>Seaweed cultivation is still a new field within aquacultural and moving seaweed cultivation from sea to land is a step further in this innovative sector. The selection of this particular seaweed species was based on its explosive growth under favourable conditions, and its potential to generate large quantities of biomass with numerous uses, including human food, pharmaceuticals and animal feed products.</p>
EMFF objective (b) Fostering the implementation of the CFP	DK	Real-time camera observation in the Danish trawl fishery— technology based intelligent fishery (TEKNOFISK)	Technology-based and intelligent fisheries enabled through real-time camera observations in the Danish trawl fishery. Start digitalising the fishery and the catch, thus creating a smarter and more sustainable way of trawling. By optimising what goes into the trawl, as close to real time as possible, unwanted catches are minimised and fuel consumption reduced.	2018-2020	With this technology, long trawling sessions with little result should be a thing of the past. Less by-catches, more sustainable fisheries and economically more viable for the fishers.
	NL	Pilot study-fully documented fisheries	This project aims to develop a digital tool to implement a ‘Fully Documented Fishery’ (FDF). This means automated recognition of the species and size of each fish, allowing a distinction between catches for human consumption (above minimum size) and unwanted catches (below minimum size). The tool will determine the weight of the total catch thanks to the use of remote electronic monitoring (REM) systems.	2019-2022	The introduction of the landing obligation across the EU obliges fishing vessels to land all fish under quota or with a minimum landing size. In the past, crew selected and stored fish above the minimum legal size, whereas the unwanted bycatches were discarded at sea. The landing obligation is a major additional task for the fishers on board in mixed species fisheries. The FDF project aims to digitally register all catches by species and quantity and to make a distinction between catches over and under the legal minimum conservation size. The project thus provides the needed data and transparency without the crew having to manually sort, store and land the undersized fish, leading to a fully documented fishery.

	FI	Mobile App for reporting catch data	The East Finland FLAG has supported the creation of a mobile app for Finnish inland fishers to register their catches. Developed by a University of Applied Sciences and introduced in May 2020, the tool will enhance catch-data collection and traceability along the fisheries value chain.	2017-2019	Initially, registering catches was done in paper format or through complex electronic systems that were time consuming for fishers to fill in. Then, at the initiative of the East Finland FLAG, the South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences developed and tested a system allowing fishers to report these figures using a simple app on their smartphones. In addition to simplifying the work of fishers and the control authorities, the project aims to improve the ecological sustainability of inland fisheries by facilitating access to reliable and transparent catch-data in real-time. Fishers using the app upload their catch data at the end of each day, rather than just once a year as required by law. The information is fed directly into the database of the Finnish Natural Resources Institute, allowing catches and fish stocks to be monitored on a regular basis. The app has improved catch data collection, monitoring and management of fish stocks in inland waters. The project has also created synergies between the fishing sector and research, as well as improving communication between the parties involved.
EMFF objective (c) Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas	IT	A coastal management plan by local fishers and fish farmers	Small-scale coastal fishers and fish farmers have been actively involved in the design of a coastal management plan for the Emilia-Romagna coastline. This stock management plan focused on three local high value species identified by the sector at regional level.	2018-2020	One of the main problems identified by the local community in the region was the lack of coordination in stock management of the nine different ports on the Emilia Romagna coastline. This was highlighted during the consultation process that the FLAG carried out with all the local stakeholders at the beginning of its activity. The FLAG decided to set up a working group, combining efforts from the fisheries and aquaculture sector and local experts, to develop a common management plan for three local species. The local fisheries and aquaculture sector decided to focus on them due to their nationwide presence, their important economic value and the need to protect them to guarantee healthy stocks. This bottom-up approach to participation and identifying relevant experts is new to the region and was managed by the FLAG. Representatives from the national Ministry of Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF) were present at the launch of the working group so they could learn more about the methodology. The MIPAAF is responsible for CLLD under the EMFF so there was interest in the methods potential implementation in other Italian regions. Such bottom-up approaches are also being used by the FLAG in tackling two of its other identified challenges: eutrophication and shellfish farming.
EMFF objective (d) Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's IMP in a manner complementary to cohesion policy and to the CFP	SI	MORIGENOS - Dolphin monitoring	Defining long-term conservation measures and preserving biodiversity through monitoring of dolphins in the Slovene coastal waters. The project enabled Morigenos to perform extensive fieldwork, collect further data all year round and assess population trends and dynamics.	2018-2019	Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment. The results of the project will help in the preparation of nature conservation guidelines for the Slovene coastal sea and various other Slovene reports.
	CY	Baseline Survey and Monitoring of Non-Indigenous Species in Cavo Greco and Nissia Marine Protected Areas in Cyprus	The project has provided vital information about two MPAs and about the presence as well as distribution of both indigenous and non-indigenous species. The survey design ensured a representative spatial coverage of the two research areas and sufficiently covered all the habitat types: soft substrate (sandy expanses), hard substrate (reefs) and seagrass meadows (i.e. Posidonia oceanica).	2017-2018	Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment. The results from this project will contribute to the implementation of national policies by the Republic of Cyprus, and the continuation of monitoring to protect and conserve the marine environment and its resources.

Financial contributions in notable key areas were as follows:

Support to the fishing fleet - UPI

Of a total EUR 4.1 billion committed by the Managing Authorities of the Member States, EUR 671.9 million (16.5%) was dedicated to 35 756 operations linked to vessels. EMFF spending on vessel-specific operations amounted to 21.1% of the total EMFF spending. During 2020, EMFF commitment and spending on these operations more than doubled, mostly in the form of compensation for temporary cessation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the end of 2020 the EMFF supported 13 123 fishing vessels.

Natura 2000 - UPI

In total, EUR 414 million of the EMFF funding was committed, and EUR 229 million spent, under measures directly or potentially supporting the Natura 2000 network.

Biodiversity - UPI

A wide range of EMFF measures potentially contribute to protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. MSs committed EUR 1 637 million in EMFF funding over a total of 36 636 operations.

Small-scale coastal fisheries (SSCF) – Ups 1, 3, 4, 5

Of 35 756 operations linked to vessels, 13 580 (38.0%) were for SSCF vessels. This segment received 25% of the EMFF spending dedicated to vessels (EUR 124 million of EUR 500 million).

Landing obligation – UPs 1, 5

MS selected 4 111 operations related to the landing obligation (LO), based on the FAME “broad approach⁶”, with total EMFF funding of EUR 147.7 million. The FAME “narrow approach” identified 2 975 operations with total EMFF funding of EUR 102.5 million. Of these, 2 213 operations with EUR 50.6 million of EMFF funding committed were implemented in relation to added value, product quality and use of unwanted catches (Article 42).

Innovation – UPs 1, 2

Operations related to innovation were selected by all 27 MAs: overall 1 092 operations with a total EMFF budget of EUR 226.7 million. As of the end of 2020, nearly half of all the commitments to innovations related to aquaculture (Article 47).

Outermost regions

To support the offsetting of additional costs for the fishing, farming, processing and marketing of certain fishery and aquaculture products, and to retain the economic viability of operators from the outermost regions, ES, FR and PT selected 4 043 operations with a total budget of EUR 164.3 million.

Mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic impact

Overall, EUR 108.7 million of the EMFF funding in 5 913 operations was committed to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This corresponds to 2.7% of total EMFF funding committed at the end of 2020. 74.0% (EUR 80.5 million) of the funding was allocated via the temporary cessation of fishing activities (Article 33).

3.2. Key achievements

Concrete examples of achievements

13 123⁽¹⁾

At least 153 000⁽²⁾

68 413⁽³⁾

⁶ FAME developed two new ways to identify EMFF contributions to the LO implementation:

- A broad approach based on the measure alone (with the exception of Article 68: Marketing measures, where a combination of measure and operation implementation data is applied). The broad approach is easier to apply but might also include operations that are marginally relevant.
- A narrow approach combining the measure with Infosys operation implementation data. This is harder to apply, but more precise. However, it should be assumed that not all operations selected by the narrow approach contribute directly to the LO.

<p>Fishing vessels benefited from the EMFF between 2014 and 2020 (about 25% of the EU fleet). 41% of the vessels belonged to the small-scale coastal fishing fleet.</p>	<p>Fishermen and 460 000 members of producer organisations (41 000 from production and marketing plans and 419 000 from marketing measures) benefitted from the EMFF between 2014 and 2020. 111 000 employees of processing companies also benefitted from the EMFF between 2014 and 2020.</p>	<p>Operations were selected to receive funding under the EMFF between 2014 and 2020, almost 49 000 of them were addressed to SMEs or private persons.</p>
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<p>EUR 227 million⁽⁴⁾</p>	<p>9 654⁽⁵⁾</p>	<p>6 067⁽⁶⁾</p>
<p>Was the contribution from the EMFF to support innovation and new technologies through 1 092 operations between 2014 and 2020.</p>	<p>Projects addressing environment and resources efficiency were selected between 2014 and 2020, with an EMFF contribution of EUR 1 513 million.</p>	<p>Operations were supported related to better management of Natura 2000 and other marine protected areas between 2014 and 2020, with an EMFF contribution of EUR 274 million.</p>

(1) Source: EMFF implementation report September 2021, p. 30.

(2) Source: Infosys reports as of 31/12/2020. Data regarding fishermen benefitting and members of producer organizations benefitting should be treated with caution as the values reported by MS are often subject to errors as double counting and over-reporting. Whereas, figures on employees in processing companies are less error prone.

(3) Source: Infosys reports as of 31/12/2020.

(4) Source: EMFF implementation report September 2021, p. 30.

(5) Source: EMFF implementation report September 2021, p. 26.

(6) Source: EMFF implementation report September 2021, p. 37. In relation to Natura 2000 only directly contributing EMFF Articles were selected (Art.40.1 b-g and i, Art. 40.1.h, Art.54, Art.80.1.b).The following formulation was suggested: "In 5 018 operations, the MS committed EUR 220 million to directly support the Natura 2000 network or to other Marine Protected Areas."

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

No studies were conducted for the shared management component of the EMFF since the 2018 impact assessment accompanying the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 ([EUR-Lex - 52018SC0295 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)).

To provide quantitative and qualitative information on the projects implemented under EMFF direct management, and to determine whether the funding had a lasting impact on those receiving funds in terms of indicators such as market share, jobs created or induced investment, an interim evaluation was published in October 2020. It assessed the efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and added value of the measures managed under direct management. The results will be used to guide the implementation of the last year of the programme and its follow-up in 2021-2027.

The evaluation concluded that, overall, the direct management part of the EMFF is relevant to meeting the objectives of the EU’s maritime and fisheries policies. It is effective and efficient in that the results could not have been achieved at a lower cost and would not have happened without EU financial support. The actions are coherent with other EU initiatives.

For the rest of the direct management component of the EMFF, the table below represents the scientific studies launched in 2021, with a total of 6 new studies that were signed under CFP scientific advice and knowledge budget line (11 06 62 01). Some of them addressed the same topic in different sea-basins (split into lots) to better reflect the regional specificities of the matter under analysis. The topics covered by those studies are detailed below:

Study	Start date / duration
Sample elaboration, data analyses, results and conclusions from the sea-going MOSAiC and SAS-ODEN expeditions in the Central Arctic Ocean (CAO)	January 22 / 16 months

Adapting postharvest activities in the value chain of fisheries and aquaculture to the effects of climate change and mitigating their climate footprint through the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions (2 lots)	October 21 / 11 months
Mapping of marine protected areas and their associated fishing activities: Baltic and North Seas, Atlantic EU Western Waters and Outermost Regions – MAPAFISH (2 lots)	December 21 / 23 months
Scientific and technical knowledge of the EU-fisheries, exploited stocks and sensitive marine habitats in the high seas and third countries waters not subject to SFPAs and/or RFMOs jurisdiction	February 22 / 24 months

Providers of scientific advice, namely ICES and the JRC, have presented yearly reports on their activity in the implementation of the arrangements in place for the provision of this advice, which have been accepted. The STECF, as committee which supports the Commission in the specific task of obtaining scientific advice for policy support, has been delivering reports after each Plenary meeting (3/year) thus responding to DG MARE requests. The STECF outputs have been accepted and used by the Commission for policy drafting / support throughout the reporting period.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Fostering sustainable fisheries and the conservation of marine biological resources

Indicator 1: Businesses created

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of entities
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Businesses with higher turnover

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of entities
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Jobs created

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										

	Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Jobs maintained

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target	
	Milestones										
	Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Persons benefitting

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target	
	Milestones										
	Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Actions contributing to Good Environmental Status; including nature restoration, conservation, protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, animal health and welfare

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target	
	Milestones										
	Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :											

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of actions
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Energy consumption leading to CO2 emissions reduction

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	kWh per tonne litres/h
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Number of SMEs supported

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Number of fishing vessels equipped with electronic position and catch reporting devices

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 10: Number of local action groups

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 11: Number of small-scale coastal fisheries vessels supported

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 12: Usage of data and information platforms

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of page views
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Infosys
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

Specific Objective 1: Promoting competitive, environmentally sustainable, economically viable and socially responsible fisheries and aquaculture

Indicator 5: Value of aquaculture production in the EU

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
3.85	Actual Progress									Final
			3.9	3.87	4.1					
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	EUR billion
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	STECF report, latest version provides 2018 dataSource: STECF - The EU Aquaculture Sector – Economic report 2020 (STECF-20-12)
Narrative	Target: At least + 27% compared to the baseline 2013.Unit of measure: EUR billion.
Methodology	This indicator measures the volume and the value of EU aquaculture production excluding UK. It provides an indication of the economic performance of the sector.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	Source: STECF - The EU Aquaculture Sector – Economic report 2020 (STECF-20-12) https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1939335e-a893-11eb-9585-01aa75ed71a1/language-en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Number of small-scale coastal fishing vessels supported

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
		77	1 718	3 382	3 939	4 547	5 349			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EMFF Article 97.1 reports (Infosys) and Common Fleet Register
Narrative	
Methodology	Operation implementation data from EMFF Article 97.1 reports combined with data on vessels from Common Fleet register. SSCF vessels defined according to Article 3 of the Regulation EU 508/2014
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The Commission has reconfigured the EMFF indicators for this and future reporting years, because there will be a milestone and a target for this indicator under the EMFAF. It is therefore introduced also for the EMFF to illustrate progress. As this is a new indicator this year, no milestones or targets have been established. However it was possible to extract the data from MS reports. Trend is steadily increasing.

Indicator 8: Number of SMEs supported.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
			3 818	8 055	15 715	23 193	31 121			

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	numbers
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EMFF Article 97.1 reports (Infosys)
Narrative	
Methodology	Operation implementation data from EMFF Article 97.1 reports. Infosys field 8 "Size of enterprise" - all operations with codes "1" (micro), "2" (small) and "3" (medium).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The Commission has reconfigured the EMFF indicators for this and future reporting years, because there will be a milestone and a target for this indicator under the EMFAF. It is therefore introduced also for the EMFF to illustrate progress. As this is a new indicator this year, no milestones or targets have been established. However it was possible to extract the data from MS reports. Trend is steadily increasing.

Specific Objective 2: Fostering the development and implementation of the Union's Integrated Maritime Policy in a complementary manner to Cohesion policy and to the Common Fisheries Policy

Indicator 1: Marine knowledge 2020 initiative: Degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in terms of unique visitors to the Central Portal

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
1212	1212			5000			17000			120000
	Actual Progress									Final
	1234	2645	4967	20210	14536	42964	64041	89753		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Unique annual visitors to the EMODnet Central (measured since 2017)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	VLIZ Matomo analytics since 2017 to 2020. Europa Analytics from 2021 (the Central Portal was repatriated under europa.eu domain)
Narrative	The indicator of Unique visitors shows the progress of EMODnet (Central Portal). Since the data and data products in EMODnet are increasing and the size of data is very variant, depending on the parameter, the introduction of a more consistent indicator is preferable.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Commission will continue reporting on this indicator for MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	This indicator has been changed since 2017. The actual progress (years 2017 to 2021) represent the unique visitors of EMODnet Central Portal. There is a steady to positive trend in the use of EMODnet which is much more than represented as this does not show the overall visitors in the thematic lots.
Full metadata available at this address	https://piwik.vliz.be/ and Europa Analytics for EMODnet.
Justification of the trend	For the purpose of the strategic plan 2016-2020 this indicator was revised and replaced by ' Degree of use of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) in terms of unique visitors of the Central Portal. The Unique visitors for EMODnet Central Portal were 64041 in 2020 and 89753 in 2021.

Indicator 2: Maritime Surveillance: Number of CISE nodes

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2021
						10	12	12		12
	Actual Progress									Final
						10	12	12		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	This indicator "Percentage of available cross-sectorial and/or cross-border data, as a percentage of the total information gap identified in the Impact Assessment on CISE (Common Information Sharing

	Environment)" is outdated and it has been changed. The new indicator starting 2019 is: Number of established nodes connecting Member States' authorities or EU Agencies to the CISE network. Unit of measurement (since 2019): a tally of the number of CISE nodes. Maritime security measured by the number of nodes connecting Member States' authorities or EU Agencies to the CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment).
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) report.
Narrative	Maritime security measured by the number of CISE (Common Information Sharing Environment) connections/nodes. Explanation: This indicator measures the capacity of Member States and other institutions (cf. European agencies) to connect to CISE and share maritime surveillance data.
Methodology	A simple tally of the number of CISE nodes
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Commission will continue to report on this indicator in the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	In April 2019, CISE entered in a transitional phase to operations, managed by EMSA under a Grant Agreement signed with MARE. The full impact of CISE will be measured only as of 2023, when CISE is expected to become operational. N.B. Up to 2019 the previous indicator was measuring % changes in data exchange (which is outdated/irrelevant). The transitional phase of CISE has been extended to 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	http://emsa.europa.eu/cise.html
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Promoting a balanced and inclusive territorial development of fisheries and aquaculture areas

Indicator 1: Employment created in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors with support from the EMFF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2023
							4 624			10 631
	Actual Progress									Final
			112	378	1 964	2 990	4 165			
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	AIR 2020 - Three common result indicators: 1.7 Employment created (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities - for UP1 (fisheries) 2.8 Employment created - for UP2 (aquaculture) 4.1 Employment created (FTE) - for UP4
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Trend can be influenced by numerous factors (e.g. COVID pandemic, speed of finalising already started projects etc.). The progress in the subsequent years will be closely monitored.

Indicator 2: Employment maintained in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors with support from the EMFF

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2023
							26 550			41 665
	Actual Progress									Final
			952	1 929	8 486	18 984	31 594			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	AIR 2020 - Three common result indicators: 1.7 Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities - for UP1 (fisheries) 2.8 Employment maintained - for UP2 (aquaculture) 4.1 Employment maintained (FTE) - for UP4
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Number of local strategies selected by Fisheries Local Actions Groups (FLAGs)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2022
0				276			276			276
	Actual Progress									Final
			277	368	368	367	348			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	FARNET database
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	368 FLAGs were approved by the end of 2017, however one in Bulgaria did not start up. No more FLAGs may be approved in the current programming period, therefore the figure of 367 will never increase. The withdrawal of the UK from the EU at the end of January 2020 effectively reduced the number of flags to 348.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 4: Fostering the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy

Indicator 4: Degree of adequate responses to data calls under the data collection framework (100% minus failures to deliver the full data set required)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010	Milestones									2021
92%				96%			100%			100%
	Actual Progress									Final
	91%	81%	79%	78%	94%	89%	60%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	
Unit of measurement	% (number of data transmission issues) - Based on the indicator RI_UP3.B1: increase in the percentage of fulfilment of data calls (%), provided by FAME (Definitions of Common Indicators, Version 4.0, Working Paper, October 2016)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	STECF EWG 21-09 on the evaluation of the annual reports and data transmission issues (referring to 2020)
Narrative	The reduction in the degree of adequate responses to data calls in 2020 may to a certain extent reflect data collection challenges due to Covid-19. However, there are also methodological issues with this indicator that limit its reliability in assessing the performance of the data collection framework, further elaborated under the “other methodological comments” section.
Methodology	The number of “data transmission issues” in the Annual STECF Report on “Evaluation of DCF AR and transmission issues / Annex 2 – Data Transmission Results”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	EMFF 14-20 and EMFAF 21-27 are both under shared management. In this sense, similar facilities/difficulties are likely to be encountered, although the experience gained in the last programming period will help to address them. In terms of data collection, and although the framework regulation has not changed, the EU multiannual programme for the collection of biological, technical and socioeconomic data (EU MAP), and the templates for work plans and annual reports have been modified for 2022 onwards. This means that the evaluation by STECF of 2021 and 2022 annual reports will be different, and may trigger differences in the indicator
Other methodological comments	As already indicated previously, generally speaking the DCF has improved substantially over the period but the indicator does not reflect this adequately. For the coming period, we would therefore revise the indicator for a measurement that will give a more accurate and complete picture. When this indicator was originally proposed, the practice of the implementation by MS was different: under direct management during 2007-2013, the data transmission failures had direct implications for the

	reduction of funds to the MS. The current indicator is not suited for comparisons among MS, since not all MS are subject to the same number and type of data calls. It is only conditionally suitable to track change over years for the same MS, since both data calls and reports on data transmission issues vary strongly between years, and one data call can result in multiple data transmission failures. However, it poses an approximation of the capacity of the MS to respond satisfactorily to data calls.
Full metadata available at this address	The data transmission issues are first reported by end users of data; secondly commented by Member States; and finally assessed by STECF the working group evaluating annual reports and data transmission issues. This process is documented in the Data Transmission Monitoring Tool (DTMT), an online tool managed by JRC with restricted access.
Justification of the trend	In 2020, STECF expert working group on the fleet economics reported 391 data transmission issues, while in 2019 the same group reported 50. One reason for this is underperformance, most likely aggravated by Covid-related data collection challenges. However, it also needs to be considered that increased scrutiny and use of data may have increased the reported numbers. Overall, it is clear in the practical implementation of the DCF that the communication of data transmission issues to MS has helped them address issues. Additionally, the methodological issues referenced above limit the value of the indicator in assessing the performance of data collection.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	48.37	162.73	162.73	162.73	162.73	162.73	162.73	1024.75	17%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The climate actions under the operational programmes of the MSs have not been launched yet as the OPS have not been adopted.

Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and the commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the actions under the EMFAF should contribute to the achievement of a 30 % target of all MFF expenditure spent on mainstreaming climate objectives and should contribute to the ambition of providing 7.5 % of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 10 % of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.

The first EMFAF Programmes will be in place by the end of 2022. The calculation of the contribution to climate change is based on historical estimates as EMFAF programmes do not include specific climate change targets. Values achieved will be updated in future.

6.1.3. Key achievements

Some examples of projects contributing to climate mainstreaming under the EMFF appear in the table below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
Climate change	FR	Holofarm	This project focuses on a new and promising sector for aquaculture: sea cucumbers, a marine invertebrate that belongs to the same group as sea urchins and starfish. Improve sustainable sourcing options for markets around the world and relieve pressure on natural stocks. Enable diversification for aquaculture producers and provide new opportunities for profitable and sustainable production in France	2018-2021	It addresses what some people see as a crisis in shellfish farming caused by climate change, diseases and invasive species. This increases the pressure on producers to manage their resources in a reasoned and resilient way. Diversifying production to include new species becomes essential to sustain primary coastal aquaculture activities. Sea cucumbers are a new species in European aquaculture, and thanks to their many commercial advantages (as food, in traditional Chinese medicine and in modern pharmaceutical research), they represent a high-value-added resource that has yet to reach its full potential in Europe.

	PT	Decarbonising economic activities in Culatra Island	The Sotavento do Algarve FLAG supported investment to enable Culatra Island, Portugal’s most important location for aquaculture production, to transition to solar energy.	2020-2021	<p>The FLAG project, promoted by the Association of Culatra Island Residents (AMIC), was part of the bigger “Culatra 2030 - Sustainable Energy Community” initiative. This initiative aimed to install Culatra harbour with solar energy related equipment to support aquaculture and tourism activities in a sustainable way. It also promoted the creation of a local micro-grid concept that allows the intelligent use of energy through the identification of peak hours and efficient management of available energy resources.</p> <p>For the FLAG project, the beneficiary a Portuguese shipbuilding company that specialises in developing and manufacturing recreational and professional boats with solar-electric propulsion to acquire a solar-powered vessel to be used for aquaculture activities, and encourage the sector to transition from combustion engine vessels to solar-electric ones.</p>
	FR	Turning shellfish by-products into energy	Shellfish farming is an important economic activity on the Atlantic French coast. But it also generates undersized mussels as by-products which are usually thrown away. This project focuses on exploiting their potential by generating methane to produce energy.	2020-2021	<p>This project is proving the technical and economic feasibility of using mussels as an energy source. The cooperative carried out a pilot to establish whether adequate volumes of the shellfish biomass could be turned into the fatty acids required to yield methane as energy.</p> <p>The pilot plant is now running and able to process 50 kg of undersized mussels per day to turn them into methane. This is currently sold to external methane production plants, meaning that the shellfish farmers do not have to deal with the administrative burdens involved in producing methane. However, in the long term, this activity is seen as a potential new activity which can be added to the production chain in order to diversify and increase incomes.</p> <p>50 kg of mussels produces 0.63 m3 of methane, equivalent to 0.75 l of gas, or 6 kWh of electricity. This practice has the advantage of turning the biomass of undersized mussels into a valuable product.</p>

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	16.79	128.94	128.94	128.94	128.94	128.94	128.94	790.43
Share compared to total envelope	15.39 %	11.37 %	11.69 %	12.05 %	13.13 %	15.42 %	15.20 %	13.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement, and the commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the actions under the EMFAF should contribute to the achievement of a 30 % target of all MFF expenditure spent on mainstreaming climate objectives and should contribute to the ambition of providing 7.5 % of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2024 and 10 % of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.

The first EMFAF Programmes will be in place by the end of 2022. The calculation of the contribution to biodiversity is based on historical estimates as EMFAF programmes do not include specific biodiversity targets. Values achieved will be updated in future.

As the Member States programmes have not been adopted yet, it is too early to make any estimate on the precise biodiversity contribution at the level of types of intervention. The assumption is that Member States will continue to finance similar operations under the EMFAF to those financed under the EMFF fund. The priorities of the Member States are likely to have shifted due to the lasting impact of Covid-19 on the sector. This will influence the types of operations planned. At this point no fully developed programmes have been submitted yet which prevents a clear picture of the degree to which the new programmes will diverge from those of the previous period.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

Some examples of projects contributing to biodiversity mainstreaming under the EMFF appear in the table below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
Biodiversity	ES	Integrated, innovative and participatory management of the Natura2000 network in the Spanish marine environment.	The first integrated nature project in Spain and one of the largest marine conservation projects in Europe. It seeks to achieve an effectively managed network for marine areas of the Natura 2000 network, with the active participation of stakeholders and researchers, to take the best decisions.	2017-2024	With this project, Spain will be able to comply with the international commitment of protecting more than 10% of its marine areas, in line with Target 11 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Convention on Biological Diversity – Strategy Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020).
	PT	OtimO	The Mondego Mar FLAG financed a project to bring some unused salt pans back into use to produce an aquaculture product which is highly coveted by restaurateurs: the sea urchin, also known as ‘Portuguese caviar’.	2018-2021	The OtimO project – optimisation of sea urchin production processes – is developing, testing and disseminating an innovative production model for sea urchins. Sea urchin production is still quite limited due to low productivity, reproduction and growth. It is imperative to develop and validate methods that maximise the profitability of production processes, as well as aquaculture systems that minimise the environmental impacts of this activity. The Marine and Environmental Science Centre of the University of Coimbra was able to install in the MAREFOZ Laboratory an integrated multitrophic aquaculture pilot system (IMTA) with water recirculation (RAS) under regulated conditions of temperature, lighting and ventilation. In these systems, the waste derived from production is used as a resource for other organisms, which reduce environmental impacts and increase economic returns. These waste by-products can be used as food or exploited by other economic agents, promoting the circular economy.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027

Score 0*: 106.5

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Fishing and fish processing are male-dominated activities in Europe⁷. Men provide the main labour on board fishing vessels, and the majority of fishing boats and aquaculture farms are owned by men⁸.

However, women play an important role in the fisheries sector, especially in small-scale family businesses. Either they are involved in the fishing activity itself, on board or on foot as shellfish gatherers, or they support the business through on-shore activities such as fishing gear preparation and maintenance, transporting fish to auctions, sales, administration, logistics or even the development of tourist activities⁹. This work is not always recognised. According to a study¹⁰ for the European Commission, the share of unpaid

⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-7-2014-0070_EN.html?redirect

⁸ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/maritime-affairs-and-fisheries>

⁹ <https://epthinktank.eu/2021/10/15/women-in-fisheries/>

¹⁰ <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/43805/2485408/STECF+19-03+-+Social+data+in+EU+fisheries+sector.pdf/401568fd-3e48-4ddf-aabf-801cea045dce>

women in fisheries (6.6 %) is almost double their share in total employment (3.8 %). However, this level of employment is an underestimate, as the existing statistical data shows employment within the fisheries sector only if this employment is declared and remunerated.

Gender inequality in the fisheries sector is influenced by a set of factors¹¹, which are as follows:

- participation of women and men in fisheries subsectors
- women’s invisible work in the fisheries sector
- women’s participation in decision-making.

EU fisheries policy promotes sustainable fish stocks and sustainable marine ecosystems as a precondition for a competitive European fishing industry. Although the gender equality dimension is not present in the EMFAF in the form of gender-specific objectives and measurable gender commitments, the Fund covers broader gender-related aspects in line with the equality provisions set out in the CPR, such as recitals 6, 36 and 60, Articles 8, 9, 21, 22 and 73 as well as the relevant horizontal enabling conditions .

Furthermore, according to Article 46 of the EMFAF on the Monitoring and evaluation framework, the managing authority shall provide the Commission with relevant operation-level implementation data, which shall include key characteristics of the beneficiary (name, type of beneficiary, size of enterprise, gender and contact details).

The Member States therefore should provide the Commission with gender-related information linked to expenditure at operation level. This can be used to estimate the financial contribution relevant to gender and to identify examples of operations Member States consider as gender relevant in the area of fisheries, in line with the relevant CPR requirements.

Some examples of projects contributing to gender equality under the EMFF appear in the table below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
Gender equality	ES	RedMarII Women on board	REDMAR II is an innovative project that promotes equal opportunities for women with an education in the maritime and fisheries sectors within a generally male-dominated sector. It is the first time in Spain that a project has looked into the employment of women on fishing vessels.	2018-2019	Get more women on board fishing vessels and improve the exchange of good practices in relation to equal opportunities.
	ES	A network for seafaring women	A cooperation project between two Catalan FLAGs has supported the creation of an association, which aims to increase the visibility of women from fishing and aquaculture and improve their ability to develop business projects that help diversify the sector.	2018-2019	The project has resulted in the creation of an association of 58 workers in the sector, from the entire Catalan coast, including areas that do not have a FLAG. Since 2019, the association has organised and/or participated in 14 regional, national and European events, including the 6th National Congress of Women in Fisheries and the relaunch of AKTEA, the European network for women in fisheries and aquaculture. This has helped energise women linked to fisheries and put in place the support network to foster the skills and confidence to undertake new activities. For example, the association informs and encourages women to participate in training that can help their activities (e.g., on entrepreneurship or digital communication), including those organised by the Spanish Network of Women in Fisheries and the Women’s Institute of Catalonia. It also contributes to youth participation, female empowerment and ultimately the fight against inequality at all levels.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

¹¹ <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/policy-areas/maritime-affairs-and-fisheries>

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The EMFF contributes to SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), by: contributing to the improvements of the economic results of the EU fisheries sector, and to the improvements of the living standards of the coastal populations which depend on that sector; allowing operators to modernise their productive tools, to diversify their sources of income or to switch to alternative economic activities.

Some illustrative examples appear below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere	DK	A label for sustainable coastal fisheries	The organisation behind the project is the Danish producer organisation Foreningen for Skånsomt Kystfiskeri (FSK; Association of Low-Impact Small-Scale Coastal Fishers). FSK and its members want to ensure that the label is a success and that it benefits small-scale coastal fishers as much as possible. Their main goal is to ensure the future of Denmark's small-scale, low-impact coastal fishery and create better access to the market for sustainably caught fish.	2019-2022	The label helps small-scale coastal fishers and thereby helps maintaining the coastal communities.
	ES	Novelfish	As a result of the landing obligation many unwanted catches (low value species) are brought to port. The main concern of this project is to investigate how to turn these low-value species into innovative products with high added value. The project shows that many unwanted catches can be marketed with added value through a process that is profitable, relatively easy and generates zero waste. The objective is to encourage the landing and commercialization of these species and thereby create a win-win situation. Fishers will be able to improve their economic situation, while processing companies will have new raw materials to process and new products to introduce. Consumers gain new ways to add flavour to their dishes, and everyone benefits from increased sustainability of our fishing industry.	2019-2020	A part from the main objective of adding value to species of low commercial value, this project can improve the economic situation of fishers and thereby reduce poverty.
	EE	StoneFish	Given the increasing difficulty of making a living from fishing alone, a fisher on the small island of Hiiumaa, decided to diversify his activities and establish an innovative new business focusing on the production of fishing gear. StoneFish has helped a family business on the Estonian island of Hiiumaa to diversify their activities outside of the fishing season into the production of fishing gear and multi-purpose nets. As well as creating a part-time job for this fisher, it has also created four full-time jobs for local women. The resulting local shop also allows for fish processing for the first time on the island.	2015-2017	Supplements income from fisheries on an island where fishing is only seasonal. Thus, the project has increased incomes, employment and added value in the sector, and thereby reduced poverty.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

By promoting the conservation of the marine living resources and the protection of the marine ecosystem, the EMFF contributes to the sustainability of the production of the EU fisheries sector of healthy quality food, and thus to SDG 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

Some illustrative examples appear below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	PT	Alga4food	The Alga4Food project – “Algae in gastronomy – development of innovative conservation and utilization techniques” – is exploring the benefits of edible macro algae – seaweed – from the Portuguese coast.	2017-2020	In a world where food resources are becoming scarce, conventional agriculture faces challenges in feeding 7 billion people and fish resources are running out. Algae are one promising route to an affordable global food supply with low environmental costs.
	FR	A social enterprise that places local fish in school canteens	A social joint venture between the Red Cross and a local fish auction helps the unemployed into work while securing a place to process undervalued local seafood.	2020	Seventy percent of seafood sold at the fish auction in Grau d’Agde, southeast France, is exported. To promote local consumption, this joint venture, “Terre et Mer”, has been launched to process fresh, local seafood into ready-to-cook products and ready-made meals. It is a social enterprise that also advocates inclusion for the unemployed by collaborating with the Red Cross to offer work to marginalised citizens under the supervision of a Production Manager and a Development Manager. The frozen food is supplied to local schools and retirement homes, while fresh production is sold to the general local public. The project includes a third component, that of associating seafood products and organic vegetable farming through a common trademark. The project does not compete with fishmongers or local distribution channels but responds to consumer demand for ready-made meals while encouraging locals to eat seafood caught nearby. Through its operations, Terre et Mer adds value to less-known species that are hard to sell, as well as helping the unemployed to gain work experience and skills in the processing workshop, set up in the fish auction.
	PT	From fishermen to you	Online sales have generated new interest since the COVID-19 pandemic, giving a renewed boost to projects such as Cabaz do Peixe. This virtual platform to sell fish to the general public from the local artisanal fishing fleet ensures the delivery of fresh and high-quality products, as well as consumer safety	2018-2021	Born from the cooperation between the local fishing boat owners’ association, AAPCS, and a local environmental NGO, Liga para a Protecção da Natureza, this platform facilitates the delivery of seafood to individual households in the area. Other local stakeholders, such as the Municipality of Sesimbra and Docapesca, a public company that manages fish landing sites and first sale system, have also been active in supporting the platform. The scheme provides local fish at a better price for the consumer while also guaranteeing a fair price to fishermen. Consumers order online and receive a delivery of 3kg of fish (flaked and gutted) for €25. Depending on the catch of the day, the basket will contain fish from a list of 26 possible species. Customers can indicate in advance up to three species that they do not want to receive.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Please, see the section on gender mainstreaming above.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The main objective of the EMFF is to support the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP), thereby contributing first and foremost to SDG 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). To date the EMFF has funded nearly 15 000 projects on preserving the marine environment and ensuring better resource efficiency. This has been supported with an EMFF contribution of EUR 532.42 million. The EMFF has also supported over 2 000 operations related to better management of Natura 2 000 areas, covering an area of at

least 74 000 km², and more than 1 500 operations associated with other marine protected areas, covering an area of at least 704 055 km².

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identified conservation and sustainable use of oceans as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14). The Union is fully committed to that goal and its implementation. In that context, it has committed to promote a sustainable blue economy which is consistent with maritime spatial planning, the conservation of biological resources and the achievement of good environmental status, to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, to eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to refrain from introducing new such subsidies. This outcome should result from the World Trade Organisation fisheries subsidies negotiation.

Some illustrative examples appear below.

Topic	MS	Project name	Description	Implementation period	Contribution to the topic
SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	SE	Sustainable fisheries management	A co-management scheme which has given the various stakeholders a platform for dialogue and has had a significant impact on the purpose of the national park. The overall aim of the co-management is to achieve sustainable coastal fishing in biologically important areas, while promoting socio-economic development and cultural heritage among the coastal communities. Fishers, officials and researchers have received training to better understand each other.	2018-2020	Adaptive and sustainable fishing patterns are maintained. Economically beneficial conditions for local fishers strengthen local traditions and identity. Successful conservation of marine resources coexists with maintenance of traditional fisheries. Learning crosses the boundaries of traditional disciplines: biological experts learn about fishery methods, and fishers learn about the need to conserve valuable habitats and species.
	ES	Mar das Illas	The ‘Mar das Illas’ cooperation project sees three FLAGs in the Pontevedra province working together to support local fishers and families in their entrepreneurial efforts focused on marine and pesca-tourism.	2017-2020	The Marine and Land National Park of the Atlantic Islands (PNMTIAG) is one of the main tourist attractions in the Pontevedra area and key to the local economy. Over time, several artisanal fisheries and shellfish gathering activities have been developed. While these fisheries are still viable, as environmental standards become more important diversification into other sectors is now a priority for maintaining the local economy. There is tremendous commitment to maintaining the area’s marine and fishing culture. Fishers and their families are often at the forefront of protecting the region’s environment, and are ambassadors for its natural, cultural, and gastronomic values. ‘Mar das Illas’ helps new start-up businesses that give fishers’ earnings a boost, while also ensuring the continuity of traditional fishing practices and diversification into pesca-tourism. Mar das Illas also tried to increase the visibility and local awareness of the natural environment and its conservation.

HEADING 3B: Other programmes of Natural Resources and Environment**Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPA) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMO)****Lead DG: MARE**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

While 79% of all EU catches are taken in EU waters, 13% come from the international high seas, and 8% are caught in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) within 200 nautical miles of the partner countries' waters. For the latter, it is essential that appropriate regulation mechanisms are put in place to ensure that catches are sustainable. EU fishing in the high seas for straddling and highly migratory stocks is regulated through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), while in the waters of non-EU countries, EU fishing is preferably taking place through bilateral agreements negotiated by the European Union with partner countries named Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs).

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The EU negotiates, concludes and implements bilateral Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) between the European Union and third countries and pays compulsory annual budget contributions deriving from EU membership in international bodies, including various RFMOs.

RFMOs are international bodies set up to promote the conservation and sustainability of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. The EU is present in all of the world's oceans through its fleets and is obliged under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to cooperate with other parties by participating in these organisations.

Within the framework of the SFPAs, the Commission maintains a political dialogue on fisheries related policies with third countries concerned, in coherence with the principles governing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the commitments under other relevant European policies. In addition, SFPAs provide a financial contribution whose aim is to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the partner countries and contribute to better governance of their fisheries. That includes notably the improvement of scientific and technical knowledge of relevant fisheries, the contribution to control and surveillance and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and the support for better global governance of fisheries.

1.3. Specific objectives

To promote, through active involvement in RFMOs, the sustainable development for fisheries management and maritime governance in line with the CFP objectives, and ensure that fishery resources are maintained above or restored above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield and the conservation of marine ecosystems. This includes the promotion of decisions based scientific advice and improved science in those organisations, action against IUU fishing, compliance with the existing rules and regular performance reviews in line with the CFP objectives and the Ocean Governance communication. Consistent with the Green Deal objectives, RFMOs also promote the protection of the fragile ecosystems (Biodiversity Strategy) and ensure more sustainable food systems (Farm to Fork). Finally, RFMOs, as well as SFPAs offer an opportunity to strengthen the role of the EU as a global actor.

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements establish a legal, economic and environmental governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third country waters, in coherence with other EU policies. In particular, the specific objectives pursued by SFPAs are:

- To give the European fleet access to fishing grounds under a clearly regulated and stable legal framework, offering legal certainty for European vessel owners, and contributing to their competitiveness;
- To foster scientific cooperation between the EU and its partner countries;
- To promote transparency and sustainability in the partner countries that also apply to other agreements between the partner countries concerned and other fleets present in their EEZ. This is therefore contributing to the sustainable management of fishing resources worldwide;
- To encourage improved governance and management of the local fisheries sector by supporting the monitoring, control and surveillance of national and foreign fleets' activities, contributing to the sustainable development of local fishing activities, and to the fight against IUU fishing.

1.4. Public intervention context

The fisheries policy is an exclusive competence of the European Union. The EU, represented by the Commission, plays an active role in 5 tuna and 13 non-tuna RFMOs and advisory bodies. The EU position in RFMOs is based on the principles and objectives of the CFP, the Ocean Governance communication, the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies and the Council negotiating directives for each RFMO ('mandate') mirroring the CFP. The transposition into EU law of the provisions adopted by RFMOs is done through Regulations.

SFPAs are also negotiated by the Commission on behalf of the EU, in close cooperation with other EU Institutions. The Commission also ensures the monitoring of the implementation of SFPAs, in particular through regular Joint Committee meetings with partner third countries.

1.5. Actions

SFPAs: Under its exclusive competence of negotiating bilateral fisheries agreements the Commission negotiates, concludes and implements bilateral SFPAs between the European Union and third countries with the objective of contributing to a regulated framework for EU long-distance fishing fleet while ensuring a suitable exploitation of the third countries' relevant fisheries resources and supporting competitiveness of the Union's fishing fleet.

There are currently 13 active SFPAs, mostly in West Africa but also in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In 2021, a new SFPA and its implementing protocol entered into force with Gabon, while the SFPA protocol with Mauritius has expired. At the same time, the SFPA protocols with Greenland, Mauritania and Cook islands have been renewed and a proposal for a 6-month extension of the SFPA Protocol with Mauritius has been prepared.

Each SFPAs is an exclusive agreement: once in place, EU vessels can only fish under this SFPAs, and cannot enter into private agreements with the partner country. The SFPAs ensures a level playing field and establishes minimum standards for sustainable resource management as it includes provisions prohibiting the granting of more favourable conditions to other foreign fleets. There are currently around 200 vessels from 12 EU Member States are benefiting from the SFPAs.

Following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU in January 2021, the Commission has adopted proposals for a Council Regulation to reallocate the fishing opportunities previously allocated to the UK in the SFPAs with Morocco and with Mauritania among interested Member States. Other SFPAs were unaffected by the Brexit.

RFMOs and international organisations: Given the exclusive competence of the EU for the conservation of marine living resources and international obligations deriving from the UNCLOS and the implementation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, to which the EU is a Party, the Commission pays compulsory annual contributions deriving from EU membership in international bodies. This includes various RFMOs where the EU has an interest and bodies set up by the UNCLOS, namely the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. In line with the external dimension of the CFP, the EU will promote better international fisheries and ocean governance, the sustainable management of international fish stocks, and defend EU economic and social interests within these organisations.

1.6. Delivery mode

SFPAs and RFMO agreements are managed under direct management. SFPAs consist of a part covering access rights, and other part on sectoral support which is devoted to sustainable development of the fisheries sector of the partner countries and enhancement of their overall fisheries governance capacity.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

The 2013 CFP Regulation¹ refers to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)² specifically, in its title II, Articles 31 and 32. The Regulation provides that SFPAs with third countries should ensure that Union fishing activities in third country waters are based on the best available scientific advice and relevant information exchange, ensuring a sustainable exploitation of the marine biological resources, transparency as regards the determination of the surplus and, consequently, a management of the resources that is consistent with the objectives of the CFP. Those agreements provide for access to resources commensurate with the interests of the Union fleet in exchange for a financial contribution from the Union and contribute to the establishment of a high-quality governance framework.

According to the UNCLOS, RFMOs are the responsible bodies for the sustainable management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. They play a critical role in promoting the preservation and restoration of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, while contributing to food security, fair, healthy and sustainable food systems, the fight against IUU fishing, as well as sustainable growth and jobs. RFMOs also offer an opportunity to increase the role of the EU as a global actor and to promote the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law in the areas of the CFP and a level-playing field for Union operators in line with Article 28 of the CFP Regulation.

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	151.6	159.2	162.0	141.0	143.8	146.7	148.8	1 053.0
NextGenerationEU								

¹ [Regulation \(EU\) No 1380/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC

² https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements_en

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

During the new period 2021-2027, the Commission will continue to monitor carefully the implementation of the SFPAs and will put emphasis on appropriate reporting of activities financed under the SFPAs sectoral support component, raising awareness on concrete actions achieved. The general objectives of the funding for the international dimension of the Common Fisheries Policy, as well as the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements for the new period does not substantially deviate from the 2014-2020. It seeks, however, to consolidate the achievements of the previous period (2014-2020) while it incorporates as much as possible into its actions the new priorities of the Commission for the 2014-2020 notably concerning climate change, the Biodiversity and the Farm to Fork strategies.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

<http://europa.eu/mH87VG>

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	151.5	1 053.0	14%
Payments	149.5		14%

3.5% of the above commitments (all paid by now) went into paying membership fees to Regional Fisheries and Management Organisations (RFMOs). The rest of the appropriations were spent on fishing access for the European fleet to the waters of third countries, mostly in West Africa and in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and contributing to the sustainable development of their local fishing activities.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The actions to be implemented during 2021-2027 are the continuation of the 2014-2020 programme for international fisheries. The Commission will continue its activities in RFMOs, the regular renewal of expiring SFPAs protocols and the careful monitoring of the implementation of SFPAs, putting emphasis on appropriate reporting of activities financed under the SFPAs sectoral support component, and raising awareness on concrete actions achieved.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Overall, the EU remains one of the key drivers for progress in RFMOs and for increasing their performance with concrete proposals. The EU's voluntary contributions to the scientific advice of RFMOs played a key role in several RFMOs. The Commission continued to deliver on its commitment to achieve more sustainable fisheries worldwide: 98% of all conservation measures adopted in 2021 by RFMOs to which the EU is a member were in line with scientific advice.

This outcome is higher than the results achieved in 2019 (88%) or 2020 (74%) and although in principle it is a positive outcome, it also reflects the fact that the total number of conservation measures adopted went down to 55 from 65 in the previous year, but

those that were adopted were in line with scientific advice. It also accounts for the impact of the pandemic on the work of RFMOs. Due to the virtual format of the meetings, scientific bodies could not cover their full agendas and the main bodies of RFMOs resorted, in some cases, to a roll-over of existing measures based on the precautionary approach, which is by any means a conservative decision.

Regarding the tuna and tuna-like stocks fished by the EU fleet in 2021, the figures are very similar to those in 2020: Of the total commercial tuna catch worldwide, 87% came from stocks at healthy levels of abundance. Out of 20 tuna and tuna-like stocks targeted by the EU fleet, 17 were fished at sustainable level and one stock continues to be on its way to sustainability thanks to the measures adopted in 2019. No further progress could be achieved in 2021, as the second year of the pandemic forced again many RFMOs to hold their meetings in a virtual format and limit their agenda to decisions essential for the functioning of those organisations. As a result, many key decisions could not be adopted, also because the complexity of the discussions were not suitable for a virtual format.

These outcomes do of course also reflect the reality that decisions within RFMOs are taken by the entire membership based on consensus.

Regarding SFPAs, the general objective followed has been to implement and renew the network of Agreements and active Protocols to ensure continuity in the activities of the EU long distant fishing fleet in third country waters, with strict respect to the sustainability and surplus principles.

On some occasions, negotiations have taken more time than expected because financial expectations of the third countries could not be met. The Covid-19 pandemic led to delays in concluding some new agreements like with Mauritius. As a result, ship-owners had to stop fishing or modify their strategies, in the context of sharp global competition between various long distant fishing fleets. Some ship-owners could find other fishing grounds in countries benefiting from an SFPA or sometimes in other countries under Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets.

In the context of the implementation of the Protocols, which is an important part of the programme performance and concerns both access conditions for the EU vessels and the monitoring of the sectoral support, Joint Committee meetings (JCM) were held throughout the year with most of the partner countries, most of the time remotely. For the projects benefitting from sectoral support but delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Joint Committees had on several occasions to adjust the actions and calendar-foreseen initially.

3.2. Key achievements

98%	17
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of conservation measures adopted by RFMOs for the management of the stocks under their purview were in line with scientific advice.

out of 20 tuna and tuna-like stocks targeted by the EU fleet were fished at sustainable level and one is on its way to sustainability.

15 000	70%
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jobs created and maintained through SFPAs in the EU (6 000 directly, 9 000 indirectly)

of the tuna catches made in the context of SFPAs are processed in a partner country.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Not applicable for RFMOs.

A global evaluation of the implementation of the SFPAs, including a public consultation, has taken place in 2020 with the objective to provide with an overall analysis of the SFPAs features, content, implementation, results and impacts. The results of the evaluation should help the Commission to understand what has worked well, be considered of added value or a success and, what could be improved. These results will be presented in Commission Staff Working Document to be adopted in the first half of 2022 and will feed the Commission’s report on the common fisheries policy also planned for 2022. This process should lead to the identification of recommendations to improve SFPAs in the future.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To establish, through Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, a legal, economic and environmental governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third country waters, in coherence with other EU policies.

Indicator 1: Sustainable Fisheries Agreements in force

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
12	12	13	13	14	14	15	15			15
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of agreements
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Official Journal
Link to the objective	To establish, through Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, a legal, economic and environmental governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third country waters, in coherence with other EU policies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	During the new period 2021-2027, the Commission will continue to monitor carefully the implementation of the SFPAs and will put emphasis on appropriate reporting of activities financed under the SFPAs sectoral support component, raising awareness on concrete actions achieved.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	There are currently 13 active SFPAs, as compared to 12 in 2020. In 2021 a new SFPAs and its implementing protocol entered into force with Gabon, while the SFPAs protocols with Greenland, Mauritania and Cook islands have been renewed.

Indicator 2: Fishing possibilities for EU vessels - tuna

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
129	130	130	140	140	140	150	150			150
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of licences for EU tuna vessels in SFPAs
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Commission Database
Link to the objective	To establish, through Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, a legal, economic and environmental governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third country waters, in coherence with other EU policies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	During the new period 2021-2027, the Commission will continue to monitor carefully the implementation of the SFPAs and will put emphasis on appropriate reporting of activities financed under the SFPAs sectoral support component, raising awareness on concrete actions achieved.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The new SFPAs with Gabon has increased the number of fishing opportunities in tuna SFPAs

Indicator 3: Fishing possibilities for EU vessels - mixed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
264	265	265	280	280	280	300	300			300
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of licences for non-tuna vessels in multi-species SFPAs
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Commission database
Link to the objective	To establish, through Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, a legal, economic and environmental governance framework for fishing activities carried out by Union fishing vessels in third country waters, in coherence with other EU policies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	During the new period 2021-2027, the Commission will continue to monitor carefully the implementation of the SFPAs and will put emphasis on appropriate reporting of activities financed under the SFPAs sectoral support component, raising awareness on concrete actions achieved.
Other methodological comments	This corresponds to the number of EU vessels authorized to fish in the framework of SFPAs, considering only the multi-species SFPAs.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Increased in the number of SFPAs and level of utilization by the EU fleet

Specific Objective 2: To promote, through active involvement in international organisations, sustainable development for fisheries management and maritime governance in line with the Common Fisheries Policy objectives, and ensure that fishery resources are maintained above or restored above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.

Indicator 1: Conservation measures based on scientific advice adopted, for all species under the purview of RFMOs to which the EU is a member

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0%		90%		95%			95%			95%
	Actual Progress									Final
	98%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	percentage of conservation measures based on scientific advice
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	RFMO Reports
Link to the objective	To promote, through active involvement in international organisations, sustainable development for fisheries management and maritime governance in line with the Common Fisheries Policy objectives, and ensure that fishery resources are maintained above or restored above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The 'best available scientific advice' is the term used by the UN Fish Stock Agreement 1995. It is generally the advice provided by the Scientific Committee of the specific RFMO in line with international standards.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The Commission continued to deliver on its commitment to achieve more sustainable fisheries worldwide: 98% of all conservation measures adopted in 2021 by RFMOs to which the EU is a member were in line with scientific advice. This outcome is higher than the results achieved in 2020 (74%). It also reflects the fact the total number of conservation measures adopted went down, but those that were adopted were in line with scientific advice. See further analysis in the main text of the report.

Indicator 2: Sustainable management of emblematic tuna and tuna-like species as per relevant scientific advice, notably highly significant tuna and tuna-like species are fished at sustainable levels

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
17	Actual Progress									Final
	17									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	number of sustainable tuna and tuna-like stocks out of 20
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Annual stock situation in scientific reports of RFMOs concerned.
Link to the objective	To promote, through active involvement in international organisations, sustainable development for fisheries management and maritime governance in line with the Common Fisheries Policy objectives, and ensure that fishery resources are maintained above or restored above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	RFMOs which manage highly-migratory species, mainly tuna: http://iccat.int/en/ , http://iotc.org/ , https://www.wcpfc.int/ , http://iattc.org/ , http://www.ccsbt.org/site/
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	On track. The situation is very similar to the one in 2020. In 2021 of the total commercial tuna catch worldwide, 87% came from stocks at healthy levels of abundance. This is due to the fact that skipjack stocks contribute more than one half of the global catch of tunas, and they are all in a healthy situation. By contrast, the Atlantic Ocean bigeye and Indian Ocean yellowfin stocks are currently overfished although for Atlantic Ocean bigeye overfishing ended in 2019 and the probability of being in green zone exceeds 80%.

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	15.67	14.10	14.10	14.10	14.10	14.10	14.10	100.27	10%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The actions financed by the European Commission support the integration of climate change considerations in the management of the marine biological resources, and their ecosystems, both in RFMOs with the final objective of promoting their adaptation and resilience towards climate change, and at bilateral level, through SFPAs.

SFPAs: contribution to climate action represents 40% of the sectoral support.

RFMOs: contribution to climate action represents 40% of the total amount allocated to RFMOs.

5.1.3. Key achievements

Climate change considerations are, where appropriate and available, incorporated into the scientific and stock management discussions in RFMOs. They are also reflected in SFPAs, which refer to management decisions of RFMOs, and contribute to their implementation.

5.1.4. Performance

Although there seems to be progress on the enhancing climate change considerations in RFMOs and SFPAs, it is too early to assess performance for the current period.

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.40	30.80
Share compared to total envelope	3.01 %	2.87 %	2.81 %	3.25 %	3.19 %	3.12 %	3.07 %	3.04 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The actions financed by the European Commission in RFMOs are consistent with the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to conserve marine stocks, prevent the loss of biodiversity and protect fragile ecosystems. In addition, actions supported through the sectoral support component of SFPAs, promote long-term resource conservation, good governance and the sustainable development of our partners' local fisheries sector, with a positive effect on biodiversity.

SFPAs: it is estimated that EUR 1 million per year concerns biodiversity (this is rather a conservative estimation).

RFMOs: 60% of the total amount concerns biodiversity.

5.2.3. Key Achievements

87% of the total commercial tuna catch worldwide, including the tuna and tuna-like stocks fished by the EU fleet in 2020, are at healthy levels of abundance. Out of 20 tuna and tuna-like stocks targeted by the EU fleet, 17 were fished at sustainable level. Additionally, fishing of one of tuna and tuna-like stocks is on its way to sustainability. Biodiversity is also taken into account in SFPAs as well which contribute to sustainable fishing, including through measures aimed at reducing by-catches of non-targeted species and marine mammals. In addition, part of sectoral support funds of SFPAs contribute to support actions contributing to biodiversity (e.g. creation and management of Maritime Protected areas, coral restoration, surveillance operations to fight illegal fishing).

5.2.4. Performance

The action is performing satisfactorily although there is room improvement to reach a higher percentage of tuna and tuna-stocks management sustainably and an increased impact of SFPAs on biodiversity protection. We continue to work towards the achievement of more sustainable fisheries worldwide.

5.3. Contribution to gender equality

5.3.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates		2022-2027 programming				Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	

Score 0: 151.5

(*Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The actions under this programme are related to negotiating, concluding and implementing international agreements relating to fisheries, and paying compulsory annual budget contributions. These actions were not designed with gender needs in mind, therefore a score 0 is attributed to them.

5.4. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements provide the guarantee that only surplus resources will be fished by EU fishing fleet operating in third country waters. They therefore contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries resources and to food security for local population dependent on fishing resources. This is being reinforced in some SFPAs though provisions regarding compulsory landings, or in-kind donation of fish which also contribute directly or indirectly to improved nutrition in developing countries.

Likewise, RFMOs play a key role in promoting a sustainable access to affordable sources of protein.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SFPAs contribute to the achievement of the SD14 as they are a tool that promotes resource conservation and environmental sustainability, through guiding principles such as scientific management, transparency and non-discrimination. As a matter of fact, SFPAs endeavour that all similar vessels fishing in a partner country are subject to the same rules of control and transparency. By doing so, SFPAs have become a benchmark for supporting good fisheries governance at global level.

RFMOs have as their main mandate to promote the conservation and sustainable management of the stocks under their purview and their ecosystems.

HEADING 3B: Other programmes of Natural Resources and Environment**Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)****Lead DG: ENV**

Associated DGs: CLIMA, ENER

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

All current and future EU generations are affected by environmental and climate problems. These problems impact on citizens' health and quality of life, as well as the availability and status of natural resources, implying social and economic costs.

The EU confirmed its commitment to act with its multi-annual strategic general objective - the European Green Deal - a growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy in which:

- (1) There are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050;
- (2) Economic growth is decoupled from resource use;
- (3) The EU's natural capital is protected, conserved and enhanced;
- (4) The health and well-being of citizens is protected from environment-related risks and impacts.

Given the global challenges of climate change and environmental degradation require a global response, the EU will lead by example and continue to promote and implement ambitious environment, climate and energy policies across the world.

Action is needed to support environmental protection with respect to biodiversity, chemicals and health, water quality and management, waste management, ambient air quality, resource management, clean energy, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In particular the EU agreed to make at least 30% of EU expenditure climate-related in the years 2021-2027 and to work towards the ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027.

Ongoing challenges arising from public goods failure; imperfect information; negative externalities; government, institutional, regulatory or policy failure; eco-innovation failure; societal failure; infrastructure lock-in and investment failure need to be addressed.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

EU level intervention is needed:

- To achieve the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy.
- To protect, restore and improve the quality of the environment, including the air, water and soil.
- To halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to tackle the degradation of ecosystems.

The LIFE programme occupies a niche between EU programmes for research and innovation and large development programmes. As such, LIFE bridges the gap between research and policy implementation, addressing the external factors related to environmental and climate innovations by testing and demonstrating practical solutions.

1.3. Specific objectives

The LIFE Programme aims to facilitate the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and climate-resilient economy. LIFE will contribute to reduce GHG emissions and our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change to protect, to restore and improve the quality of the environment, including air, water and soil, and to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. Moreover, it will tackle the degradation of ecosystems, including through supporting the implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The LIFE Programme shall also support the implementation of general action programmes adopted in accordance with Article 192(3) TFEU. The LIFE Programme shall have the following specific objectives:

- (a) To develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on the environment (including nature and biodiversity), and on climate action (including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency). In addition, the programme will contribute to the

knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network;

- (b) To support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency. This will be achieved by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing the capacities of public and private actors, and involving civil society organisations;
- (c) To catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency. This will be achieved by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, and by mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

1.4. Public intervention context

Environment is an area of shared competence between the European Union and the Member States. The Union is therefore able to legislate and adopt binding acts. Its scope for action is limited by the principle of subsidiarity: the Union may act only when the objectives of an action cannot be sufficiently achieved at the Member States level, and could be better achieved at the Union level.

Articles 11 and 191 to 193 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) define the scope of action of the Union.

The EU has some of the world's highest environmental standards, developed over decades. EU environmental legislation protect natural habitats and safeguards the health and wellbeing of people living in the EU, targeting clean air and water, proper waste disposal and management of toxic chemicals.

The EU formulates and implements environmental and climate policies and strategies, taking a leading role in international negotiations on environment climate. It is a party to numerous global, regional or sub-regional environmental agreements on a wide range of issues, such as nature protection and biodiversity, climate change, transboundary air or water pollution. It is committed to ensuring the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement and implementing the EU's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). In this regard, EU countries have agreed to meet various targets in the years to come.

1.5. Actions

The financial envelope for the implementation of the LIFE Programme is implemented via four sub-programmes: (1) Nature and Biodiversity; (2) Circular Economy and Quality of Life; (3) Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; (4) Clean Energy Transition.

Funding can be mobilised via the following activities:

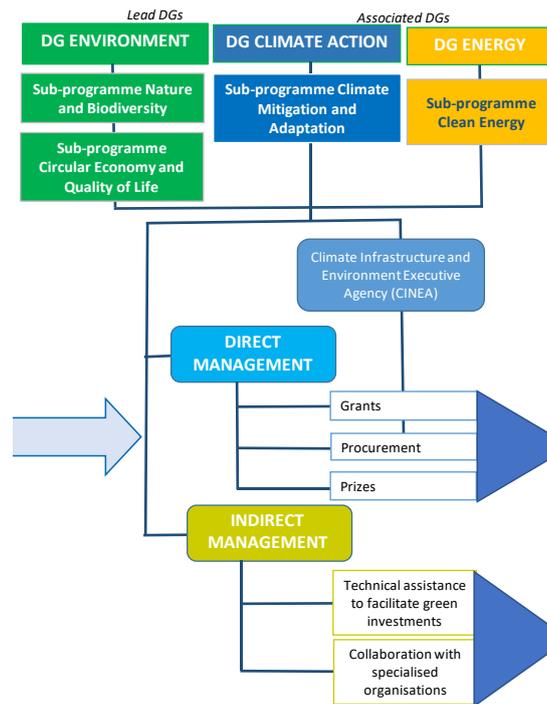
- Grants (which includes Strategic Nature Projects, Strategic Integrated Projects, Standard Action Projects, Technical Assistance Projects, Other Actions and Operating Grants);
- Procurement;
- Prizes;
- Support to investment operations, including technical assistance and blending.

1.6. Delivery mode

The budget of the LIFE programme is mainly implemented through direct management (grants, procurement and prizes). Indirect management can be used for specific activities e.g. to finance technical assistance services to support investment operations, activities of international organisations or other assimilated bodies.

For the programme implementation under direct management, the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) is the lead Directorate-General with support from the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) and the Directorate-General for Energy (ENER). The new Climate, Infrastructures and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is entrusted with the management of the bulk of grants and some procurement activities mainly linked to project management.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (OJ L 172, 17.5.2021, p. 53).	2021 - 2027	5 432.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

According to Art 18 of the above mentioned Regulation, the programme is implemented through Multiannual Work programmes. The first Multiannual Work programme covers the years 2021-2024

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	738.8	755.5	728.3	751.6	783.5	826.6	871.4	5 455.8
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	1.1	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	1.1
Total	739.9	755.5	728.3	751.6	783.5	826.6	871.4	5 456.9

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The financial programming for the LIFE programme under the Multi-annual financial framework is lower at the beginning and higher at the end. Increases in the core-funding of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to cover new activities in the field of Environment and Climate action are being offset by transfers from the LIFE programme.

For 2021 and 2022, such transfers have been compensated by additional funds allocated by the budgetary authority to the LIFE programme during the budget procedure.

In comparison with the initial financial programming, the figures for the LIFE programme are at present the following:

- 2021:	EUR + 38.827.372	2022:	EUR + 40.545.484	2023:	EUR -7.681.546
- 2024:	EUR -10.112.533	2025:	EUR -11.296.604	2026:	EUR -10.257.086
- 2027:	EUR -11.457.508.				

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The number of sub-programmes has increased from two (Environment; and Climate Action) to four (Nature and Biodiversity; Circular Economy and Quality of Life; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; and Clean Energy Transition).

Clean Energy Transition incorporates a set of actions for capacity-building supporting sustainable energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, which was previously funded under Horizon 2020 (until 2020).

A reinforced focus on nature and biodiversity is ensured.

Building on the Strategic Integrated Projects first launched under the 2014-2020 LIFE programme, the 2021-2027 LIFE programme will continue to support this project type (to a slightly greater scale than previously). A dedicated source of funding to support strategic nature projects has been introduced under the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme.

Financial instrument operations will be managed under InvestEU, while the programme, based on the lessons learnt from the pilot experiences run between 2014 and 2020, will support capacity-building by providing, on pilot basis, technical assistance for facilitating green investments and for greening other investments.

Taking into account the excellent results obtained with the BEST (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas) programme, LIFE will ensure its continuation. This implies the expansion of the scope of the programme to Overseas Countries and Territories.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

The main website for the LIFE Programme is: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life_en

It provides information on the LIFE programme itself, funding opportunities, project management and links with the database including information on all LIFE projects ([LIFE 3.0 - LIFE Project Public Page \(europa.eu\)](#)), the best LIFE projects ([Best projects and LIFE Awards \(europa.eu\)](#)) and publications ([LIFE publications \(europa.eu\)](#)).

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	739.8	5 461.7	14%
Payments	22.8		0%

Despite the late agreement reached on the MFF, the Regulation for the LIFE Programme was adopted on 29 April 2021.

Thanks to a close collaboration with the Member States within the LIFE Committee, the Commission managed the adoption of the first Multiannual Work Programme on 9 July 2021. The calls for proposals for action grants, new framework partnership agreements and operating grants were launched immediately thereafter. A limited number of small technical assistance projects was signed in 2021, the bulk of grants agreements will be concluded throughout 2022. Procurement activities resumed in July, leading to the signature of service contracts, studies, etc that will underpin environmental and climate policies.

The calls for proposals for action grants, new framework partnership agreements and operating grants were launched immediately thereafter [the adoption of the first Multiannual Work Programme on 9 July 2021]. A limited number of small technical assistance projects was signed in 2021, the bulk of grants agreements will be concluded throughout 2022. Procurement activities resumed in July, leading to the signature of service contracts, studies, etc.. that will underpin environmental and climate policies

As usual, the bulk of 2022 appropriations - more than 80% of the budget - is used to finance different types of projects submitted by EU private and public organisations, about 17% of the budget is for the financing of procurement contracts to support the work on environment, climate and energy legislation and policies and 3% of the budget is devoted to the provision of technical assistance for facilitating green investments.

In 2023, about 600 million EUR will allow to finance indicatively 200 projects on nature and biodiversity (40% of the budget), on circular economy and quality of air, water, soils etc.. (26% of the budget) on climate mitigation and adaptation (18%) and on sustainable energy (16%). In addition, about 90 million EUR will be used to cover the activities necessary for the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of new legislation and policies in the environment and climate fields. This includes the legally required operations, mainly related to environmental reporting, that allow the Commission to exercise its duties of “Guardian of the Treaty” (in other words, to assess Member State implementation of EU environmental laws and report the results to the European Parliament and the Council). These outsourced activities are mainly procurement contracts with service providers or administrative agreements with the Joint Research Center. Finally, around 3% of the budget is required to support *green solutions*, where a lack of capacity to access funding constitutes the main barrier for the large-scale deployment of a technology, approach or policy, which proved to be effective. This kind of support is implemented via different technical assistance facilities: by the EIB, in the framework of Invest EU and by CINEA through Green Assist,

The required payment funds will be mainly used to finance on-going projects and relevant contracts. Most projects and contracts are in fact multi-annual and payments are made in instalments.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	3 464.4	3 466.4	100%
Payments	1 962.3		57%

The cumulative implementation rate is in line with expectations.

The last legal commitments (both grant agreements and procurement contracts) were signed in 2021. Implementation is in full swing. About 1400 projects were financed, and only a limited number have been completed. The payment rate reflects the project/contract life cycle.

In general, in the 2014-2020 period, a few novelties have been introduced (integrated projects and financial instruments). Both have an impact on the payment rate. Integrated projects are conceived to support the full implementation of plans and strategies and last longer (around eight years) than other types of projects. The implementation of two pilot innovative financial instruments (the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) and the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) proved to be slower and more challenging than expected.

In 2020, projects financed under the Environment and Resource Efficiency priority areas and projects on climate change mitigation, have continued to register a high proportion of beneficiaries from the private sector (55% and 48% respectively). Under these areas, the LIFE programme is more attractive to private companies than to public bodies or to civil society organisations. Public sector organisations are the main beneficiaries of climate adaptation supports (57% of the total beneficiaries), and of nature and biodiversity projects (58% of the beneficiaries). Private non-commercial organisations account for 30% of the total number of beneficiaries for biodiversity projects.

In the last two years the programme implementation was somewhat affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, several measures have been introduced to support beneficiaries during this difficult period (e.g., increase in pre-financing, extended deadlines for submission of offers, information support to prepare proposals).

A substantial increase in the requests of modifications to the projects (amendments) was registered. Out of nearly 1.000 on going projects, nearly one out of two requested an amendment and almost one third of the projects was extended for COVID-19 -related reasons. Projects that requested an extension are mature projects, from calls 15, 16 and 17 mostly. Their implementation was on track until disrupted by COVID-19 measures. The delays in their implementation are linked to difficulties in launching stakeholder events, in obtaining permits and other administrative documents, or simply to lock-downs that prevented field activities.

Nevertheless, the available payment appropriations could be fully used.

Taking into account these delays, it is expected that at least 75% of payment appropriations will be used by end of 2027.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

We are in an early stage of implementation of the programme 2021-2027. Most projects financed on the 2021 budget have not started yet.

The definition of baselines, milestones and targets for the programmes is based on historical data collected per indicator on the performance of projects financed in 2014-2020.

Baselines for the outputs indicators and for the new indicators without available historical data, have been fixed at 0.

For all the other indicators, baselines have been fixed at the level of the actual results/impact of the projects 2014-2020. The figures could still evolve given not all the data on Key Performance Indicators for all the projects are validated, yet.

Milestones and targets in terms of expected outputs, results or impact per indicator have been defined taking into account the outputs, results and impact of projects 2014-2020. The indicative number of projects that will contribute to each indicator in the period 2021-2027 is identified based on projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations per thematic areas (such as clean air, water savings, water quality, circular economy) in the coming seven years.

All forecasts for future milestones and targets are based on the assumption that projects will follow similar trends as in the programming period from 2014 to 2020. However, the LIFE programme has a bottom up approach. This implies that the Commission is not in the position to control neither the demand per area of financing nor the ambition of future projects. The actual outputs, results and impact of the LIFE projects in 2021-2027 will depend on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process and on all the variables mentioned above.

Future achievements might thus differ from the forecast, if the trends in the demand and in the projects awarded will differ.

In the forecast for future achievements (milestones and targets) another assumption is that projects will continue to show similar synergies as the ones registered in projects financed in 2014-2020. In the period 2014-2020 an important number of projects have contributed to more than one indicator (e.g. about 60 projects under Environment and Resource Efficiency have contributed to the reduction of CO2 emissions).

Future projects may not develop (similar) synergies than in the past, thus implying a sensible difference in the final achievements.

Milestones and target should therefore be considered as indicative. They could be revised during the implementation of the programme, taking into account the demand trends.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The preparatory work for starting the implementation of the programme was successfully completed. The legal framework was finalised with the adoption of the Multiannual Work Programme 2021-2024. The transition to the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) that took over the implementation of the grants from the Executive Agency of Small and Medium Enterprises (EASME) happened in a smooth way. The calls for proposals were launched without delays.

Almost 40 calls for proposals have been launched in 2021, 19 of which under the new Clean Energy Transition Sub-programme.

Among the calls for proposals with higher financing

- The call for proposals for Standard Action Projects (SAP) registered more than 400 proposals under the sub-programmes Circular Economy and Quality of Life and Nature and Biodiversity. More than 170 proposals were received under the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation sub-programmes. More than 168 proposals as well were received under the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme. The evaluation of these calls for proposals is underway.
- The call for proposals for integrated projects launched in 2021 attracted 23 applicants. The second stage of this call for proposals is underway.

The LIFE Programme contributed to the New European Bauhaus (see related [infographic](#)).

Beyond projects, the LIFE programme financed several activities in support of environmental, climate and energy legislation and policies, including i.a:

- The “fit for 55 package”, in particular to deliver the new and more ambitious climate and energy targets to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 (I.e., the revision of the EU Emission Trading System Directive, the Effort Sharing Regulation, the CO2 standards for cars and vans and the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation, as well as the establishment of a Social Climate Fund) , as well as the energy legislative revisions: the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive)
- the COP 26 in Glasgow
- the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- The Communication on Sustainable Carbon Cycles
- The implementation of the Renovation Wave Strategy;
- the update of concentration limit values of **persistent organic pollutants in waste**
- **the Zero pollution** action plan for water, air and soil
- the progress report on the implementation of **the EU Pollinators Initiative**
- the New **EU Forest Strategy**

- the EU **Soil Strategy**
- the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive to ensure **environmental protection through criminal law**

New challenges for next years are related to the association of third countries to the programme, the implementation of the Seal of Excellence and the promotion of the programme in the newly eligible Overseas Countries and Territories.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The LIFE Programme should act as a catalyst for changes in policy development and implementation by providing and disseminating solutions and best practices to achieve environmental and climate goals, and by promoting innovative environmental and climate change technologies.

It is extremely difficult to quantify the catalytic effect of the programme, particularly if the bulk of its activities are still on-going. This notwithstanding, the current performance of the programme can be measured mainly in terms of expected results of the projects (supported via grants), which represent more than 81% of the overall budget.

In terms of outputs, the LIFE programme financed in the period 2014-2020 more than 1400 projects that have contributed to the European Green Deal by mainstreaming Nature and Biodiversity and/or Zero Pollution and/or Circularity and/or climate action goals.

About one third of these projects are developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches to achieve synergies between Climate Neutrality/Adaptation and Zero Pollution, Biodiversity or Circular Economy Goals, thus contributing to promote a holistic vision of the environment.

LIFE also promotes the mobilisation of additional funds for environment and climate action.

With the 11 additional integrated projects financed in 2021, the total LIFE financing for integrated projects amounts to EUR 110 000 000. These projects should facilitate the co-ordinated use of more than EUR 10 000 000 000 complementary funding. This implies that, for each euro financed by the LIFE programme in the years 2014-2020, additional EUR 45 are expected to be financed from other sources for the implementation of the targeted plans. Experience shows that the amount of additional funds mobilised by the integrated projects tends to increase during the project lifetime.

In terms of indicators, the 2020-2021 data continue the previous trends and largely confirm the results of the mid-term evaluation as regards as the effectiveness and the EU added value of the programme, confirming that the programme is performing well.

In particular, the LIFE programme 2014-2020 has already exceeded the 2020 targets related to a large part of indicators. Some of these indicators still show growing figures thanks to new projects and the on-going validation of performance data for previous on-going projects.

A selection of indicators related to the 2014-2020 programme is included in section 5 below.

The results of the [annual report of the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the budget concerning the financial year 2018](#) (2019/C 340/01) were presented in the previous programme statements. No new European Court of Auditors report on the budget performance of the LIFE programme was published.

3.2. Key achievements

The role of the LIFE Programme is not to solve all the environmental and climate problems but to address the market and institutional failures that limit the transition towards a sustainable, climate-neutral and resilient economy where economic growth is decoupled from resource use and natural capital is protected. The overall number of projects and the results below prove the role of the programme:

314	27. 000	1,7 million	12 million	300	1,8 million
Wildlife species populations are expected to improve their conservation status thanks to 175 on-going LIFE projects	Tons/year of waste are expected to be appropriately managed thanks to 178 on-going LIFE projects	Are the people whose vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change is expected to be reduced thanks to 118 on-going LIFE projects	Tons/year of greenhouse gas emissions are expected to be reduced by 263 on-going LIFE projects	Tons/year of dangerous chemicals are no more used and/or produced thanks to 16 completed LIFE projects	People have benefitted from cleaner air thanks to 25 completed LIFE projects

Further results/impact of the LIFE programme 2014-2020 are included as baselines for the indicators of the current programme (see the tables in section 4).

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the latest evaluation ([COM\(2017\) 642 final](#) – [SWD\(2017\) 356 final](#)) have been presented in the Programme Statement 2018.

The impact assessment accompanying the Commission Proposal for the LIFE programme 2021-2027 (see [SWD\(2018\) 292 final](#)), takes stock of the programme 2014-2020 to plan for further improvements. Last years publications on the LIFE programme are available at [Publications \(europa.eu\)](#) and include the following:

- [Disrupting the linear model: LIFE and the circular economy](#)
- [The LIFE Programme and Energy](#)
- [LIFE Integrated projects](#)
- [Connecting the dots - LIFE lessons on ecological connectivity](#)

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network;

Indicator 1: Number of projects that are developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches to contribute to the shift towards a sustainable, circular, energy-efficient, renewable energy-based, climate-neutral and -resilient economy

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	145	273	399	517	636	756	875
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular to "develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 2: Number of projects, including strategic integrated projects, implementing key plans and strategies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	8	15	22	29	36	44	53
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objectives 1 “Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy”, 3 “Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society” and 4 “Play a catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 3: Population benefitting from an improvement in air quality

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
2 500 000	2 500 000	2 500 000	2 500 000	2 829 709	3 144 315	3 453 339	3 720 198	3 999 793	4 305 138	4 630 183
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of individuals
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE Key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was included at the end of the 2014-2020 period. Few data are available. Projections are based on a combination of former indicators.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual impact in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 4: Area of land with improving soil quality

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
4 200	4 200	4 200	4 200	4 711	5 198	5 677	6 090	6 524	6 997	7 500
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objectives 1 Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-

	carbon and climate resilient economy and 2. Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity and, in particular, "to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Partial data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data on anticipated project results will be available starting from 2024. Values are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 5: Water bodies with improving ecological status

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
285	285	285	285	320	354	387	415	445	478	513
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Kilometre
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objectives 1 Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and 2. Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity and, in particular, "to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. However, data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. This indicator does not catch the overall amount of results triggered by LIFE project on the improvement of water quality. It does not include the results of projects expressed in square kilometers. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 6: Water management with increasing efficiency

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
1 500 000	1 500 000	1 500 000	1 500 000	1 700 338	1 891 499	2 079 268	2 241 418	2 411 306	2 596 840	2 794 343
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Cubic meters/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE Key Performance Indicator database /E-grant

Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. However, data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	This indicator measures the volume of water which management efficiency is improving due to increased water reuse and avoided water loss. Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 7: Waste which management is improving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
27 000	27 000	27 000	27 000	30 294	33 437	36 524	39 190	41 983	45 033	48 280
	Actual Progress									Final
27 000										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Tonnes per year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. This indicator was introduced during 2014-2020. Partial data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 8: Reduction in the production and use of dangerous chemicals

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
300 000	300 000	300 000	300 000	337 630	373 537	408 806	439 263	471 174	506 023	543 121
	Actual Progress									Final
300 000										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	kilogram per year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator. For the 2014-2020 programming period, the LIFE KPI monitored the

	reduction/ substitution of dangerous substances. Substances were previously reported by EC list number and grouped by different categories.
Other methodological comments	The indicator catches the reduction of chemicals substances dangerous for human health and/or for the environment Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 9: Population benefitting from a reduction in noise pollution

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
400 000	400 000	400 000	400 000	451 252	500 157	548 193	589 675	633 137	680 601	731 128
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of individuals
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was included in the period 2014-2020. Few projects covered noise pollution of in the years 2014-2020. Projections are based on a combination of former indicators.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual impact in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 10: Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
12 000 000	12 000 000	12 000 000	12 000 000	12 729 768	13 346 894	13 935 022	14 548 144	15 187 560	15 826 975	16 466 390
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year (CO2e/year).
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available. Projections are based on a combination of former LIFE data and data from the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme on GHG reductions, as these projects will be financed under LIFE in the future
Other methodological comments	This indicator catches the additional GHG reductions achieved by the projects financed under the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme and the GHG reductions by the end of the projects financed

	under the other LIFE sub-programmes. Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual result will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 11: Population benefitting from a reduction of their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
1 700 000	1 700 000	1 700 000	1 700 000	1 899 051	2 096 893	2 302 111	2 507 330	2 718 356	2 929 382	3 140 408
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of individuals
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator introduced for the 2021-2027 programming period that cannot be compared with the previous one (2014-2020). Data on few projects are available for 2014-2020. Projections are based on a combination of former indicators.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual impact in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 12: Additional annual energy savings

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	1 382	2 536	3 627	4 768	5 959	7 151	8 344
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Gigawatt/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database /E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not available in this form for the LIFE Programme in the period 2014-2020. Its addition is linked to the integration of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme.
Other methodological comments	This indicator catches the additional annual renewable energy production triggered by the projects financed under the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme and the energy savings expected by the end of the projects financed under the other LIFE sub-programmes. Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data on anticipated project results will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual

	results in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 13: Additional annual renewable energy production

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	739	1 356	1 940	2 550	3 188	3 825	4 463
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Gigawatt per year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE Key indicator database and Data from the Clean Energy Transition Programme
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objective 1: Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and in particular "Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not available in this form for the LIFE Programme in the period 2014-2020. Its addition is linked to the integration of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme.
Other methodological comments	This indicator catches the additional annual energy savings triggered by the projects financed under the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme and the energy savings expected by the end of the projects financed under the other LIFE sub-programmes. Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data on anticipated project results will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The impact in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Specific Objective 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques and approaches and apply best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity

Indicator 1: Number of projects that are developing, demonstrating and promoting innovative techniques and approaches and applying best practices for nature and biodiversity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	42	85	128	172	213	257	304
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to the Specific Objective 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity" and in particular to "develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets

	are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 2: Number of projects, including strategic nature projects, implementing plan, strategies or programmes of action for mainstreaming Nature and biodiversity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	6	12	19	26	33	41	50
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to the Specific Objectives 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity”, 3 “Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society” and 4 “Play a to catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 3: Area of habitats where loss of biodiversity is being halted or reversed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
1 600 000	1 600 000	1 600 000	1 600 000	1 792 306	1 992 501	2 197 001	2 415 374	2 624 095	2 853 339	3 109 011
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE Key indicator database/ E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to the Specific Objective 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity” and in particular to “develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included as such in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator on the predecessor projects in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data on anticipated project results will be available starting from 2024. This indicator does not catch the overall amount of results triggered by LIFE project on the area of habitats. It does not include the results of projects expressed in length. Values are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance and number and size of related projects. The actual results in

	2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 4: Number of species where loss is being halted or reversed.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
314	314	314	314	351	390	429	472	512	556	606
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of species populations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE Key performance database
Link to the objective	Link to the Specific Objective 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity” and in particular to “develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included as such in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. However, data on this indicator for the period 2014-2020 are available. Projections are based on a combination of former indicators. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The impact in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 5: Area of land with improving soil quality

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
4 200	4 200	4 200	4 200	4 711	5 198	5 677	6 090	6 524	6 997	7 500
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objectives 1 Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and 2. Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity and, in particular, "to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Partial data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data on anticipated project results will be available starting from 2024. Values are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 6: Water bodies with improving ecological status

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
285	285	285	285	320	354	387	415	445	478	513
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Kilometers
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objectives 1 Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy and 2. Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity and, in particular, "to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques, methods and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action, including the transition to renewable energy and increased energy efficiency, and to contribute to the knowledge base and to the application of best practice, in particular in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network"
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Partial data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. This indicator does not catch the overall amount of results triggered by LIFE project on the improvement of water quality. It does not include the results of projects expressed in kilometers. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual results in 2024-2030 will depend on these variables and on the intervention area of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Specific Objective 3: Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;

Indicator 1: Number of projects for the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policies on environment and climate action

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	199	381	561	733	904	1 077	1 254
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objective 3: Contribute to putting Union legislation and policy into practice, and to improving governance, and, in particular, "to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society".

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 2: Number of projects improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing the capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	42	84	127	169	211	253	296
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE Key indicator database/ E-grants
Link to the objective	Link to specific objective 3: Contribute to putting Union legislation and policy into practice, and to improving governance, and, in particular, “to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society”.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are partially available, given a particular type of traditional projects was devoted to improving environmental and climate governance, at all levels.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start-up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 3: Number of projects, including strategic integrated projects, implementing key plans and strategies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	8	15	22	29	36	44	53
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objectives 1 “Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy”, 3 “Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society” and 4 “Play a catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.

Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 4: Number of projects, including strategic nature projects, implementing plan, strategies or programmes of action for instreaming Nature and biodiversity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	6	12	19	26	33	41	50
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to the Specific Objectives 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity”, 3 “Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society” and 4 “Play a to catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not available as such in the years 2014-2020. Strategic nature projects represent an evolution of integrated projects for nature financed in the period 2014-2020.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 5: Number of organisations involved in projects or receiving operating grants

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
6 700	6 700	6 700	6 700	8 200	9 500	10 800	12 200	13 500	14 800	16 200
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of organisations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key performance indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objective 3: Contribute to putting Union legislation and policy into practice, and to improving governance, and, in particular, “to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society”.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the number of projects and on the average number of

	beneficiaries per type of projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Specific Objective 4: To play a catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions

Indicator 1: Number of projects having a catalytic effect

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	138	267	395	520	643	768	895
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key indicators database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objective 3: Contribute to putting Union legislation and policy into practice, and to improving governance, and, in particular, “to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society”.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Data on this indicator are not available for the period 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 2: Cumulative investments triggered by the projects or finance accessed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	480	881	1 260	1 656	2 070	2 484	2 898
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Million EUR
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE key indicator database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to specific objective 4: Play a catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solution and, in particular, “to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy on environment, including nature and biodiversity, and on climate action and the transition to renewable energy or increased energy efficiency by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices, mobilising investment and improving access to finance”.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Data on this indicator are only partially available for the period 2014-2020.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Data are cumulative. Milestones and targets are based on past project performance, number and size of selected projects and number/ambition of the proposals. The actual result will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.
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Indicator 3: Number of projects, including strategic integrated projects, implementing key plans and strategies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	8	15	22	29	36	44	53
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to Specific Objectives 1 “Contribute to the shift toward a clean, circular, energy efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy”, 3 “Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society” and 4 “Play a to catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

Indicator 4: Number of projects, including strategic nature projects, implementing plan, strategies or programmes of action for mainstreaming Nature and biodiversity

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	0	6	12	19	26	33	41	50
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2030
Data source	LIFE project database / E-grant
Link to the objective	Link to the Specific Objectives 2: Develop, demonstrate and promote innovative technique and approaches and apply best practices in relation to nature and biodiversity”, 3 “Contribute to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action and to improve governance, including by improving governance at all levels, in particular through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society” and 4 “Play a to catalytic role in the replication and the triggering of large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions”
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	It was not included in the indicators reported in previous programme statements. Data on this indicator in the period 2014-2020 are available.
Other methodological comments	Taking into account the project life cycle and the delays in the start up of the programme implementation, data will be available starting from 2024. Milestones and targets are based on historical trends and projections on the average size and the estimated budget allocations for these projects. The actual outputs will depend on these variables and on the scope of projects retained for funding after the evaluation process.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The data on the first projects following the 2021 calls for proposals will be available for the programme statement annexed to the 2024 Draft Budget.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)

General Objective 3: To support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors

Indicator 1: Number of interventions to ensure better governance, dissemination of information and awareness of environmental and climate aspects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0				420			800			800
	Actual Progress									Final
	122	252	324	496	648	731	792	872		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of governance projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Database of LIFE projects (Butler)
Narrative	One of the LIFE objective is to support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors;
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be used also for the LIFE Programme 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Although all interventions contain an information, dissemination and/or awareness raising component, the interventions financed to "support better environmental and climate governance and information" (budget item 07 02 03 and 34 02 03), whether funded through grants or procurement, are specifically designed to address this objective and are therefore used as the reference indicator. They include the operating grants to NGOs. The figures are cumulative and in 2017 include the European Solidarity Corps initiatives financed by LIFE. 2021 data include the results of the ad hoc call for proposals to support NGOs for the Green Deal. No additional projects financed by the project 2014-2020 will be financed in 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The programme results are substantially in line with the expected target

General Objective 4: To support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Indicator 1: Number of interventions to support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
				1 300			1 700			1 700
	Actual Progress									Final
		970	1 305	1 625	2 089	2 507	2 704	2 999		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects and other programme actions (e.g. prizes, procurement contract)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Database of LIFE projects (Butler) and database on the actions of the Annual Management Plan
Narrative	One of the objectives of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020 is to support the implementation of the 7th Environmental Action Programme. All types of LIFE interventions are supposed to contribute to the 7th Environmental Action Programme.
Methodology	This indicator monitors the number of LIFE interventions which are registering an improvement in comparison with their respective baselines.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Other indicators were selected for monitoring the performance of the programme in the period 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	All LIFE interventions, whether funded through grants, procurement or financial instruments, support the implementation of at least one of the priority objectives of the 7th Environment Action Programme. Figures include interventions over 100.000 EUR and are cumulative. For 2021 only

	projects financed through grants have been included in the calculation. No additional increase are foreseen on 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The data show an overachievement that could be linked to an initial underestimation of the number of LIFE interventions and/or the number of interventions producing results-

Specific Objective 1: Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation (Environment and Resource Efficiency priority area)

Indicator 2: Population benefiting from improved air quality

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
				1 000 000			1 400 000			1 400 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	370 000	842 600	934 000	1 100 000	1 500 000	1 638 500	1 871 000			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Persons covered by ongoing projects which progress towards or finalised projects which achieved improved air quality.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Database of LIFE Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
Narrative	One of the objectives if the LIFE programme 2014-2020 is to help move towards a resource-efficient, low carbon and climate resilient economy, improve the quality of the environment and halt and reverse biodiversity loss;
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is part of the core performance indicators selected for monitoring the performance of the LIFE Programme 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Number of persons covered by ongoing/ finalised projects which progress towards improved air quality.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The programme performance is exceeding the initial estimates

Indicator 3: Percentage of regions covered by waste IPs and thus progressing towards or having reached adequate waste management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0				2%			3%			3%
	Actual Progress									Final
		1,8%	2,5%	2,5%	3,9%	4,3%	8,6%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of regions that are covered by waster IPs and progress towards or achieved adequate waste management.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Database of LIFE projects (Butler)
Narrative	One of the objective of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020 is to help move towards a resource-efficient, low carbon and climate resilient economy, improve the quality of the environment and halt and reverse biodiversity loss
Methodology	This indicator monitors the regions targeted by LIFE integrated projects where comprehensive Waste Management plans are being implemented.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator has not been retained as core performance indicator for the evaluation framework of the LIFE Programme 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Height integrated projects are focused on waste covering 21 regions (NUTS 2)
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The trend is exceeding with the initial estimates. The high number of integrated projects on waste and the ambition of the selected projects have contributed to this achievement.

Indicator 4: Percentage of River Basin Districts (RBD) covered by IPs and thus progressing towards or having reached adequate management

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0				3%			5%			5%
	Actual Progress									Final
		2%	4%	5%	8%	8,3%	8,3%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage of RBD are covered by integrated projects that progress towards or have achieved adequate management.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Database of LIFE projects (Butler)
Narrative	One of the objective of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020 is to help move towards a resource-efficient, low carbon and climate resilient economy, improve the quality of the environment and halt and reverse biodiversity loss
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator has not been selected as core-performance indicator for the monitoring of the performance of the LIFE Programme 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Percentage of RBD covered by integrated projects and progressing towards adequate management. Ten integrated projects, out of twelve integrated projects on water, are addressing the management of river basin districts and have started their activities. No new integrated projects on Water have been financed with 2020 budget. The figures are not expected to increase in 2022.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The data show an overachievement that could be linked to-- an initial underestimation of the potential project results and/or-- the high quality of integrated projects, and/or-- the fact that all integrated projects are still under implementation and few projects already ended.

Specific Objective 2: Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems (Biodiversity priority area)

Indicator 4: Percentage of the Natura 2000 sites covered by nature IPs and thus progressing towards the implementation of prioritised actions frameworks

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
0				4%			6%			6%
	Actual Progress									Final
			12%	20%	23.4%	34%	38%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage of the Natura 2000 sites are targeted by nature IPs and progress towards or achieved the implementation of prioritised actions frameworks.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Database of LIFE projects (Butler)
Narrative	One of the objectives of the LIFE programme 2014-2020 is to contribute to improve the quality of the environment and halt and reverse biodiversity loss.
Methodology	The indicator monitors percentage of the Natura 2000 sites targeted by LIFE integrated projects implementing prioritised action frameworkq
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not retained as core performance indicators for the programme 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	At present n.25 integrated projects (IPs) are supporting the implementation of Prioritized Action Frameworks developed in Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia Spain, France, Lithuania, Sweden, Greece, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Cyprus, France and Finland pursuant to Article 8 of the Habitats Directive. Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	At present n.23 integrated projects (IPs) are supporting the implementation of Prioritized Action Frameworks developed in Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia Spain, France, Lithuania, Sweden, Greece, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland and Cyprus pursuant to Article 8 of the Habitats Directive. ; Source: Database of LIFE projects (Butler);

Specific Objective 4: Reduction of EU greenhouse gas emissions and development and implementation of EU climate policy and legislation (Climate Change Mitigation priority area)

Indicator 1: Number and coverage of climate change mitigation strategies or action plans developed or implemented through LIFE

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
							27			27
	Actual Progress									Final
	7	13	20	26	33	38	41			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of climate change mitigation strategies or action plans covering at least one region and supported by LIFE projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Database of LIFE projects (Butler)
Narrative	One of the objective of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020 is to contribute to move towards a resource-efficient, low carbon and climate resilient economy
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator has not been selected as core performance indicator for the evaluation framework of the LIFE Programme 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Three new integrated projects on climate mitigation were financed in Hungary, Poland and Ireland to support the national climate action plans and started their activities in 2020.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The data show an overachievement that could be linked to the increasing attention that is being devoted to the need to have climate change mitigation plans and strategies

Specific Objective 5: Increased resilience of the EU to climate change (Climate Change Adaptation priority area)

Indicator 3: Number of interventions to improve the knowledge base for Union climate policy and legislation, and for assessing and monitoring factors, pressures and responses having an impact on the climate resilience (cf. Article 15(b) Regulation 1293/2013)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
IPs										
	Milestones									2020
30%				80%	80%	80%	100%			100%
	Actual Progress									Final
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			
Are we on track :	On track									
Traditional projects										
	Milestones									2020
				30%	30%	30%	25%			25%
	Actual Progress									Final
		37%	38%	36%	34%	41,2%	41,7%			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	LIFE project database
Narrative	One of the objectives of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020 is to contribute to move towards a resource-efficient, low carbon and climate resilient economy
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator has not been selected as core performance indicator for the evaluation framework of the LIFE Programme 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Percentage of the traditional projects funded in climate change adaptation priority area in 2020 out of

	the overall number of traditional projects under the Climate change priority area: No 18 out of 41 traditional projects financed in 2020 are on climate change adaptation.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The data show an overachievement that is probably linked to the increasing awareness related to the need to improve the adaptation to climate change and mitigate the consequences of extreme weather events

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	375.20	426.15	406.25	417.35	431.65	451.77	470.50	2978.87	55%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The LIFE Programme contributes to the overall target of 30% climate spending in the EU budget for the 2021-2027 period through all its sub-programmes:

- the whole sub-programmes climate mitigation and adaptation and clean energy transition finances activities directly aimed at contributing to cut our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net-zero and to improve preparedness and capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change ;
- the sub-programme nature and biodiversity aims to protect, maintain and restore Union’s natural capital in its marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems. Some of its activities contribute substantially to the adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and to mitigate GHG emissions;
- the sub programme circular economy and quality of life aims at facilitating the transition toward a sustainable, circular, toxic-free, energy-efficient and climate-resilient environment; by – i.a. reducing resource consumption, contributing to the quality of waters and air, preventing soil degradation and increasing their resilience. It will thus contribute to climate action.

6.1.3. Key achievements

The following projects provide examples of key achievements:

The **LIFE FORECCAsT** project provided forest owners and managers of the Parc Naturel Régional du Haut Languedoc in France with information, user-friendly tools and other means to tackle the challenges of climate change. The project partners developed a mobile phone application to help forest stakeholders to evaluate and manage the risk of forest dieback in a context of global climate change. The project team implemented 25 test sites to provide Parc Naturel Régional du Haut Languedoc (PNRHL) professionals with potential solutions to their issues. Its tools and methodology will help preserve forest ecosystems by adapting practices to climate change, the goal being to maintain the financial revenues of forestry stakeholders and tourism industry. Social benefits are related to the economic benefits through employment in the forestry and tourism sectors.

The **LIFE LowCarbon Feed** project aimed to implement new low-emission methods and innovative practices in agriculture and farming, in order to perform an effective recovery of agricultural waste from citrus and rice production, as an alternative to incineration. The aim was to convert this recovered waste into a new animal feed capable of reducing methane emissions in ruminants, so reducing GHG emissions and mitigating climate change in agriculture, specifically from goat farming. The beneficiaries developed two new feeds for ruminants based on citrus pruning waste and rice straw: (i) LCFeed, a climate-friendly formula for a complete goat diet; and (ii) LCCitrus, an ingredient for goat feed. The main characteristic of these feeds is that they result in between 8% and 22% reduction of GHG emissions in the digestion process of goats. Moreover, since they are produced from agricultural waste, the new valorisation process avoids their elimination by burning, thus significantly reducing the GHG emissions from their combustion. A major achievement was the formulation of the innovative feeds, along with the proved results obtained from the goat tests, the impact on local/regional policies, and the efforts made to replicate the approach.

6.1.4. Performance

LIFE projects are expected to contribute to:

- reduce GHG emission by about 12 million tons of CO2 equivalent by year.

- reduce vulnerability to the adverse effect of climate changes of about 1.7 million EU citizens.

The LIFE contributions to these projects is about 580 million EUR.

For the year 2021, the new tracking system and the time necessary for the implementation (the projects following the calls for proposals launched in 2021 have not started yet) are causing some delays and are not allowing to fully record the contribution of the LIFE programme to climate spending.

Once these issues will be solved, the contribution of the programme to climate mainstreaming should reach the 61% target of LIFE budget devote to climate spending mentioned in the LIFE Regulation.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	332.07	343.51	331.43	346.25	365.50	391.09	420.04	2 529.89
Share compared to total envelope	44.95 %	45.46 %	45.51 %	46.07 %	46.65 %	47.31 %	48.20 %	46.37 %

(*These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Three LIFE sub-programmes contribute to biodiversity financing:

- 100% of the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity that aims to protect and restore Europe’s nature and halt and reverse biodiversity loss. It funds nature conservation projects, in particular in the areas of biodiversity, habitats and species. It also supports the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats directives, and in particular the development and management of the Natura 2000 network, and the IAS Regulation through projects and studies. This sub-programme contributes in full to the objectives and targets of the EU’s biodiversity strategy for 2030.
- 50% of the projects of the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life is expected to provide a significant contribution (40%) to the biodiversity. This sub-programme targets, inter alia:
 - Water and seas. The protection and improvement of groundwater and surface water quality and the prevention and elimination of water and marine pollutants in view to achieve and maintain a good chemical and ecological status of water bodies;
 - Air. The protection of air and the improvement of air quality through the prevention and/or reduction of air pollutants;
 - Soil. The restoration, remediation, protection and improvement of soil health, within natural or managed ecosystem boundaries, in view to provide ecosystem services, including to sustain plant and animal productivity and maintain or enhance water and air quality and to prevent soil loss;
 - Chemicals management. A more sustainable use of chemicals substances and mixtures, on their own and in articles and final products (including e.g. pesticides, fertilisers, antimicrobials and nanomaterials).
- 50% of the projects financed under the sub-programme Climate mitigation and adaptation, are expected to provide a significant contribution (40%) to the achievement of biodiversity targets. It supports i.a.
 - the rollout of viable nature-based solutions in the management of land, coastal and marine areas including through assessments, guidance, capacity building, and suitable financial approaches and products;
 - approaches and solutions to ensure a stable and secure supply of high quality freshwater, prevent droughts, reduce water use, protect and restore wetlands, and prevent floods.

The parts of the sub-programmes indicated under 2 and 3 are expected to provide a significant contribution (40%) to the achievement of biodiversity targets.

Taking into account the bottom up approach of the programme and the fact that the 2021 calls for proposals are still under evaluation the figures for 2021 still represent an estimate.

ERRATA CORRIGE: In the contributions of the LIFE programme to biodiversity mainstreaming for the year 2020, there was an error in the amount of the achieved contributions in the table and in the text below the table. The contributions of the LIFE programme to biodiversity mainstreaming in the framework of the objective “Contribute to a greener and more resource-efficient economy and to the development and implementation of EU environmental policy and legislation” are EUR 52,4 million and not EUR 60,4 million, as erroneously indicated in the table. The contributions of the LIFE programme to biodiversity mainstreaming in the framework of the objective “Halting and reversing the biodiversity loss, including the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of the ecosystems” are EUR 221,1 million and not EUR 122,2 million, as erroneously indicated in the text below the table. As a consequence the LIFE programme provided in 2020 a contribution of EUR 303,7 million to biodiversity mainstreaming.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

Examples of on-going projects targeting nature and biodiversity are the following:

The LIFE IP - MarHa Nature Integrated Project for effective and equitable management of marine habitats in France aims at improving the conservation status of all French marine habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive. The project is working towards a short-term goal of at least half the habitats having a good conservation status by 2025. By 2040, the project aims at achieving a favourable conservation status for all the habitat types. It is expected that the project will contribute significantly to the implementation of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in France and, more specifically, to all the marine habitat actions being carried out. In addition to the IP budget itself, the project will facilitate the coordinated use of about 50 Million EUR of complementary funding from EAFRD, ERDF, and national funds.

The **LIFE DELFI** project targets the reduction of dolphin mortality caused by fishing activities. Specific objectives are to: 1. disseminate bycatch reducer devices to reduce interactions between dolphins and fishing gear; 2. replace traditional fishing gear with less impacting gear; 3. support fishermen in the development of dolphin watching as an additional economic activity, especially in dolphin hot spot areas; 4. support fishermen in adopting more sustainable fishing practices through information desks; 5. raise awareness on the role of fishing in the protection of the marine environment; and 6. help public authorities to support fishermen through the introduction of compensation measures for damage caused by dolphins

6.2.4. Performance

LIFE has been a key tool supporting the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives since 1992 and has been instrumental and, in some cases crucial, to ensure the establishment of the Natura 2000 network.

LIFE projects financed in 2014-2020 continue to be a small but effective source of financing for biodiversity:

- More than 15 000 km² of habitats are being restored or are improving their conservation status;
- More than 300 species have improved their conservations status thanks to LIFE;
- Over 1500 Natura 2000 sites have benefited from LIFE funding by the end of 2019.

6.3. Contribution to clean air financing

6.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
	0.00	0.00					0.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The table below provides a view of the expected contribution of the LIFE Programme 2014-2020 to air quality and indicates the way in which it is calculated:

Action	Marker	LIFE contribution
LIFE projects focused on clean air	100%	96.782.897 EUR
LIFE projects contributing to clean air as a secondary benefit	40%	32.849.832 EUR
Total LIFE contribution to clean air		129.632.729 EUR

The methodology for calculating air quality spending was defined at the beginning of 2020 based on Rio markers, with the intention to capture the contribution of the programme to “clean air”, thus encompassing actions towards increasing air quality and reducing air pollution.

The financing for air quality is assessed at project level as follows:

- LIFE spending for projects focused on clean air, including relevant climate change mitigation projects (100 %);
- LIFE expenditures for projects significantly contributing to clean air as secondary benefit (40 %) and
- other LIFE expenditures (0 %).

This is the third year that the contribution of the LIFE Programme to air quality is required, however there are limited data available on all the on-going 2014-2019 projects. In particular, data on projects focused on clean air and data on projects having clean air as secondary benefit (40%) are not available for 2020 and cover only three projects in 2019. As a consequence, the contribution of the LIFE programme to clean air which appears in the table is underestimated.

6.3.3. Key achievements

An example is the **PREPAIR LIFE** integrated project that aims to improve air quality on a wide scale in the territory of the Po Valley in Italy and in Slovenia. It focuses on four main areas – biomass burning, energy efficiency, transport and agriculture. Activities promoted include the creation of a network of bike stations of the main cities of the Po Basin and develop cycling infrastructure; the establishment of permanent infrastructure for sharing air quality and emissions data, including an accessible common database of observed and modelling air quality data; training of public officers and advisors, with the aim of raising awareness and providing technical information to the local authorities to ensure that their plans take into account all types of sustainable transports; the promotion of electric mobility and sustainable driving. The project will implement also one demonstration project to improve the quality and usability of the cycle paths and at least one electric vehicle public transport initiative as well as at least three demonstration actions aimed at improving short-range freight transport.

The **LIFE-MAPPINGAIR/PL** project currently implemented in Poland supports a broad air quality information and awareness-raising campaign linking air quality forecasts, expanded monitoring and modern methods of education. It builds on the work of a previous project, LIFE-APIS/PL, adding new awareness raising and information tools. The project will educate citizens about the air quality in urban areas, with a special focus on the types and scale of threats, on how to reduce the problem, on health advice and on the air quality law. The project will also develop an online educational platform for air quality in the regions of Lower Silesia and Kuyavia.

The LIFE Programme also contributed the Commission preparatory work related to the [Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil](#) and the [Chemical strategy for sustainability](#).

6.3.4. Performance

LIFE projects are expected to improve the quality of the air of 2.7 million people. They are reducing for example particulate matter (PM) by more than 200.000 tons/year, Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) from automobiles trucks and various non-road vehicles by 5 million tons/year, Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) from fossil fuels by 5 million tons/year and ammonia (NH₃) from agricultural and non-agricultural sources by 50.000 tons/year.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates		2022-2027 programming					Total
2021	2022N	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 738.7							0*

(* Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Although gender equality is not among the specific objectives of the LIFE programme, a gender dimension is specifically taken into account in some areas of intervention to identify how men and women relate to the environment and climate action in different ways, thus addressing specific gender vulnerabilities e.g. inherent to harmful chemicals such as endocrine disruptors and persistent organic pollutants.

The links between gender and chemicals are also outlined in the EU [Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability Towards a Toxic-Free Environment](#). On-going work in this area is related to the reinforcement of the legal framework, with particular reference to the [REACH](#) and [CLP](#) Regulations, to support innovation for safe and sustainable chemicals and to promote better knowledge through specific LIFE projects. Some 2021 LIFE-funded activities such as “The third annual forum on endocrine disruptors”, the 2nd meeting of the High Level Roundtable on the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the study on a common open platform on chemical safety mention a gender dimension, identifying specific vulnerabilities linked to pregnancy.

A gender perspective is also included, where relevant, at project level, often as a component of multidimensional projects.

Taking into account the scope of the LIFE programme, its limited size and its bottom up approach, it would not be appropriate to provide annual estimates in line with the principle of proportionality. At present some options for the systematic collection of information and data on the programme’s contributions to gender equality are being analysed. This should allow the integration of the gender dimension in the programme performance, so as to have the possibility to report on these contributions by the end of the programme. In case this system will be not-cost-effective, taking into account the burden for the project beneficiaries, or the information collected will be not significant enough, the score of the programme could be revised.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The LIFE programme does not aim to directly address poverty. However, some projects may include activities directed at not leaving anyone behind and/or to promote social justice in reaching climate neutrality.

The project **LIFE DoppelPlus** empowered individuals in low-income households to contribute to the Province of Tyrol's energy and climate strategy (to reduce the energy and CO2 consumption) within their means and improve the quality of life and financial situation. This was achieved by individual consultations of the households through so-called energy/climate coaches, which visited the households up to three times during the project course and explained relevant energy saving methods. The households received a starter kit to enhance motivation. The overall objective of the project has been to initiate change in everyday action of low-income households. Taking social justice into account, it is of high importance to include low-income households.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The promotion of sustainable agriculture is pursued in the framework of the nature and biodiversity projects as well as in the framework of the projects pursuing resource efficiency, clean water and water savings, soils.

An example is the **LIFE to Grasslands** project that was implemented between 2015 and 2020 in Slovenia. It focused on the conservation and management of dry grassland species listed under the Habitats directive. While pursuing its nature conservation-related objectives by restoring 139,14 ha of habitats and securing the sustainable management of grasslands over a total of 678 ha, the project fostered the development of sustainable agricultural production methods by supporting farms with the development of 10-years management plans for the extensive use of species-rich grassland taking into account the economic viability of these measures for the farmers. During the project period, five farms switched to organic farming, with organic milk being sold at higher prices to local dairy. Other farms registered or planned to register a new complementary activity on the farm (fruit processing, tourism on the farm). The project activities demonstrated a new farming model and new opportunities for marketing products from dry grasslands by using the collective brand "From step meadows of Haloze". The ongoing project **Dinara back to LIFE** is replicating this approach in Croatia. In December 2021 the project received by the National Geographic Croatia the Yellow Frame award for Sustainable Development in the category "Promoting of sustainable agriculture".

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

LIFE funds projects that work on improving air quality and specific air pollutants.

LIFE IP CLEAN AIR is supporting the municipalities of Sofia, Burgas, Veliko Tarnovo, Montana, Ruse, and Stara Zagora in their efforts to reduce air pollution and decrease PM10 emissions from household heating and other sources. With a combination of different activities including capacity building, awareness raising and transfer of knowledge, LIFE IP CLEAN AIR aims to achieve the target of fewer than 35 days per year of above-average daily levels of PM10, as required by EU and national legislation; reach and maintain average annual PM10 concentrations below the annual target for human health as determined by EU and national legislation; decrease the highest registered 24-hour concentrations of M10; and decrease PM2.5 and Sulphur oxide (SO2) levels by reducing domestic coal and wood fire emissions".

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Some LIFE projects promote new sustainable practices by allowing knowledge sharing, awareness raising and training activities.

The LIFE CLIMATE SMART CHEFS, will enable chefs to better promote a climate-smart, sustainable and healthy food system in the EU. This will be achieved by mobilising the capacities of different stakeholders and incorporating new strategies of awareness raising, communication and education, with the aim of ensuring more sustainable and nutritious diets in the EU.

The **LIFE ENABLE** project that started in May 2021 aims to equip Natura 2000 site managers with the competencies they need now and for the future, by applying a blended learning approach. The project will create a European training system called the 'European Natura Academy', which will implement a range of actions to support practical capacity building for effective nature management.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Examples of LIFE projects which foresee a gender dimension include:

"Mother and Infant dyads: Lowering the impact of endocrine disrupting Chemicals in milk for a Healthy Life ([LIFE18 ENV/IT/000460](#))". This project aims to improve knowledge about the correlation between levels of maternal exposure to EDCs/milk contamination and the health status of infants, in order to support public health policies.

"Phthalates and bisphenol A biomonitoring in Italian mother-child pairs: link between exposure and juvenile diseases ([LIFE13 ENV/IT/000482](#))" aims to estimate internal levels of di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (DEHP) metabolites and Bisphenol A (BPA) among children and their mothers in view to reduce exposure and risks from endocrine disruptors (EDs).

"Linking Environment and Health: a Country-based Human Biomonitoring Study on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Women of Reproductive Age (WOMENBIOPOP project [LIFE08 ENV/IT/000423](#))". This project aimed to respond to the increasing demand for information on POP exposure level (from environmental origins). It focused on a subpopulation covering women of reproductive age (20-40 years), whose exposure to POPs was assessed through biomonitoring. Project actions aimed to analyse POP blood concentrations and determine the 'internal dose' of selected contaminants resulting from all exposures sources and routes. Areas with different exposure zones were to be identified in nine regions and different monitoring plans were drawn up, according to the level of industrial activity.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

LIFE projects work to prevent pollution, ensure water savings and improve the ecological status of the water bodies.

The Maltese Integrated Project **LIFE-IP-RBMP-Malta**, which is working on the implementation of the second River Basin Management Plan in Malta, aims at reducing domestic water demand by ~ 5% resulting in estimated impact of 3.5 million m³ of water savings per year.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Under the LIFE-programme, aspects of sustainable energy have been considered within the sub-programmes on Circular Economy and Climate Mitigation and Adaptation.

Moreover, the LIFE programme 2021-2027 includes a dedicated sub-programme, the LIFE Clean Energy Transition Sub programme (“LIFE-CET”). LIFE-CET will continue market up-take and policy implementation actions for sustainable energy buildings on the successful approaches developed under the energy efficiency part of H2020. In this, the LIFE-CET programme will follow up specifically the market up-take and policy implementation dimension of actions, both, in the area of energy efficiency and, in yet a more pronounced way, in the area of decentralised renewable energy. In this very tradition, LIFE CET-projects are expected to support capacity building, effective policy implementation and robust planning; they will develop innovative methods and services for integration, standardisation, industrialisation, digitalisation and aggregation of sustainable energy projects, provide technical assistance and mobilise investments, support consumers and communities in taking an active role, increase market transparency etc.

As example of on-going LIFE projects, **LIWE LIFE** aims to demonstrate advanced wastewater treatment technologies that improve water quality while boosting both resource and energy efficiency. The so-called Circular Wastewater System (CWS) developed by the municipality of Lidköping will tackle emerging pollutants and pathogens in local effluents, notably removing pharmaceuticals, hormones and micro-plastics that conventional wastewater plants struggle to filter out of water supplies. The new ängen wastewater treatment plant will generate over 700 MWh of renewable energy each year through anaerobic digestion and sell this power to the grid. The project will also attempt to valorise resources (e.g. nutrients) recovered through its process. By implementing cost-effective, resource efficient wastewater treatment, the LIWE LIFE project will support the European Innovation Partnership on water and facilitate a more sustainable use of resources and energy as set out in the EU action plan for the circular economy.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

LIFE is a catalyst for investments in innovative green businesses that will help generate more jobs, both directly and indirectly. Replication of successful projects and ideas can lead to further green growth. LIFE funding has supported the upscaling of technologies and the replication of techniques, which have had a positive impact on employment, generating jobs for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers, as well as highly qualified specialists.

Furthermore, under the LIFE programme, the so-called Close to Market initiative assists companies to bring their green products, technologies, services and processes to the market.

The project **LIFE Waste2Protein** aims to foster the use of biowaste as a resource to produce insect proteins from Black soldier flies (BSF). It will install a modular pilot plant to breed 300 tonnes of BSF larvae in different development stages. This will need an input of 20 tonnes of biowaste per day to feed the BSF larvae, delivered from local supermarket chains. The project installed a pilot plant for insect protein production at large scale with an estimated annual production capacity by 2022 of 730 tonnes of insect protein, 3 650 tonnes of substrate for fertilisers and 365 tonnes of high-value fat from 7 300 tonnes of biowaste. Compared to conventional method of fish and soy meal production, the project is expected to achieve environmental benefits including reduced CO₂ and methane emissions and water and energy consumption, as well as economic gains through a significant (80%) reduction of costs for the industrial production of 1 tonne of insect protein.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The main objective of the **LIFE-DIADEME** project was to demonstrate a new, cost-efficient street lighting dimming system that is designed to reduce energy consumption by 30% in comparison with state-of-the-art control systems. New cost-efficient distributed street lighting dimming systems were installed in full-scale demonstration sites in the Italian cities of Rome, Piacenza, and Rimini. The project team demonstrated that the adaptive DIADEME systems reduce energy consumption by 57% on average when compared to a full light system, and by almost 41% when compared to a pre-programmed system (where lighting intensity decreased according to a time schedule defined in advance on statistic basis). The technology automatically adapts the lighting intensity based on several parameters, including constantly-monitored traffic loads. The adoption of more than 19 000 systems after three years (foreseen in the project’s business plan) should reduce energy consumption and related CO₂eq emissions by, respectively, 1 238 MWh/year and 496 tons/year (compared to pre-regulated systems). As the new system enhances reliability and reduces maintenance, it will consequently reduce the quantity of electronic waste produced, by 542 kg/year during the demonstration.

In line with the objectives of South Tyrols climate plan, **Zero Emission LIFE IP** will be a catalyst for the development of a fully zero-emission road transport and mobility system across the region, along the Brenner corridor (a main European traffic axis) and in neighbouring regions. A crucial objective of the project is the implementation of hydrogen infrastructure and a project main aim is the reduction of traffic-based CO₂ emissions up to 15% by 2026 from the deployment of zero emission vehicles.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

LIFE supports many cities in their ambitions towards better health, increased sustainability or improved resiliency to climate change. Projects pursue different aims, ranging from improvements in air quality, including the transition to carbon neutrality, to sustainable management of water, to the integration of biodiversity conservation in urban landscape.

The project **LIFERADOKLIMA PL** is focusing on adaptation to climate change through sustainable management of water in urban areas. The project's overall objective is to make the city of Radom more resilient to climate change by building demonstration 'green/blue infrastructure' for managing extreme storm water flows and controlling local flood risks. The aim is to mitigate extreme flows of water coming from outside the city and increase storm water retention by restoring and creating multi-use retention areas (while creating habitats for biodiversity), and by re-naturalising the river to restore its natural retention capacity.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

LIFE contributes to the shift towards a sustainable, circular and climate-neutral economy. As a priority, it finances: (1) innovative solutions to support value-added recycled materials, components or products (2) the implementation of business and consumption models or solutions to support value chains, particularly the key product value chains set out in the new EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy, aiming at reducing or preventing resource use and waste (3) the identification, tracking, separation, prevention and decontamination of waste containing hazardous substances.

The **LIFE-ECOTEX** project is an example of this contribution. This project developed an innovative, eco-efficient and highly replicable recycling system for polyester textile waste. Polyester is the second largest family of plastics in terms of quantity used. Still, in the footwear industry, up to 7% of high-grade polyester textiles is lost during manufacture. This waste is difficult to recycle, making landfilling and incineration the most frequent solution. Spain's LIFE-ECOTEX project set out to find a sustainable solution for this polyester waste by chemically recycling it via catalytic glycolysis. The process resulted in high added value chemical monomers that were used again as a raw material to produce new footwear and insulation materials. This also increased the circularity of this industry and reduced Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For example, manufacturing the new raw material cut emissions by 35% when compared to producing virgin polyester. Also, a pair of shoe insoles made from recycled polyester had a 23% lower carbon footprint than insoles commonly used in trainers. The new method implied a fall in the amount of polyester textile waste being landfilled by 750 kg. The project developed 330 prototype shoe insoles and 24 insulation panels, which were manufactured with chemically recycled polyester. Several companies in the textile, automotive and packaging industries have started projects to replicate this chemical process.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Although all LIFE subprogrammes contribute to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, one LIFE subprogramme is fully dedicated to climate mitigation and climate and climate adaptation. The sub-programme on clean energy transition focus specifically in fostering the transition to more sustainable forms of energy consumption. Given that 75% of GHG emitted in the EU coming from energy consumptions, clean energy transition is a most fundamental area to address climate change.

An example of LIFE project addressing climate change mitigation is **LIFE Beef Carbon** that focused on emissions associated with livestock production. The project aim was to reduce beef carbon footprint by 15% over 10 years in four major EU beef producing countries: France, Ireland, Italy and Spain. Based on the activities tested during the project implementation which range from change of diets to manure management to improvement of animal performance, the beneficiaries also built national action plans to extend the Beef Carbon initiative to a larger panel of farms. In terms of GHG emissions reduction, the project showed positive results estimating a mitigation potential of 42,000 tons of CO₂-eq in the innovative farms engaged in the project. The benefits related to the replication activities also showed positive results. For instance, the carbon actions plans implemented in Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Pays de la Loire regions in France are expected to lead to a reduction of 800,000 tons of CO₂-eq.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Established together with the Nature directives, the LIFE programme has among its core activities, the support to nature and biodiversity. Throughout the years, LIFE projects contributed to the identification and designation of both the marine and terrestrial Natura 2000 network, purchased tens of thousands of hectares of Europe's most rare and endangered habitat types and restored degraded ecosystems, safeguarded numerous species from extinction, ensured the recovery of many local and endemic species, supported practical measures on the ground to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species.

The ongoing project **LIFECALLIOPE** is working to protect coastal dunes, sublittoral sandbanks and marine reefs along the central Adriatic coast of Italy and the north-western coast of Cyprus, and especially to mitigate direct and indirect human threats (e.g. from conflicts with fishing and tourist activities). The project will implement integrated management for coastal and marine areas to conserve target habitats and species, in line with the European Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) strategy. In addition to ecosystem restoration activities, the project aims to establish a new Natura 2000 site (pSCI) in the coastal/marine area of the nature reserves "Punta dell'Acquabella" and "Ripari di Giobbe" in Italy and to enlarge the "Punta Aderci/Punta Penna" Natura 2000 site (SCI) towards the sublittoral zone thereby contributing to extending the spatial extent of marine protected areas under Natura 2000.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The LIFE programme plays a crucial role in helping Member States to achieve various targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. There are already numerous projects in place to assist in the recovery of highly threatened species and the restoration of

thousands of hectares of degraded habitats. LIFE projects are also helping to identify ‘high nature value’ (HNV) areas that are not yet protected, as well the ecological corridors needed to ensure connectivity between Natura 2000 sites and establish a coherent Trans-European Nature Network by 2030. Finally, the LIFE programme is delivering hundreds of kilometres of free-flowing rivers, planting hundreds of thousands of trees, working with stakeholders, building partnerships and increasing public awareness of the indispensable services that nature provides.

The **LIFE OSO COUREL** project focused on the Cantabrian bear population viability promoting its expansion towards the southwest and its permanent establishment in the Serra do Courel (Galicia, Spain). Although the real impact of the project will only be seen in a medium or long term, signs of bear presence have been regularly found within the project area, which gives good future prospects regarding bear crossing and permanent settlement in Serra do Courel and habitat connectivity. The project has had an important impact on the territory and contributed to improving the social acceptance of bears, by promoting coexistence between humans and bears in the Courel. The restored areas favoured other important species present in Special Area of Conservation Ancares-Courel, such as other protected mammals and birds, and their management was secured in the long term through Land Stewardship Agreements.

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

LIFE projects have increased the capacity of a European network of environmental prosecutors to share information and develop best practice to tackle environmental crime. They have developed strategic partnerships with organisations representing inspectors (IMPEL), judges (EUFJE) and police and other enforcement agencies (EnviCrimeNet) and shared information relating to environmental prosecutions throughout the EU and the rest of the world.

The **LIFE-A2J-EARL** project that started in 2017 and ended in 2020 aimed to improve the implementation and enforcement of EU environmental law by providing the public with effective access to justice, such as judicial review, administrative review and complaints to other appeal bodies. In addition to the production of awareness-raising material on EU law and the Aarhus Convention (Handbook-Guide) and other toolkits in national languages of the eight participating countries (AU, EE, FR, DE, HU, PL, SK, ES), which allow members of the public to challenge violations of environmental law. The project created an online public interest lawyer database of which 117 lawyers from 15 countries are part. Additionally, a digital platform was established in Estonia, Poland and Hungary providing legal assistance to the public online and ensuring access to relevant information quickly. The project held a number of training sessions, workshop and webinars on access to justice in the field of environment objectives. Altogether, the project trained 2,090 people, including 1,257 experts (judges, lawyers).

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

Taking into account its size, LIFE is providing a small but effective contributions to SDGs.

In particular LIFE projects are:

- improving the conditions of over 300 wildlife species, and the status of more than 1.6 million ha of natural and semi-natural habitats;
- saving 1.6 million cubic meters of water per year,
- improving the quality of the air breathed by 2.7 million people,
- improving the ecological status of 285 km of rivers.
- saving energy by 11 million MWh/year,
- triggering the recycling of 8,000 tons/year of waste.
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions by about 12 million tons/year (CO₂ equivalent) and sequester more than 50.000 tons/year (CO₂ equivalent).
- reducing the vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change of about 1.7 million people
- improving soil quality in 4200 hectares.

HEADING 3B: Other programmes of Natural Resources and Environment**Just Transition Mechanism (JTM)****Lead DG: REGIO**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The Commission proposed in January 2020 a Just Transition Mechanism (JTM) as part of the European Green Deal Investment Plan, to make sure that no one and no region is left behind in the transition to a climate-neutral economy. The primary goal of the mechanism is to provide support to the most negatively affected regions and people and to help alleviating the socio-economic costs of the transition.

The transition towards climate-neutrality will provide opportunities, but it will also be a challenge for regions given the socio-economic costs involved in the transition process. It will also represent a number of challenges in the context of various economic sectors. The two main challenges are: expanding the **transition from fossil energy to other sectors** and **including the private sector, social partners and civil society in the transition**. Some regions will face more challenges than others and not all will have the same capacity to deal with the costs of adjusting to the climate transition.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

For some Member States, the objective to support people, economy and environment of territories facing economic and social transformation in their transition to a climate-neutral economy cannot be sufficiently achieved alone. Disparities between the levels of development of the territories, workforce and population are significant. There is a need for a coherent implementation framework covering several European Union funds under shared management as well as technical assistance to support this complex process. Those objectives can be better achieved at European Union level.

Pillar I of the Just Transition Mechanism – Just transition Fund

The first pillar of the JTM is the **Just Transition Fund (JTF)**. It aims at **alleviating the economic, environmental and social costs** of the transition towards climate neutrality, for the benefit of the territories that are most negatively affected by the transition and in line with the objective of achieving EU climate-neutrality by 2050 in an effective and fair manner. The Fund's support is focused on economic reconversion measures, reskilling of affected workers and jobseekers, job seeking assistance and, when necessary, active inclusion measures.

The JTF is established within the framework of cohesion policy, which is the main EU policy instrument to reduce regional disparities and to address structural change in Europe's regions –sharing cohesion policy's objectives in the specific context of the transition towards climate neutrality. It comes in addition to the substantial contribution of the EU's budget through all instruments directly relevant to the transition, notably the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF'), the Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund Plus ('ESF+'). The resources from the JTF should complement the other resources available under cohesion policy. It will concentrate resources on territories most negatively affected, with a specific governance mechanism, dedicated funding, limited scope of intervention and specific programming framework - though Territorial Just Transition Plans (TJTps).

While the JTF will provide funding primarily in the form of grants, the two other financing streams (InvestEU scheme and public sector loan facility) planned as part of the JTM will leverage public and private investment by backing investment projects of financial partners such as the EIB.

Pillar II

The second pillar of the JTM is the dedicated **just transition scheme under InvestEU**. A portion of financing under InvestEU will be focused on just transition objectives to support economically viable investments by private and public sector entities. This pillar is not part of this programme statement (it is managed by another Directorate-General and is subject to another programme statement).

Pillar III - Public Sector Loan Facility

The third pillar of the JTM is the **public sector loan facility**. It will support projects that do not generate a sufficient stream of own revenues to cover investment costs. Loans (provided by finance partners such as the EIB) will be combined with grants to provide public sector entities with resources to meet the development needs in the transition towards a climate neutral economy. Supported investments will cover a wide range from energy and transport infrastructure, district-heating networks, energy efficiency, as well as up- and re-skilling, training and social infrastructure, including social housing.

The general objective of the public sector loan facility is to address serious social, economic and environmental challenges deriving from the transition towards the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets and the objective of climate neutrality in the Union by 2050 at the latest, for the benefit of the Union territories identified in the Territorial Just Transition Plans.

1.3. Specific objectives

Pillar I – Just transition Fund

The JTF shall contribute to the single specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate and a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement.

Pillar III – Public Sector Loan Facility

The public sector loan facility has the specific objective of increasing public sector investments, which address the development needs of the territories identified in the Territorial Just Transition Plans, by facilitating the financing of projects that do not generate a sufficient stream of revenues to cover their investment costs, in order to prevent the replacement of potential support and investment from alternative resources.

1.4. Public intervention context

The Regulation establishing the JTF was adopted on 24 June 2021 (Regulation (EU) 2021/1056) The regulation on the public sector loan facility under the JTM was adopted on 14 July 2021.. To help Member States in drafting the TJTps, the Commission has developed and published (in all Community languages) in September 2021 a Staff Working Document, (SWD(2021) 275 final).

Only areas identified for support in the TJTPs included in the adopted programmes can receive support from the JTF. Where Member States want to make use of the possibility to receive support under the Invest EU scheme and the public sector loan facility (ie the other two pillars) , the TJTPs shall set out the sectors and areas envisaged to be supported under those pillars.

JTF resources could be reinforced on a voluntary basis with complementary funding from the ERDF and the ESF+. The respective amounts transferred from the ERDF and the ESF+ should be consistent with the type of operations set out in the Territorial Just Transition Plans.

1.5. Actions

The JTF programming process, including the identification of the territories for intervention and corresponding actions, is subject to a dialogue between the Commission and each Member State. It is steered by the European Semester process. The territories identified need to be those that are most negatively affected based on the economic and social impacts resulting from the transition, in particular with regard to expected job losses and the transformation of the production processes of industrial facilities with the highest greenhouse gas intensity.

The Commission services already included their preliminary views on the territories expected to be the most vulnerable to transition in a dedicated Annex D to the 2020 Country Reports. Taking into account the Commission's analysis in that exercise, in 2022 most of the Member States are advancing in the process of preparing one or more TJTPs. The plans are providing an outline of the transition process until 2030, consistent with the National Energy and Climate Plans and the transition to a climate-neutral economy.

Pillar I – Just Transition Fund

The actions under JTF give a unique opportunity to fulfil the aims connected with the European Green Deal.

The support from the JTF will be based on the TJTPs and programmed under mainstream cohesion programmes as one or more priorities. Only investments in accordance with the TJTPs should receive financial support from the JTF.

The TJTPs need to include commitments on key climate and energy transition steps and must be in line with national energy and climate plans. They should detail the challenges and needs of those territories (including island, insular areas and outermost regions), taking into account depopulation risks, and identify the type of operations needed to contribute to job creation at the level of the plan and in a manner that ensures the coherent development of climate-resilient economic activities. These need to be consistent with the transition to climate-neutrality and the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Actions financed from JTF can contribute to the recovery post the Covid-19 pandemic, as they will finance economic diversification and modernisation and mitigate job losses caused by the climate transition. The JTF will make these regions more resilient for the future.

All investments should support local economies through stimulating their endogenous growth potential in accordance with the respective smart specialisation strategies. The projects financed should contribute to a transition to a sustainable, climate-neutral and circular economy, including measures aiming at increasing resource efficiency.

The JTF supports investments in

- SMEs;
- research and innovation activities;
- affordable clean energy, including energy storage technologies, and in greenhouse gas emission reduction;
- renewable energy and in energy efficiency;
- smart and sustainable local mobility;
- digitalisation, digital innovation and digital connectivity;
- regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites, land restoration;
- enhancing the circular economy, including through waste prevention, reduction, resource efficiency, reuse, repair and recycling;
- rehabilitation and upgrade of district heating networks;
- upskilling and reskilling of workers and jobseekers and job-search assistance.

Pillar III – Public Sector Loan Facility

The public sector loan facility will support public investments, through preferential lending conditions. These investments will benefit the territories most negatively affected by the climate transition as identified in the TJTPs. In this respect, the public sector loan facility will cover a wide range of sustainable investments, provided that such investments contribute to meeting the development needs of these territories caused by the transition towards the Union's 2030 climate target and climate neutrality in the Union by 2050 at the latest, as described in the TJTPs.

The public sector loan facility could support investments in renewable energy and green and sustainable mobility, efficient district heating networks, public research, digitalisation, environmental infrastructure for smart waste and water management, and could

support sustainable energy, energy efficiency and integration measures, urban renewal and regeneration, the transition to a circular economy, land and ecosystem restoration and decontamination, up-skilling and re-skilling, training and social infrastructure. Infrastructure development could also include cross-border projects and solutions leading to enhanced resilience to withstand ecological disasters, in particular those accentuated by climate change. A comprehensive investment approach should be favoured, in particular for territories with important transition needs. Investments in other sectors could also be supported if they are consistent with the approved territorial just transition plans.

1.6. Delivery mode

The JTF will be implemented through shared management in close cooperation with national, regional and local authorities and stakeholders. This will ensure ownership of the transition strategy and provide the tools and structures for an efficient management framework. Under the shared management mode, the co-legislators fix the legal framework and the overall funding and determine the allocations by Member States and category of region. The Commission will adopt all programmes in the course of 2022. As regards implementation, the Commission cooperates with Member States' administrations (at national, regional and local level), which are in charge of the operational implementation.

Pillar I – Just Transition Fund

Implementation of the JTF will only start after the JTF programmes at national or regional level are adopted and underpinned by a properly designed TJTPs detailing among others the envisaged transition pathway. In order to ensure proper design and implementation of the territorial plans including its ownership, it is crucial to involve local stakeholders and create a robust partnership around its programming and implementation.

Pillar III – Public Sector Loan Facility

The public sector loan facility will provide support in the form of grants provided by the European Union combined with loans provided by a finance partner. The grant component of the public sector loan facility will be implemented through direct management by REGIO and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). The management of the facility will take the form of financing not linked to costs. This form of financing will help incentivise project promoters to participate and contribute to the achievement of the facility's objectives in an efficient way relative to the size of the loan.

The loan component will be provided by the European Investment Bank. The public sector loan facility may also be extended to other finance partners, where additional resources for the grant component become available or where it is required for the correct implementation.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Just Transition Mechanism - structure (Pillars I and III)



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	8 452.84

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	4.0	1 460.9	1 610.2	1 636.5	1 663.2	1 389.5	1 417.4	9 181.8
NextGenerationEU	10.7	5 385.6	5 472.2					10 868.5
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	46.3	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	46.3
Total	61.0	6 846.5	7 082.4	1 636.5	1 663.2	1 389.5	1 417.4	20 096.5

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The JTM is a new programme. The JTF is a new cohesion policy fund for 2021-2027 and the Public Sector Loan Facility is a new Union instrument. They are complementary to each other and act in complementarity with the other cohesion policy funds.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Just Transition Mechanism

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-funding-sources_en

Just Transition Platform

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/actions-being-taken-eu/just-transition-mechanism/just-transition-platform_en

Within the activities of the Just Transition Platform, in the course of 2022, there will be a new comprehensive website created. It will include, i.e. a multiactive map with JTF programmes, TJTPs depository, information funding opportunities and information about the events concerning just transition. It will also provide project and expert databases to guide stakeholders toward relevant knowledge, evaluations and project examples, therefore creating an expert network for EU countries, regions, agencies and stakeholders to exchange information and good practices.

Cohesion Open Data Platform - <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu>

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	9.6	20 096.5	0%
Payments	1.6		0%

Pillar I – The Just Transition Fund

Implementation will only start after the JTF programmes are adopted. The programmes are expected to be adopted during 2022.

Pillar III – Public Sector Loan Facility

The first calls for proposals will be launched once a sufficient number of TJTPs are adopted, towards the middle of 2022 and the first grant agreements are expected to be signed in 2023.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Common output and result indicators as well as programme-specific output and result indicators shall be established.

For output indicators, baselines shall be set at zero. The milestones set for 2024 and targets set for 2029 shall be cumulative.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

JTF is a newly created fund, there is not enough data regarding the TJTPs. The Commission therefore lacks the basis on which to assess the different investment priorities and intensities.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Given the newly established nature of the JTM, evaluations, studies and reports are not yet available. A JTF-related study (to be launched in 2022) will assess the outcome and impact of the establishment of Territorial Just Transitions Plans.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Enabling regions and people to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards the Union’s 2030 target for climate and a climate-neutral economy by 2050, based on the Paris Agreement

Indicator 1: Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Enterprises supported by grants										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										
Enterprises supported by financial instruments										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										
Enterprises with non-financial support										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	
Start-ups supported	
	Milestones
	Actual Progress
	Final
Are we on track :	

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of the support to enterprises linked to Just Transition
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Enterprises cooperating with research institutions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of the support to encourage cooperation with research institutions
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Enterprises supported to achieve the reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of the support to enterprises to reduce GHG emissions
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Digital services and products developed for enterprises

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final

	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Euro
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Support to digitisation to enterprises
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Capacity of incubation created

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of enterprise incubation capacity linked to Just Transition
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Dwellings with improved energy performance

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Dwellings
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Number of dwellings with improved energy performance due to the financial support provided.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: SMEs investing in skills development

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
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Unit of measurement	Enterprises
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach to the support for SMEs for skill enhancement linked
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Public buildings with improved energy performance

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Square metres
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of support to energy performance of public buildings
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 9: Additional production capacity for renewable energy (of which: electricity, thermal)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	MW
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Contribution to renewable energy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 10: Additional capacity for waste recycling

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes/year
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of supported waste recycling projects
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 11: Cities and towns with new or modernised digitised urban transport systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	cities and towns
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of supported urban transport projects
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 12: Surface area of rehabilitated land supported

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach on land rehabilitation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 13: Systems for monitoring air pollution installed for participants

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach on monitoring of air pollution
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 14: Jobs created in supported entities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 15: Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 16: SMEs introducing product or process innovation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 17: Unemployed, including long-term unemployed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Long-term unemployed										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :										
Inactive										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
Employed, including self-employed										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
Below 30 years of age										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
Above 54 years of age										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
With lower secondary education or less (ISCED 0-2)										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
With upper secondary (ISCED 3) or post-secondary education (ISCED 4)										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
With tertiary education (ISCED 5 to 8)										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										
Total number of participants										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									
										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach of support on unemployed participants
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 18: SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 19: SMEs innovating in-house

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 20: Patent applications submitted to European Patent Office

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 21: Estimated greenhouse-gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC in supported enterprises

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 22: Users of new public digital services and applications

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Users of new digital products, services and applications developed by enterprises										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 23: 3-year-old enterprises surviving in the market

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 24: SMEs using incubator services one year after the incubator creation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									

	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 25: Apprenticeships supported in SMEs

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 26: SMEs staff completing Continuing Vocational Education and Training (CVET) (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 27: Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 28: Estimated greenhouse gas emissions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 29: Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 30: Renewable energy: Capacity connected to the grid (operational)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 31: Population served by waste recycling facilities and small waste management systems

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 32: Waste recycled

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 33: Recycled waste used as raw materials

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 34: Waste recovered

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 35: Annual users of new or modernised public transport

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 36: Population benefiting from measures for air quality

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 37: Rehabilitated land used for green areas, social housing, economic or community activities for participants

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on										

track :

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	DG REGIO
Link to the objective	Outreach on land rehabilitation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 38: Participants engaged in job searching upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 39: Participants in education or training upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 40: Participants gaining a qualification upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	

Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 41: Participants in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 2: Pillar II

Indicator 1: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: SMEs introducing marketing or organisational innovation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: SMEs innovating in-house

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Patent applications submitted to European Patent Office

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Increasing public sector investments, which address the development needs of regions identified in the territorial just transition plans, by facilitating the financing of projects that do not generate a sufficient stream of own revenues to cover investment costs, in order to prevent the replacement of potential support and investment from alternative resources

Indicator 1: Volume of grants awarded

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Volume of loans signed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Individual loans										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										
Loan schemes										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Overall investment mobilised, divided as follows

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Amount of private financing mobilised										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										
Amount of public financing mobilised										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Euro
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	Investment mobilised by the Just Transition Fund
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Number of projects receiving support, including geographical coverage

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Country										
	Milestones									

track :	
Public utilities (water, wastewater, district heating, energy, waste management)	
	Milestones
	Actual Progress
	Final
Are we on track :	
Direct support to climate transition, (renewable energy, decarbonisation, energy efficiency)	
	Milestones
	Actual Progress
	Final
Are we on track :	
Environmental objectives	
	Milestones
	Actual Progress
	Final
Are we on track :	
Urban infrastructure and housing	
	Milestones
	Actual Progress
	Final
Are we on track :	
Others	
	Milestones
	Actual Progress
	Final
Are we on track :	

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Projects
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	Projects supported by the Just Transition Fund by sector
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The Just Transition Fund is a new MFF Fund
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Greenhouse gas emission reduced, where relevant

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Job creation, where relevant

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	CINEA
Link to the objective	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	9.33	6846.50	7082.40	1636.50	1663.20	1389.50	1417.40	20044.83	100%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

According to Annex I of the CPR, JTF expenditure shall be counted as contributing 100% to climate mainstreaming.

5.1.3. Key achievements

As the JTM is a new instrument and no TJTPs have been adopted yet, details and predictions about the fund's contributions to this category cannot be made yet. More details will become available in the course of 2022.

5.1.4. Performance

To be reported from 2022 onwards

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

NA

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

As the JTM is a new instrument and no TJTPs have been adopted yet, details and predictions about the fund's contributions to this category cannot be made yet. More details will become available in the course of 2022.

5.2.3. Key Achievements

To be reported from 2022 onwards

5.2.4. Performance

To be reported from 2022 onwards

5.3. Contribution to clean air financing

5.3.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
	0.00	0.00					0.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.3.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

As the JTM is a new instrument and no TJTPs have been adopted yet, details and predictions about the fund's contributions to this category cannot be made yet. More details will become available in the course of 2022

5.4. Contribution to gender equality

5.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 3.9							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

5.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Pillar I and III of the JTM will, expectedly, contribute to these SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5, 7-13, 15. However, this will depend on the TJTPs to be adopted and on the actual projects selected.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

HEADING 4: Migration and Border Management**Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)****Lead DG: HOME**

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The role of the EU budget has been pivotal in implementing the European Agenda on Migration (2015-2020), and will be a key to the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum currently under negotiations and adopted by the Commission in September 2020. In this context, the EU has been supporting the management of asylum seekers and migrants, supporting legal migration and integration and managing effective returns. The EU budget has also been financing common measures for the effective control and surveillance of the Union's external borders to compensate the abolition of internal border controls.

However, the EU will continue to face major challenges in the area of migration in the 2021-2027 programming period. The regular reports compiled in the context of the delivery of the European Agenda on Migration confirmed the persisting need to reduce the incentives for irregular migration, to sustain efforts to save lives at sea and to secure the EU external borders, and to support actions for a strong common asylum policy and a new policy on legal migration. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027 has a key role to play in responding to these challenges and supporting the full implementation of the European migration policy for the next seven years.

The challenges in the areas of asylum and migration are, by their nature, interlinked, transnational phenomena and cannot be adequately addressed by the Member States acting alone.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The integrated management of the EU's external borders and the strengthening of the Common European Asylum System are the most effective ways to share these responsibilities and their financial implications between Member States fairly. EU funding in the area of integration of third country nationals is indispensable to increase the quality of support to newcomers in the early stages after their arrival. This is a crucial component to ensure their full inclusion in EU societies in the long- run, if they receive permanent protection.

The AMIF will aim to further increase the added value achieved in the previous programming period in terms of supporting actions with a transnational dimension. These actions aim at boosting national capacities and optimising procedures related to migration management, as well as enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between Member States, in particular through emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism as evidenced by the interim evaluation of the AMIF 2014-2020.

1.3. Specific objectives

The AMIF contributes to an efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum, and the common immigration policy, in line with the relevant EU acquis and fully respecting the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from international instruments to which they are parties. In this context, it pursues the following objectives:

- to strengthen and develop all aspects of the common European asylum system, including its external dimension;
- to strengthen and develop legal migration to the Member States, in accordance with their economic and social needs and to promote and contribute to the effective integration and social inclusion of third-country nationals;
- to contribute to countering irregular migration and enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission as well as to contribute to and to promote effective initial reintegration in third countries;
- to enhance solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges, including through practical cooperation.

1.4. Public intervention context

The evolving migratory challenges addressed by the AMIF make it a key instrument in realising the Union's objective of constituting an area of freedom, security and justice under Article 67(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which is an area of **shared competence** between the EU and the Member States (Article 4 TFEU). The objectives of the AMIF support actions focusing on one or more target groups within the scope of Articles 78 and 79 TFEU, and in particular Article 78(2) and Article 79(2) and (4) thereof. Furthermore, the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States, emphasised by the renewed AMIF, is established in Article 80 TFEU.

Since the overarching objective of the AMIF, namely to contribute to an effective management of migration flows in the Union, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States acting alone and can be better achieved at Union level, the AMIF is based on the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

The AMIF is complemented by a range of other EU activities and instruments with an impact on developments in the policy area.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum covers all of the various elements needed for a comprehensive European approach on migration, asylum, integration, return, border management and cooperation with partner countries. It is accompanied by a number of legislative and non-legislative initiatives as well as proposals for other key actions.

Stronger cooperation with key partner countries in the area of migration is also essential. The Commission focuses on comprehensive, tailor-made partnerships with third countries on all aspects of migration. In that context, funding can be provided mainly by external instruments such as the NDICI.

1.5. Actions

The AMIF supports a broad range of actions in line with the principles highlighted in the Pact on Migration and Asylum. This includes in particular:

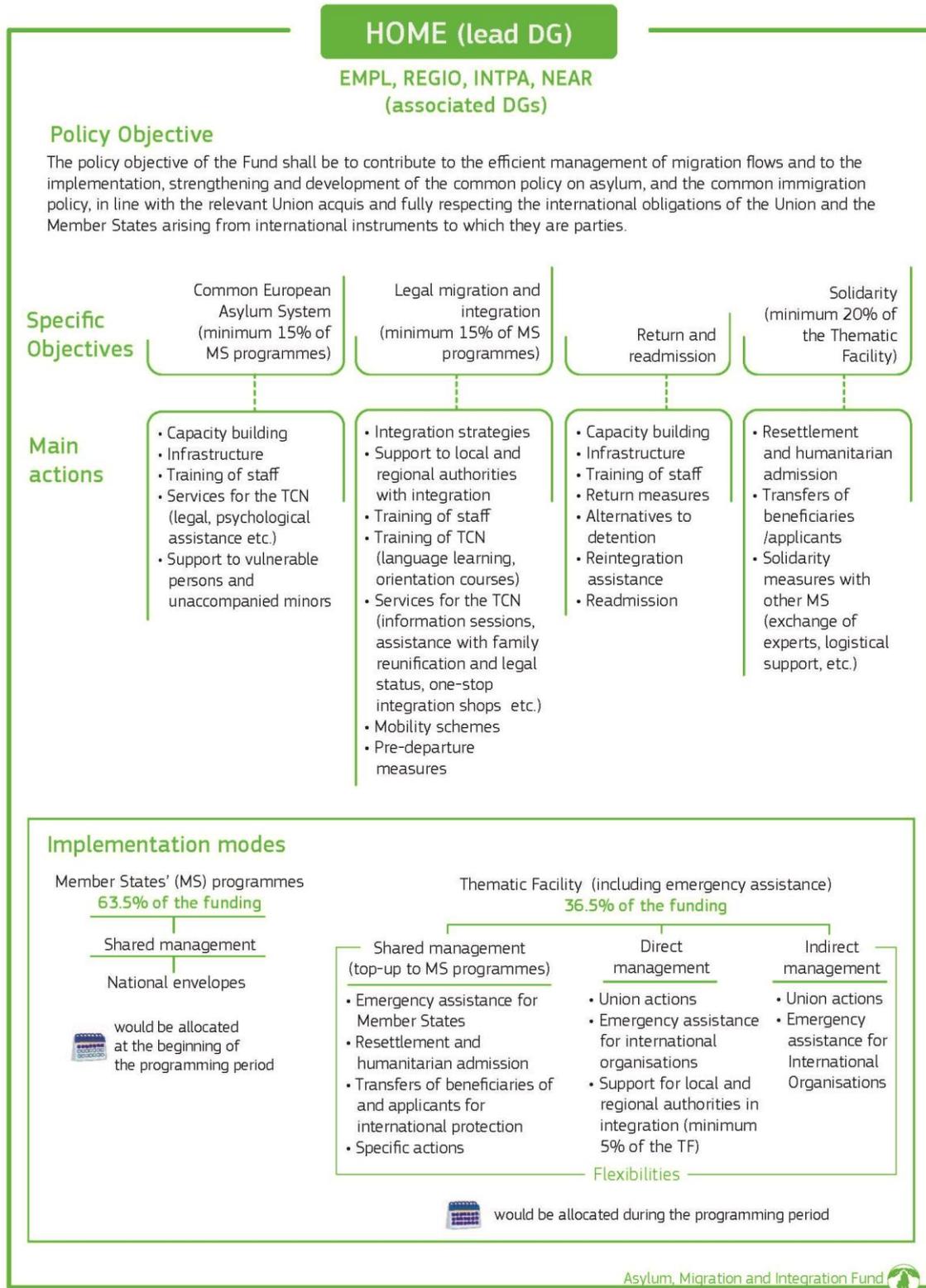
- ensuring a uniform application of the EU acquis and of the priorities related to the Common European Asylum System, legal migration and return;
- providing support and services consistent with the status and the needs of the person concerned, in particular the vulnerable groups;
- supporting resettlement, humanitarian admission and transfers of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection;
- supporting the development and implementation of policies promoting legal migration, such as the development of mobility schemes to the EU and raising awareness of the appropriate legal channels for immigration;
- supporting integration measures such as tailored support in accordance with the needs of third-country nationals and integration programmes focusing on education, language and other training such as civic orientation courses and professional guidance preparing their active participation in and their acceptance by the receiving society.
- supporting infrastructures for the reception or detention of third country nationals, including the possible joint use of such facilities by more than one Member State;
- ensuring provision of legal remedies during the return procedures such as access to free legal aid;
- supporting the development and use of alternatives to detention;
- supporting an integrated and coordinated approach to return management at the EU and Member States' level, development of capacities for effective and sustainable return and reducing incentives for irregular migration;
- contributing to addressing key deficiencies and challenges for the Member States' return systems, identified during Schengen evaluations in the field of return, and requiring urgent action;
- supporting assisted voluntary return and reintegration;
- cooperation with third countries on asylum, legal migration, countering irregular migration and on effective return and readmission for the purpose of managing migration;

1.6. Delivery mode

The AMIF will be implemented under shared, direct or indirect management. The largest part of the resources (63.5% of the total budget) will be allocated to the Member States' programmes under shared management. The remaining part (36.5% of the total budget) will be allocated to a thematic facility to be used for specific actions (implemented by the Member States nationally or transnationally), Union actions (direct/indirect management), emergency assistance (shared, or direct or indirect management), transfers of beneficiaries of and applicants for international protection and resettlement (shared management) and the European Migration Network (direct management).

Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission will be implemented by direct management. Since the AMIF is also covered by the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, DG HOME closely coordinates with DG REGIO, EMPL and MARE. In relation to the external dimension, DG HOME closely coordinates with DG INTPA, NEAR and FPI.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
-------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------

Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	9 882.00
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1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The legal basis of the AMIF is the Regulation ((EU) 2021/1147) of the European Parliament and of the Council Establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Since the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is majorly implemented through shared management, it is covered partially (financial, not policy provisions) by of the Common Provision Regulation ((EU) 2021/1060).

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	497.6	1 370.6	1 417.8	1 500.4	1 782.4	1 702.5	1 797.2	10 068.7
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The 2021-27 AMIF builds on the successful implementation of and lessons learnt from the AMIF 2014-2020. In this regard, it further strengthens the external dimension by adding areas under pre-integration, return and reintegration, which could not be fully covered in the programming period. The Pact on Migration and Asylum, published on 23 September 2020, confirms the importance of providing humanitarian legal pathways. The *Commission Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU* calls on Member States to provide more places of admission for people in need of international protection through increasing their resettlement programmes but also through humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways.

The 2021-27 AMIF also ensures more flexibility in the implementation, by having a well-balanced mix of shared, direct and indirect management. This will also make it possible to steer the funds towards EU priorities as well as pressing challenges, which cannot always be predicted or planned for from the onset. Simplification is another important element of the new Fund, as common rules for programming, reporting and financial management for eight shared management funds¹ have been established and the Fund has been aligned with similar EU funding instruments. Finally, the common monitoring and evaluation framework has been further developed to ensure a strengthened performance orientation, as well as improved and more frequent reporting on the progress towards targets and milestones.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

On the Commission website, the reader will be able to see a description of the scope and the budget allocation of the Funds: [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(2021-2027\) \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

¹ European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund Plus, Just Transition Fund, European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Internal Security Fund, Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa.

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022 led to a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine to several EU Member States. This places renewed pressure on the Member States to deal with urgent migration management needs and face related financial needs. The increased migratory pressure, including reception and asylum processing procedures, particularly affects Member States bordering Ukraine but will likewise create pressure afield throughout the whole territory of the European Union. Given the uncertain nature of the situation the pressure is expected to persist beyond 2022 and into 2023.

With a view to providing immediate support to people arriving in the Union and showing concrete solidarity with the most affected Member States, the Commission has proposed to increase flexibilities in the use of 2014-2020 funds following the proposal of prolonging the implementation period. In addition, with the pledge made on April 9 2022, the Commission proposes to make EUR 400 million available for emergency assistance, consisting of redeployment within the Thematic Facility under AMIF and BMVI as well as reinforcement of AMIF from the margin under H4 and from the SEAR (internal strand). The Ukrainian crisis and the needs following are expected to be within the proposed total envelope of the AMIF in 2023.

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	496.8	10 068.7	5%
Payments	44.9		0%

The EUR 497 million implemented in 2021 in commitment represent the Thematic Facility envelope (including Emergency Assistance (EMAS) and European Migration Network) and supporting expenditure to the Fund.

The EUR 45 million implemented in 2021 in payments represent expenditures under EMAS and AMIF support budget line.

Shared management

For the Member States' programmes, due to the delays in the adoption of the legal basis for 2021-2027 and time needed for the programming procedure, shared management programmes may only be formally approved starting from the second quarter in 2022.

The Commission also prepared a 2021-2022 Work Programme for the Thematic Facility to ensure the programming of the funding for indirect/direct and shared management on top of the basic allocations for the national programmes. The Commission has adopted the financing components of the Thematic Facility and the Work Programme for 2021 and 2022 amounting to EUR 879 681 861 on 25 November 2021 (C(2021) 8458 Final)

Union Actions

As mentioned above as of 2021 the **Union Actions** have become a part of the Thematic Facility covered by the multiannual Work Programme for 2021-2022. In view of a very successful 2020 call, most of the actions have been pencilled in for 2022 with their implementation commencing in early 2022 and continuing in 2023.

In continuation of previous years, AMIF Union Actions will cover the area of integration of third-country nationals and prevention of irregular migration, the asylum and migration policy, including the external dimension of this component to enhance third countries' capacity to provide that asylum-seekers and refugees receive effective protection, assistance and durable solutions. To that end eight topics in open call for proposals have been established in the work programme and continued support to the multilingual online information portal for prospective migrants – Infomigrant, the Regional Development and Protection Programmes, the implementation of the Migration Partnership Facility is also foreseen as well as the Return and Reintegration Facility to support to the EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration. These are complemented with procurements to support the Commission's activities.

As part of the Thematic Facility Work Programme for 2021-2022, an AMIF Union action is proposed to be specifically designed to deliver particularly high EU-added value. The objective of this action is to provide additional support to the reception, asylum and return systems of Member States particularly exposed to migratory pressure at the EU external borders, e.g. due to their geographical position. This action will contribute to enhancing solidarity with those Member States bearing high share of responsibility on behalf of the Union as a whole.

The AMIF also continues to support the European Migration Network (EMN) under the 2021-2022 work programme adopted on 26 November 2021 as a component of the thematic facility under the AMIF for an amount of EUR 23 million (C(2021) 8464 final). Grants for the National Contact Points for the work programme period as well as procurement actions to support the Network's activities are financed in this context. Another EUR 1 million has been set aside to be added co-finance the participation of Ireland in EMN once it joins AMIF.

Emergency assistance

The emergency assistance instrument provides financial assistance to Member States, International Organisations and (exceptionally) EU Agencies to address urgent and specific needs in the event of duly justified emergency situation, as defined in the Fund-specific Regulation, in particular in the areas of migration, border management and security. EMAS is one of the components of the Thematic Facility Work Programme and it takes form of grants and contributions (or grant agreements and contribution agreements). Under the new programming period two commitments were signed to support urgent needs in Ceuta, Spain and in Lithuania, reaching over EUR 56 million. The additional funds which will become available for EMAS in the context of the Ukraine crisis (described above) will contribute to the needs faced by Member States most affected by the crisis.

Spain

The Commission allocated in August 2021 emergency assistance grant of EUR 14 million to cover the provision of humanitarian assistance to the migrant population reaching the Autonomous City of Ceuta.

Lithuania

Lithuania experienced an unprecedented and disproportionate influx of third-country nationals through the border with Belarus in 2021. Lithuanian institutions were put under great pressure to provide reception and accommodation, catering, health care and education to asylum seekers. On 2 July the Government announced a state-wide emergency situation on the grounds of mass migratory influx. Lithuania also requested for support from the European Commission and three EU Agencies, as well as for activation of Union Civil Protection Mechanism. The situation was also exacerbated by the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. To meet the growing needs and the problems arising from the exceptional pressure on the Lithuanian asylum and migration system, the Commission awarded EUR 42.1 million AMIF emergency assistance from the 2021 budget to: ensure the implementation of asylum procedures; ensure adequate reception and accommodation conditions for asylum seekers; create sufficient conditions for reception of families, minors and other vulnerable groups; strengthen crisis management and communication in emergency situation; facilitate and / or motivate persons to return voluntarily to the country of origin or transit. The project will run until May 2022. The project aims inter alia to secure access to basic safe and dignified shelter for 5000 persons.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	7 585.4	7 595.0	100%
Payments	5 678.0		75%

At the end of 2021, **for the national programmes only**, 75.18% of the total envelope of the fund has been paid, meaning that MS actually spent EUR 3.44 billion over the period 2014-2020 out of EUR 4.58 million allocated under the National Programmes.

In 2017, **the national programmes** were substantially modified to include additional funding linked to resettlement (EUR 455.6 million), return (EUR 140.8 million) and measures implementing the EU Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals (EUR 140 million), in particular those carried out by civil society organisations and local authorities in the context of Member States' Migrant Integration Strategy.

In 2018, the national programmes were again revised:

- to include EUR 30 million and EUR 20 million to support respectively the integration of third country nationals and the return of irregular migrants.
- to reflect the outcome of the mid-term review exercise carried out in accordance with article 15 'Mid-term review' of the Regulation laying down general provisions on AMIF and ISF.

In December 2018, the AMIF Regulation was amended to allow the reuse of the non-consumed resources for the two Council Decisions dating from 2015 on relocation and the Council Decision dating 2016 on legal admission for other Union migration priorities beyond 2018.

Furthermore, in 2019, the national programmes were revised to include additional resources of EUR 97.6 million for resettlements to be carried-out by the Member States in 2020 and 2021. The national programmes were revised again in 2020, and increased by EUR 77.9 million, to include additional funding for resettlement.

By 15 February (or 1 March upon justified request) 2022, Member States submitted their annual accounts covering the financial year 2021; together they have requested a total amount of EUR 556 million. By 31 March 2022, the Annual Implementation Reports for AMIF were submitted by Member States. Over the period 2014-2020, EUR 3.44 billion was actually spent by the MS, equivalent to an absorption rate of 75%.

Implementation in the year 2020 and 2021 was marked by the effort to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though Member States largely managed to address the effects without any changes to the current budget, the pandemic led to some delays in project implementation and the procurement processes. The most affected types of intervention were those with actions where the final beneficiary needs face-to-face interaction with the target audience (asylum, integration, return, relocation, resettlement), those where NGOs and other organisations were prohibited to enter reception centres, the suspension of mental health services in the context of reception/asylum and the suspension of return flight operations.

Mitigating measures included an increase in the co-financing rates, an extensions of the duration of projects where needed, adaptations or modifications of project content. Project expenditure related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as online training platforms and hardware, the procurement of masks, the installation of protective measures (windows, etc.) or the cancellation costs of defaulted measures were accepted as eligible. Member States also put in place measures to protect the health of vulnerable persons in reception centres, beneficiaries of international protection and other Third Country Nationals housed in reception centres.

The implementation of AMIF will run until end-2023, and thus 2 years of implementation remain. Up to 2021, AMIF has attained an overall absorption rate of 75%, which can be considered overall satisfactory. In 2021, Member States have submitted EUR 556 million of payments to the Commission.

The Commission made a proposal to make remaining funding under the HOME Affairs Funds for the 2014-2020 programmes, including AMIF, available for the acute migration and border management needs following the Russian aggression towards Ukraine. Through the proposal remaining funds would be more accessible and thereby provide immediate support to the Member States as it swiftly can be re-direct under existing national programmes. The proposal were adopted April 2022.

Trust Fund

AMIF has been contributing to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. From 2017 to 2020, AMIF contributed EUR 135 million in order to address funding gaps identified especially for the North Africa window of the EUTF, and where needs relating to the root causes of migration are more pressing. For 2020, AMIF contributes with EUR 5.2 million. Between 2017 and December 2020, EUR 50 million were paid (out of EUR 135 million available). The assumption is that payments will be made until 2024 and will exhaust the totality of the EUR 135 million committed.

Emergency assistance

By end-December 2021, the total amount of AMIF emergency assistance allocated to Member States since 2015 had reached EUR 2.4 billion. In 2021, 21 commitments were signed in relation to emergency assistance for programming period 2014-2020 for a total of EUR 407.65 million, of which EUR 143.58 million for actions implemented by three international organisations (UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM) for the benefit of Greece. Other commitments signed in 2021 in relation to programming period 2014-2020 were for the benefit of Malta, Cyprus and Spain.

Emergency assistance in Greece

Between 2015 and 2021, a total of approx. EUR 2.07 billion were allocated to Greece through emergency assistance grants. Significant improvements have taken place and currently, the islands have been largely decongested. As of 4 April 2022, there are less than 3 000 migrants present in reception centres on the Eastern Aegean Islands.

In 2022 so far (30 March), 1 561 arrivals have been recorded in Greece (895 by sea and 666 by land). In the course of 2021, arrivals sharply fell in the wake of Covid-19 and never reached previous levels (7 443 arrivals in 2021). When compared to 2020, arrivals decreased by both sea (-61%) and land (-20%). In 2021, 28 291 people applied for international protection, while 3 917 have applied in 2022 (as of 28 February).

The decrease in arrivals has created an opportunity to develop a more structural migration management scheme in Greece, through the support of the European Commission's Task Force for Migration Management and in line with the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) agreed between Greece and the Commission in September 2020. The next programming period will focus on improving living conditions for the hosted population including for unaccompanied minors, supporting asylum procedures, integration measures and enhancing the implementation of returns.

Amongst other support activities in Greece, the Commission, together with the Greek authorities, continues the coordination of the voluntary relocation scheme from Greece that has been supported via AMIF Emergency Assistance. The voluntary scheme started in March 2020. To date, a total 4 768 persons including 1 198 unaccompanied minors, 1 712 vulnerable asylum seekers (families) and 1 858 vulnerable beneficiaries, have been relocated as of 30 March 2022.

The creation of 5 new Multi-Purpose Reception and Identification Centres (MPRICs) in the five Eastern Aegean islands, funded under 2014-2020 Emergency Assistance, targets the improvement of the living conditions of the population residing in the Greek islands. The MPRICs of Samos, Kos and Leros are already established, while the establishment of the MPRICs of Lesbos and Chios is pending.

Emergency assistance in Italy

Between 2015 and October 2020, a total of approx. EUR 292 million were allocated to Italy through emergency assistance grants. The spectrum of the activities financed is extremely wide: emergency assistance to improve the performance of its asylum procedures through the provision of asylum experts, interim administrative staff, IT equipment, inter-cultural mediation and other services to assist with the registration and processing of asylum applications, activities of border control (including overtime of staff, vessels and flight hours), emergency assistance in health care (including COVID-19 emergencies etc).

Emergency assistance in Cyprus

The migratory situation in the Eastern Mediterranean route also led to the granting of further emergency assistance to Cyprus. More specifically, in December 2019 the Commission awarded an emergency assistance grant of EUR 1.8 million (with a request to increase the budget to 2,09 million, granted in December 2021) under AMIF to strengthen the existing structures and operational capacity of the Social Welfare Services to cope with the rapidly increasing numbers of asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors. Another emergency assistance grant of EUR 3.6 million under AMIF was awarded in April 2020 to strengthen the existing structures and operational capacity of the Asylum Service and Civil Registry and Migration Department with additional staff and equipment, as well as with infrastructure for the Asylum Service.

Moreover, the Commission awarded in July 2020 another emergency assistance grant of EUR 1.2 million under AMIF to cover the needs for staff, office space and equipment of the Law Office of the Republic of Cyprus.

Emergency assistance in Malta

Although there was a 33% decrease in the number of arrivals to Malta in 2020 (2 281) compared to 2019 (3 405), given its size, Malta consistently faces major challenges in the reception of those present on the island. In July 2019, the Commission awarded an emergency assistance grant under AMIF for the voluntary relocation of persons from Malta to EU Member States and Associated States of Relocation. The total amount granted, following two amendments to the grant agreement, was almost EUR 977 500.

A revision of the national programmes took place in 2020 in order to include the additional funding for resettlements to be carried-out by MS in 2020 and 2021.

Emergency assistance in Spain

AMIF Emergency assistance in Spain focussed since the beginning on actions deployed by the national authorities to deal with the irregular migration flow to Southern Spain and the Canarias islands, for a total EUR 109,7 million AMIF funds allocated by January 2021. In 2020, arrivals by sea (40 106) increased by 54% compared to 2019. 23 023 of those were arrivals to the Canary Islands, almost 9 times more than in 2019, raising a serious challenge to the capacity to provide reception and ensure effective procedures for migrants. A project operated by the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration was amended with an additional EUR 42 million (bringing the total to 49 million) EU funds support to set-in place six temporary sheltering capacity of an overall capacity of 7 200 persons in the Canaries islands.

Union actions

Last year (2021) was a very active year for the Union actions. A vast majority of projects selected under the 2017 annual work programme was closed accompanied by a large number of grants for the recurring financing of European Migration Network National Contact Points. In 2018 programmes were still running, while those of 2019 has reached a cruising speed. The implementation of the Union actions have continued to be impacted by COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the modifications of originally approved grants, be it for the description of the actions or deadlines, hence no-cost extensions and amendments of the numerous grant agreements. New grant agreements and contribution agreements were concluded for actions under the 2020 annual work programme and their implementation started in principle in early 2022.

Apart from the open call for proposals mentioned above, this work programme also supported the multilingual online information portal for prospective migrants – Infomigrant, the Regional Development and Protection Programmes in North Africa and in the Horn of Africa, the implementation of the Migration Partnership Facility, as well as procurements to support the Commission's activities.

The AMIF also continued to support the European Migration Network (EMN) and under the 2019-2020 work programme for the EMN, for an amount of EUR 18 million, financed grants for the National Contact Points for the period which ended on 31 December 2020 as well as procurement actions to support the Network's activities.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 have properly started and the first performance reports received. The first reports should be received by 15 February 2023 and by 15 February of each subsequent year.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 have properly started and the first performance reports received

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Taking into account the volatile and challenging migration situation throughout the 2014-2020 period, it is important to stress that the AMIF is achieving its objectives. AMIF provides the financial means to push forward the EU's agenda on migration. The Commission works to establish a comprehensive approach on this agenda, developing legislative proposals to establish and improve common EU action, monitoring and enforcing the correct implementation of applicable rules by the Member States.

The AMIF focuses on the three areas identified in its acronym: Asylum, Migration and Integration. It encompasses several domains in the Asylum Systems, fighting Irregular migration, whether through awareness raising information campaigns explaining the risks of embarking on a dangerous irregular migration route, or through voluntary return. It also included Resettlement and Relocation schemes, Legal Migration, and integration of third-country nationals in the EU, with the creation networks of national, regional or local public entities. Whenever appropriate, AMIF has also drawn the focus on some vulnerable groups, such as integration of victims of trafficking of human beings, or providing support to children or unaccompanied minors, women.

Whereas in the first years a stronger focus was placed in the Asylum schemes, e.g. via resettlement and relocation, the latter years have focused increasingly on legal migration and integration addressing different target groups as well as establishing legal pathways at European level, complementing and developing Member States' efforts.

Overall, AMIF has generated important EU added value, despite the relatively small size of the funds in comparison with the important challenges imposed by the crisis that occurred during this period. The main benefit at EU level arises from the transnational dimension of certain actions but also the benefit of burden-sharing at EU level, supported in particular by the Emergency assistance and the relocation mechanism.

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) concludes in its Report on the performance of the EU budget – Status at the end of 2019, published on 13 November 2020, that the AMIF provided substantial support to help Member States face the costs and challenges of asylum and migration action, such as relocation and resettlement, migrant support schemes and funding to build and upgrade accommodation. The ECA stresses that this support is provided in a sensitive political context characterised by diverse Member State positions.

Sustainability, in the sense of investment targeting structural changes, has been thoroughly considered by AMIF both at programming and implementation stages of national programmes, and to a lesser extent in the Emergency assistance due to the nature of the actions. Overall, most of the innovative measures (e.g. simplified cost-options, multiannual programming) are considered particularly beneficial by beneficiaries and appear to have achieved simplification. Room for improvement appears to exist, especially in what concerns the internal coherence of the fund (among AMIF management modes) because there is little awareness among beneficiaries about the actions and projects realised within the AMIF framework. Similarly, the administrative burden appeared to be the main factor that undermined the efficiency, including some control measures that appeared too stringent for the Member States even if AMIF has led to simplification relative to the past. Finally, the monitoring and evaluation system under AMIF in line with the Better Regulation guidelines needs further improvement, including in terms of definitions of its indicators and the collection of data. The European Court of Auditors identified room for improvement as regards data reliability. It specifically pointed out that information on EMAS funding is not covered by the performance indicators. Although the Court concluded that the information available points to the relevance of spending and its EU added-value, it stresses that the indicators defined do not provide evidence about economy and efficiency.

In terms of performance, most of the indicators set in the AMIF are on track to achieve their targets or have exceeded them. There are nevertheless areas impacted negatively by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic or where progress is more limited due to changes to the strategies or implementation issues. In any event, the extension of the implementation period will provide an opportunity for further target achievement.

Strengthening the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)

According to Eurostat data, in 2021 the number of asylum applications, after a drop in 2020, came nearly back to pre-pandemic values in 2021, driven by increases in the demands of Afghans and Syrians. At the end of 2021, in total around 759 thousand² applications for international protection were still under consideration by the national authorities, in line with 2020 values despite the increase in the number of applications filed.

The Commission continued to make efforts to facilitate discussions on the legislative package to reform CEAS, but the European Parliament and the Council could not reach an agreement. To respond to the need for structural reform of EU migration policy and building on progress made in this field since 2016, the Commission put forward a Pact on Migration and Asylum and a number of legislative proposals, adopted by the Commission in September 2020. The initiative covers all of the different elements needed for a comprehensive European approach to migration management based on solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility.

² 758 645 at the end of 2021 for EU-26 (pending LT, that reported around 2 000 pending applications at the end of 2020), compared to 765 665 in at the end of 2020. Data source: Eurostat. This figure refers to the total number of pending asylum applications

In the meantime, AMIF continued to provide the necessary emergency assistance to the Member States faced with migration pressure to improve their asylum systems and to reception capacities. Emergency assistance is the main tool of the Commission to provide strategic operational support of EU added value at short notice in the form of grants and contributions (or grant agreements and contribution agreements). The interim evaluation of the Fund also confirmed the emergency assistance as being one of the main benefits at EU level. By the end of December 2021, the total amount of AMIF emergency assistance since 2015 reached over EUR 2.4 billion.

In this context, special attention was paid to the most vulnerable, particularly the unaccompanied minors due to the high number of unaccompanied children present in the Member States. For example, in 2020, the Commission supported Greece, through the allocation of EUR 30 million in Emergency Assistance, in the relocation of unaccompanied minors, families, sick children and beneficiaries of international protection.

Via **voluntary relocations**, 13 Member States and three associated countries have offered (via pledges) a safe space in their countries for 5 285 unaccompanied minors, severely ill children together with their families, vulnerable persons and recognised refugees from Greece. DG HOME is in the forefront, coordinating the relocation exercise. The voluntary relocation scheme started in March 2020 following the dramatic events at the Greek-Turkish land border. Initially, 11 Member States had pledged to receive around 2 500 unaccompanied minors and minors with severe medical conditions and their core family members. Following the fire at the Moria camp on 9 September 2020, two more Member States, as well as three associated countries joined the scheme. It was agreed to expand the scheme to vulnerable asylum seeking families, as well as beneficiaries of international protection. Up to February 2022, 16 countries relocated 4 610 people, the remaining relocations, to fulfil the rest of the pledges, are taking place in 2022. Additionally, 30 vulnerable persons were relocated from Cyprus in 2020.

As regards the AMIF national programmes the Fund exceeds its targets in the field of **asylum**: 2 723 629 target group persons have received assistance in 2014-2021 as compared to the 2022 target of 1.26 million. Likewise, the target is surpassed also in relation to the the number of persons trained in asylum-related topics, with more than 70 000 persons trained since 2014 as compared to a target of 25 205 persons.

Regarding the creation of new asylum reception capacity, 2021 marked an increase of approximately one quarter compared to the 2018-2020 average, with nearly 5 000 places created. Although still far from the peak of over 16 000 in 2017, this result increases the chances that the cumulative target of 51 028 will be met, with cumulative values now at 41 266 and two additional years of implementation. A Commission taskforce on migration management has been working intensively, in close collaboration with the Greek authorities, EU Agencies and international organisations on the ground, to build new reception facilities in the Eastern Aegean.

Coordinated resettlement efforts, providing to persons in need of international protection a safe and legal way to reach the EU, have continuously increased since 2015 and were recognised as one of the ‘Top 20 achievements of the Juncker Commission’.³ Also in 2021, good progress was made on resettlement despite very difficult circumstances and disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In total, 13 Member States welcomed 8,780 resettled migrants in 2021, mainly nationals from Syria (about 9 000 persons), Sudan (1 200), and Eritrea, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (about 1 000 each)⁴. Taking into account the success of the previous schemes and the continuously high resettlement needs globally, a new **ad hoc resettlement scheme** was put in place for 2020–2021 in line with the Commission Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU (part of the Pact). For 21-22, Member States collectively pledged 65 000 resettlement places. This generous pledge – going beyond initial expectations – confirms the Member States’ commitment to resettlement and their resolve to scale up safe and legal pathways to protection in Europe. The expansion of EU resettlement is in line with the UNHCR 3-year (2019-2021) Strategy and the EU’s call for more safe and legal pathways to protection.

Resettlement operations are an important part of the AMIF, with almost EUR 1.07 billion allocated to the Member States for this purpose under the national programmes in the 2014-2020 programming period, which constitute almost one fourth of the overall financial value for the Fund. This corresponds to 108 680 persons to be resettled, of which 86 243 persons have been reported in payment claims to the Commission up to 2021 included (79% implementation). Due to the delays in reporting, once the final accounts have been submitted in 2024, it is expected that also the latest resettlement scheme will reach a high implementation rate. In terms of resettlement, in their accounts, Member States reported a total of 8,780 persons resettled in 2021 in comparison to 14 812 in 2020. This brings the number of resettled persons for the period 2014-2021 up to a total of 86 243.

Effective integration and legal migration

The gap between the employment rates of third-country nationals compared to EU nationals is used as an indicator to measure progress in integrating third country nationals in EU societies. The gap between the employment rates of third-country nationals compared to EU nationals has effectively increased from 13.1 percentage points in 2014 to 15.6 in 2020.⁵ However, the increase was particularly significant from 2019 to 2020 (+1.8 %), likely due to the impact of COVID-19.

³ Communication from the Commission; Europe in May 2019: Preparing for a more united, stronger and more democratic Union in an increasingly uncertain world The European Commission's contribution to the informal EU27 leaders' meeting in Sibiu (Romania) on 9 May 2019, COM/2019/218 final, Annex III.

⁴ Data source: Member States' Annual Accounts for the financial year 2020 (16.10.2020–15.10.2021).

⁵ Data for 2021 not yet available in Eurostat.

The Commission supports the Member States in their efforts to integrate third-country nationals, through the use of EU funding, some of which is provided by the AMIF, more is provided by the European Structural and Investment Funds.

The Commission continued to work closely with North African Countries on migration and security. By supporting in 2017-2020 the EU-Emergency Trust Fund for Africa under the Union actions with an overall amount of EUR 135 million the Commission contributed to shaping the strategic approach to countries of North Africa.⁶ Financial support to specific areas in Morocco contributed to reducing the number of irregular migrants on the Western Mediterranean route from roughly 57 000 in 2018 to roughly 18 500 in 2021. To build up or strengthen asylum and reception systems and to address protection needs in African countries, the Commission contracted in 2020 EUR 30 million through the Regional Development and Protection Programme (EUR 20 million for North Africa, and EUR 10 million for Horn of Africa), rolling out new actions in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia and Sudan.

Under the AMIF national programmes, more than 7 million persons have received integration assistance already surpassing the target of 2.6 million. Moreover, number of local, regional and national policy frameworks already exceed the target: 12 786 were already put in place as opposed to the target of 7 443.

However, measuring the number of persons who participated in pre-departure measures, gives results far below the target set (114 659 persons supported versus a target of 240 920). The data up to 2021 shows very uneven results in Member States. There are Member States exceeding their targets significantly, others remain at zero or are at a very early stages of fulfilling their targets. The reasons can vary from Member State to Member State: the target have been largely overstated also due to competition with other public resources, lack of pre-departure programmes, lack of target groups, efficiency of national administrations, etc.

Of the 62 cooperation projects foreseen by Member States, 51 have been reported up to 2021. Nevertheless, it should be noted, that, through Union Actions, the Commission has promoted cooperation projects between local and regional authorities through targeted calls for proposals.

In the period 2014–2020, EUR 1,022 million have been allocated under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund to support measures on integration and legal migration. In 2021, Member States reported expenditure for EUR 147 million, reaching a cumulative value of EUR 649 million (63.52% absorption rate).

In November 2020, the Commission adopted the Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, COM (2020) 758, highlighting the horizontal and sectoral priorities for integration including the use of the different funding sources. The plan sets out a strong framework to strengthen and step up integration and inclusion policies across the EU. The implementation of the actions presented in the action plan will be monitored, progress will be reported and actions adapted where needed.

Effective return policies

For the asylum system to be credible, migrants with no right to stay in the EU need to be **returned**. However, return is seen as an area where further improvement should be made. Prospects of improvement depend both on better cooperation by third countries and on Member States' effectiveness in implementing returns. In this respect, Schengen evaluations in the field of return help to orient Member States on specific actions that have to be prioritised in order to achieve set objectives. Unsatisfactorily low return rates persist due to inefficient enforcement of existing instruments at EU and national level, and a common readmission policy that does not fully deliver, but also to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions.

In total, EUR 1 billion have been allocated to priorities in return (voluntary and forced) under the national programmes in 2014–2020 and EUR 685 million have been spent so far, reaching an absorption rate of 67.7%. In 2021, Member States declared payments of EUR 108 million to the Commission returning 39 966 persons.

The AMIF supported Member States in the return of 27 709 persons in 2021, below both 2020 (39 966 persons) and 2019 (65 035 persons) levels. The 2021 data shows a decrease especially in the voluntary returns, down by 50% with respect to 2020 values (down by two thirds with respect to 2019). In 2020, latest available year, the rate of effective return of EU-27 to third countries dropped significantly to 17.72% (31.95% in 2018).

However, this marked drop should be seen in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related travel restrictions introduced to contain it, placing further obstacles to the implementation of return operations. For example, Turkey suspended return operations from Greece in March 2020 on the grounds of the pandemic and they were not resumed in 2021 despite efforts from the EC.

Additional efforts are required to address key challenges to the effectiveness of returns through measures both in Member States and with third countries. Actions taken include the following:

- the Commission adopted in 2021 its first **Strategy on voluntary returns and reintegration**⁷. The Strategy provides among others tools and guidance to improve the sustainability of returns by increasing cooperation with partner countries. It also aims at increasing the proportion of voluntary returns, as those offer a more humane and cost-efficient way to return people.

⁶ No additional commitments in 2021

⁷ COM(2021) 120 final of 27.4.2021.

- DG HOME worked to improve cooperation with **key countries of origin**. Following-up on the recommendations in the **European Court of Auditors'** special report 17/2021 on readmission⁸, DG HOME works together with Member States on a more flexible approach in negotiations on readmission agreements. The approach of the Pact is followed, pooling different policies and instruments, and strengthening the incentives for third-countries to cooperate
- In 2021 with Frontex coordinated flights, over 18 000 non-EU country nationals returned (50% increase compared to 2020 and above 2019 levels too), out of which:
 - 10 200 persons by 337 charter flights;
 - 8 100 persons by scheduled flights to approx. 90 destinations
- DG HOME also worked on a continuous basis with Member States readmission practitioners and European Migration Liaison Officers to build and transfer good practices on readmission processes, and to give operational support to Member States
- In March 2022, a Return Coordinator was appointed in DG HOME to improve the effectiveness of the return system
- Enhance the Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes.

In their return activities Member States are encouraged to use the available support both from Frontex and through AMIF in a complementary way. AMIF contributed to the implementation of the national return strategies by providing Member States with the necessary assistance in different areas of the return policy: introducing assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes, increasing detention capacity when insufficient and improving its conditions; ensuring the implementation of safeguards (e.g. free legal assistance), covering the costs of return operations in cases where Frontex could not offer support or where the Agency's assistance was not considered necessary by the Member States.

EU actions also support non-EU countries to improve their capacity to manage readmission processes effectively (identification, re-documentation) in their cooperation with Member States; such support is financed by the Readmission Capacity Building Facility under AMIF. There are 24 existing EU agreements and arrangements on readmission and the new Pact on Migration and Asylum will mobilise all EU policies, tools and instruments, to prioritise the effective implementation of these agreements, complete ongoing readmission negotiations, and explore options for new agreements.

Enhancing solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States

As the 2016 Commission proposal for the recast Dublin Regulation aiming, inter alia, at ensuring fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States by complementing the system with a corrective allocation mechanism, has not been adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, there has been a need for emergency measures to support the Member States facing unproportioned numbers of arrivals. Therefore, in addition to their national allocations, several Member States, notably Greece, Italy and Spain, benefit from the AMIF emergency assistance, allowing them to save more lives at sea, receive the arriving migrants in conditions, attaining better humanitarian standards, ensure basic healthcare as well as protection to vulnerable groups. The emergency assistance amounts granted up to end-December 2021 to Greece are EUR 1.897 billion and to Italy EUR 186 million.

In addition, since 2019, the Commission has been coordinating the voluntary relocation of asylum applicants disembarked in Italy and Malta after rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean to other Member States who are voluntarily showing solidarity. 2 244 applicants have been relocated so far from Italy and Malta with the support of EUR 3.2 million AMIF emergency funding. More relocations are due to take place in the following months. In March 2020, following the dramatic events at the Greek-Turkish border and then the Moria campfire in September 2020, voluntary relocation started to be implemented also in Greece, with EUR 35.1 million AMIF support to put in place procedures for processing and relocation. 4 610 of the most vulnerable applicants have already been relocated, out of the 5 285 places pledged by Members States and associated countries. Additionally, 30 vulnerable persons were relocated from Cyprus in 2020.

As the arrival of migrants continues across the Mediterranean, voluntary solidarity in the shorter-term can help build confidence among Member States by demonstrating that solidarity is still working on the ground as an important way to support migration management in particular in Member States most affected by migratory flows. It can also assist in showcasing how the different elements of solidarity listed in the Pact can provide meaningful support as a precursor to the legal proposals.

The funding to support the emergency relocation scheme was allocated in the 2016 Budget for a total number of persons of 160 000 persons. On expiry of the scheme, the Commission proposed the amendment of Article 18 of the AMIF Regulation to open up the possibility for Member States to use the remaining unused funds for the relocation (EUR 505 million) for other actions. This was agreed by the co-legislators (Regulation (EU) 2018/2000). Accordingly, through revision of national programmes in 2019, this funding has been reallocated to voluntary relocation (EUR 26 million) and resettlement (EUR 116 million), among other key priorities in the migration area and the remaining amount to other policy areas such as asylum, integration or return. The national programmes of the receiving Member States set out to relocate a total number of 38 703 persons. This target includes voluntary relocation. Up to 2021, in the annual accounts, receiving Member States reported a total number of 35,451 relocated persons. This corresponds to a target achievement rate of almost 92%.

⁸ <https://op.europa.eu/webpub/eca/special-reports/readmission-cooperation-17-2021/en/>

It is to be noted that the role of the emergency assistance tool within the future AMIF will remain important for the period 2021-2027 in order to address unforeseen events linked to the volatile migration situation.

The European Court of Auditors issued recommendations on the **strengthening of the management of the AMIF emergency assistance and national programmes**. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by EMAS funded projects, ensuring that EMAS project contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc. In that respect, it should be noted that the indicators below are only encompassing national programmes projects (see comments below the tables).

Lessons learnt

The new AMIF 2021-2027 provides financial resources to ensure a comprehensive approach to management of migration grounded on mutual trust, solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility among Member States and Union institutions, with the objective of ensuring a common sustainable Union policy on asylum and immigration. Lessons learned and incorporated into the design of the new AMIF include an allocation which reflects the different needs and pressures of Member States, and a thematic facility offering flexible funding for a number of priorities including support for solidarity and responsibility efforts between the Member States, specific attention to effective returns, and emergency assistance.

The main lessons learnt during the programming period 2014-2020 include:

Insufficient cooperation, coordination and strategic steering in the implementation of the AMIF with other EU level initiatives: This challenge was addressed by including eight shared management funds, including the AMIF, in a single legal framework. This allows for a closer coordination and cooperation of the shared management funds both at strategic level as well as at the level of implementation.

A need for simplification: in order to simplify and build on synergies, the rules applicable to the shared management funds will be aligned with rules applicable to the management of other Union Funds under shared management ('single rule book'). This provides better guidance on the management and control systems and audit requirements, and ensures that the eligibility rules under shared management make full use of simplified cost options (SCOs).

Insufficient flexibility to respond to changing needs during the programming period: This challenge was addressed in two ways. Firstly, Member States will be provided with around 52.9% to Member States programmes. An additional share of 10.6% of the total budget will be allocated at mid-term (technical adjustment of the distribution key subject to financial performance according to which a Member State should have submitted payment claims covering at least 10% of the initial amount of payment appropriations). Secondly, a financial envelope of 36.5% should be managed through the thematic facility, which will periodically provide funding for a number of priorities defined in Commission financing decisions. This facility in particular offers flexibility in the management of the instrument by allowing the disbursement of funds to the technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission and the following components of the thematic facility: support for specific actions, providing additional funding for dedicated actions of high EU added value, through the Member States' national programmes; support for Union actions, managed through direct and indirect management; and emergency assistance.

The third main challenge was the need to strengthen the performance monitoring in terms of quality and frequency of the fund in general. In order to address this challenge, the Commission proposed greatly improved performance monitoring with more regular and reliable data setting out common output and result indicators. In cooperation with the Member States, the Commission services has developed definitions for each of these indicators. This will ensure a common understanding of each indicator across all Member States and programmes. Moreover, it will not only greatly contribute to improving data quality, it will also enhance data comparability. Member States have been required to develop this performance framework for each of their programmes and underpin it by methodological considerations. The managing authority, in its yearly management declaration and as part of the annual assurance package, will have to confirm the reliability of submitted data relating to indicators and the progress of the programme. The annual performance review will be an occasion for a policy dialogue with the Member States on issues of programme implementation and performance. In particular, the annual performance reports will provide qualitative information on programme implementation going beyond the quantitative data submitted for the indicators. It will complement the bi-yearly transmission of structured data and strengthen the performance review process. In the context of the performance framework, Commission services will hold at least two meetings with Member States during the programming period. All data required for monitoring progress in programme implementation will be transmitted electronically. Twice a year, Member States will transmit to the Commission structured data on the common output and result indicators. Thus, the Commission services will have a much more updated picture of programme performance than in the current period. In addition, the AMIF programmes will now also use the open data platform, which had been established in the current programming period for the European Structural and Investment Funds. It will allow stakeholders to access almost real time data on programme implementation. This is an important novelty for the HOME funds, which in the current period do not publish data on the open data platform.

Moreover, Member States are now required to set up a system of electronic data exchange between beneficiaries and managing authorities, and between different authorities of the management and control system. This requirement builds on the current Common Provisions Regulation, which did not cover the 2014-2020 AMIF, and further develops certain aspects of data collection. It is thus a novelty for the HOME funds in general. Managing Authorities are being provided methodological support on the setting up and key elements of their monitoring system, with a view to improving data quality throughout the entire data supply chain.

Specific support on data validation is also planned. Beneficiary and project information, as well as the performance reports will be published on a dedicated website run by the managing authority. This will give greater visibility to achievements and allow better communication.

3.2. Key achievements

<i>2014-2020, incl. 2021, cumulative number</i>	<i>Explanation of the number</i>
41 266	Capacity (i.e. number of places) of new reception accommodation infrastructure set up in line with the common requirements for reception conditions set out in the Union acquis and of existing reception accommodation infrastructure improved in accordance with the same requirements as a result of the projects supported under the Fund
71 235	Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund
85 790	Number of country-of-origin information products and fact-finding missions conducted with the assistance of the Fund
86 243	Number of persons resettled with support of the Fund
114 659	Number of target group persons who participated in pre-departure measures supported under the Fund
12 786	Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for the integration of third-country nationals and involving civil society and migrant communities, as well as all other relevant stakeholders, as a result of the measures supported under the Fund
34 314	Number of persons trained on return-related topics with the assistance of the Fund
140 395	Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund
347 387	Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund
39 021	Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund
35 451	Number of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another with support of the Fund

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund remained in 2021 a key source of financial assistance to cope with increased migratory flows and reception of asylum seekers.

Like in previous years, support to asylum seekers and support for the integration of third country nationals reached very high figures (at around 300 000 and 900 000, respectively), despite a modest contraction compared to 2020.⁹ Assistance covered, among others, language and civic orientation training, preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market and capacity building. Importantly, reception capacity was further increased by over 5 000 units in 2021, improving upon previous years.

Coordinated **resettlement efforts**, providing to persons in need of international protection a safe and legal way to reach the EU, have continuously increased since 2015 (14 812 in 2020 compared to 23 764 in 2019) and were recognized as one of the ‘Top 20 achievements of the Juncker Commission’. As indicated in section 3.1.3. above, although resettlements went down in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 8 780¹⁰ migrants were still resettled to the EU. This leads to a cumulative target achievement of 79%, which, combined to the extension of the implementation period to 2023 pledges from Member States of almost 65 000 places for resettlement and humanitarian admission in 2021-2022, stresses the good performance of the fund in this respect.

In order to reduce incentives for irregular migration, the Fund contributed up to 2021 to the return of around 347 387 persons (both voluntary and forced), despite the difficulties in 2020 and 2021 with COVID-19 related travel restrictions. Among return related projects, it is important to mention the ERRIN project run by the Netherlands in cooperation with other Member States, which contributed to assistance with voluntary return of 11 000 persons to 17 third countries, with a perspective of 20 000 persons until June 2021. The EU funding for this project will be extended until 1 July 2022 for two purposes: (1) to allow for reaching the target

⁹ These figures should nevertheless be treated with some caution due to issue with the tracking of individual participants.

¹⁰ Data source: The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund Programme Statement, based on Member States’ Annual Accounts for the 2021 financial year (16.10.2020–15.10.2021).

of 25 000 persons and (2) to prepare for the transition of the network activities to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA).

In 2021, 9 678 of the returned migrants received pre or post return reintegration assistance co – financed by the fund. The return operations organised by the Member States complement the return operations organised by the European Border and Cost Guard Agency. Over 18 000 non EU country nationals were returned with the support of Frontex coordinated flights, as already detailed in section 3.1.3, with an increase of around 50% on 2020.

It is worth recalling that the Agency can only assist Member States to implement enforceable return decisions issued by competent national authorities.

Examples of success stories under shared management

Germany

Terre des hommes Deutschland is running the project ‘Child-oriented reception of unaccompanied minors through qualification, knowledge and networking’ for a total EU Contribution of EUR 576 224. It was conceived in response to the increasing number of unaccompanied minors (UM) arriving in Germany since 2015, who were applying for asylum and the resulting high number of requests for advice, networking and training (pedagogical and legal, in particular) by all people involved in assisting UM, in particular employees of youth welfare institutions and social services, guardians, judges. The goal of the project is to improve the quality in assisting UM through specific education and training of relevant stakeholders involved with the reception and asylum procedures of UM. The project also enhances the networking among these stakeholders, thereby supporting the exchange of expertise on matters relating to child welfare and legal aid and representation for UM.

Sweden

The project ‘Stadsdelsmors’, for a total EU Contribution of EUR 513 991, is running from 2016 till 2020 and it aims to break down social isolation and increase the participation of a particular target group of third country nationals in society, namely those who are living in social exclusion (legally resident third-country nationals or those who are in the process of acquiring legal residence). The project is developed in close exchange with similar projects in other European and Schengen countries (Denmark, Norway and Germany). The aim is that the target group should have access to social and professional networks in order to extend their networks and social health and this is realised inter alia through the provision of information on social issues in easy Swedish. Until now, 1512 persons were helped in the context of this project.

Greece

Under the AMIF National Programme, Greece launched in February 2020 a call of EUR 10 million public contribution (EUR 7.5 million EU contribution) to subsidize the operation of **Semi-independent Living apartments (SILs)** for unaccompanied minors aged above 16 years old. The call was intended to cover the period until the end of 2022. The main purpose of this action is to support unaccompanied minors through personalized care and protection in the context of semi-autonomous living with a hosting framework that aims at their gradual autonomy.

The main goal of the action is to meet the basic needs of minors and to provide support services with a view to their protection, social inclusion and gradual autonomy. The specific model of hospitality promotes the support and empowerment of unaccompanied adolescents for the transition to adulthood, their gradual integration into the local community and the strengthening of the possibility of self-preservation. The current call covers 500 accommodation places.

Italy

In the context of its AMIF national programme, Italy attached particular attention to the **social integration of young migrants**. The project “Piano Regionale Multi-Azione CASPER II” (EU contribution: EUR 1.3 million) supported the promotion of young and second-generation migrants’ social inclusion by tackling early school drop-out and performance gap. It fostered integration paths through the establishment of an integrated system of territorial services for the provision of qualified information, the promotion of participation in the socio-economic and cultural life of the host society and the reinforcement of associations of migrants. The project, which is ongoing since October 2018, has so far achieved important results such as:

- support to over 400 minors for their integration in the national education system;
- 35 vulnerable migrants assisted by the medical and social services;
- 74 third-country nationals assisted with the procedures linked to their residence permit (particularly important in light of the recent important legislative changes in this domain);
- 90 media workers trained in communication in the field of migration;
- 11 migrants associations supported in the implementation of integration paths.

Another milestone of Italy’s activities under its AMIF national programme is the **assisted voluntary return and reintegration** in the migrants’ country of origin. For example, project ERMES 3 (EU contribution: EUR 0.5 million) builds upon three pillars of activities: a) dissemination of information in Italy; b) support to pre-departure phase in Italy and support to development of reintegration plan as well as c) assistance upon arrival and up to 6-months long support period in the country of return. The project concerns measures for the AVRR of 300 third-country nationals to their home countries by end of 2021. Two Italian NGOs, namely

Centro Informazione e Educazione allo Sviluppo/CIES ONLUS and Comitato Internazionale per lo sviluppo dei popoli/CISP, jointly manage the project.

Examples of success stories under emergency assistance

AMIF emergency assistance funding played an important role in supporting front line Member States facing increased numbers of arrivals. Below some successful examples of this funding:

Greece

To address this situation, the Commission has awarded towards International Organisations and Greek authorities a number of emergency assistance projects in order to alleviate the situation. EUR 125 million were granted to IOM to run the project for Site Management Support for the provision of accommodation and related services in 32 camps in the mainland for approximately 28 000 places. The project lasted the whole of 2020, and was extended until the end of March 2021. Furthermore, in March 2020 the Commission awarded 91.5 million in the Emergency Support to Integration and Accommodation (ESTIA) programme, for the year period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. The project was implemented jointly by the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum and the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and provided approximately 25 000 places in apartments and adequate shelters on the mainland and several islands for most vulnerable cases. During 2020, the programme was successfully transitioned from UNHCR to the Greek authorities, in line with the aim to maintain and enhance reception capacity in Greece by ensuring adequate and appropriate accommodation for vulnerable asylum seekers, in line with the EU Directive on Reception Conditions.

Moreover, in July 2019, the Commission awarded to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) the HELIOS project, which is a pilot integration project composed of three different components: education, accommodation and employability. The beneficiaries enrolled (beneficiaries of international protection), have the obligation to attend language courses and simultaneously, with the assistance of IOM and its partners, find apartments for rent. For the period from 16 July until the end of January 2021, **25 541** were enrolled to HELIOS project and received support for independent living and 10 319 beneficiaries received rental subsidies upon finding independent housing. The aim is that in the next phase the beneficiaries will be able to integrate into the labour market. The amount of the project reaches EUR 57 million and the end of the project is scheduled for the end of February 2021 (the project is expected to be continued under ESF+ for the programming period 2021-2027).

In addition, since April 2020, the Relocation from Greece project is being implemented by IOM (in cooperation with UNHCR, UNICEF and EASO). The project amounts EUR 30 million and the end of the project is 30 April 2021. Until 22 January 2021, **2 269 beneficiaries have been relocated** (586 unaccompanied minors, 388 beneficiaries of international protection and 1 295 member of families with sick persons).

Italy

Italy has received AMIF emergency assistance to improve the performance of its asylum procedures through the provision of asylum experts, interim administrative staff, IT equipment, inter-cultural mediation and other services to assist with the registration and processing of asylum applications. Under two on-going EMAS projects, for a total amount of EU contribution of EUR 22.3 million, the Ministry of Interior receives support to implement the procedure for the recognition of international protection: 289 resources, among which inter-cultural mediators, legal and administrative officers, are deployed at the Immigration Offices at the local Questure and Air Borders offices to assist Police Officers in the immediate registration of asylum requests. The administrative activity at Police Offices, offices of the Territorial Commissions and of the National Commission has been simplified to reduce, for example, the average time dedicated to the analysis of requests and for first instance decisions.

Other successful EMAS actions were the project (EUR 0.7 million) for the humanitarian evacuation of up to 700 vulnerable migrants stranded in Libya to Italy with the support of UNHCR, as well as the project on assisted voluntary return and reintegration carried out with IOM (EUR 6 million) and the project (EUR 9 million) supporting emergency health assistance to vulnerable migrants hosted in Italy's reception system.

EUR 30.2 million of AMIF emergency assistance were deployed in 2020 to implement a pilot project to tackle the problem of migrant labour exploitation in Southern Italy. The project aims to eradicate the social emergency by providing appropriate housing, transportation, health and social assistance to victims of labour exploitation. Following the outbreak of the COVID pandemic and the immediate risks on the target population, in May 2020 anti-COVID prevention measures were put in place by the Italian Red Cross and NGO Intersos at the "Casa Sankara", where several hundred migrants were transferred from informal settlements.

Moreover, in August 2020 IOM received from the Commission EUR 2.2 million AMIF emergency assistance to carry out activities necessary for the voluntary relocation of 2 200 asylum seekers from Italy to other EU countries and Schengen Associated States. A total of 286 relocation transfers have been completed successfully through the project until 31/1/2021, in close cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Interior and the Commission.

Malta

In addition, throughout 2020 a number of MS, continued voluntary relocation supported by the AMIF emergency funding. For instance, in January 2020, the Commission extended the emergency support to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) under AMIF for the voluntary relocation of up to 1 000 persons from Malta to EU Member and Associated States of Relocation until end of February 2021 for an EU contribution of nearly EUR 1 million. By the end of 2020, a total of 600 persons had been

assisted in their relocation. The project is expected to be extended until end of May 2021 in order to carry out relocations from the remaining open pledges (estimated 260 persons) without additional funding awarded. Due to the ongoing pandemic the project also covered unforeseen COVID-19 related costs such as protective equipment, COVID testing, charter flights etc.

Union actions

Examples of AMIF funded Union actions can be found in the Snapshots and Factsheets published by the Commission at the following links:

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/publications/amif-more-snapshot-e-book_en and https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/publications/amif-factsheet-compilation_en

In 2020, under 2019 AMIF call, five new projects have been selected and awarded touching for the first time upon the area of complementary pathways, for a total amount of EUR 3.8 million euro under the topic “Fostering the integration of persons in need of protection through private sponsorship schemes”. Such schemes, with strong involvement of local communities and civil society organisations, allow to strengthen capacities at local level to provide adequate support for integration. AMIF has also the external dimension – under 2019 AMIF call, six new projects have been selected and awarded in 2020 under the topic “Awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third countries and within Europe.” These projects, paired with a recurring support via a direct award grant for a consortium of leading EU public media led by France Médias Monde for the multilingual online information portal for prospective migrants Infomigrant, are part of the broader approach to prevent irregular migration and in particular migrant smuggling. The main goal is to provide potential migrants with trusted, factual, balanced information on the risks of irregular migration – during the journey (dangers of migrating irregularly) and after arrival (living in the EU irregularly and return). A total budget of EUR 6.5 million euro was allocated to these actions.

Examples of success stories under direct management:

Migrant women often find it harder to integrate into European society than migrant men do. This is down to the fact that these women tend to be charged with taking care of the entire family and as a result miss out on finding a job and integrating socially.

The 2016 action plan on integration showed that there was an urgent need for better measures to improve female migrant integration across the EU. Examples of good practice could feed back into government policy, helping to improve their lives in Europe. Urbagri4Women was a 2-year project that helped integrate migrant women into the labour market and society by encouraging them to participate in various urban farming initiatives. The women’s entrepreneurial spirit resulted in urban rehabilitation, which has in turn brought economic, environmental and social benefits. The project covered seven Member States: Austria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and the UK with a budget of 0.6 million EUR. The project promoted social inclusion, female empowerment and served to rehabilitate the abandoned or decaying urban areas. The local communities actively participated with more than 200 cultural organisations, educational establishments and businesses providing practical support.

The results of this project will feed into future national and European policy designed to help and integrate migrant women. From a wider angle, previously barren urban areas have been regenerated and transformed into areas with economic, environmental and social benefits.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the latest Interim evaluation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 2014-2017 (SWD (2018) 340 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0339&from=EN>) have been presented in the Programme Statements DB2020.

By 31 December 2023, the Member States will provide an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions under their national programmes and by 30 June 2024 the Commission will present an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of the legal bases.

At the same time, DG HOME implements the **Action Plan** following the internal audit findings on the monitoring and reporting on the implementation and performance of National Programmes. In particular, DG HOME has strengthened its processes for monitoring the National Programmes and increased its efforts to improve the reliability of performance data reported by the Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports submitted annually. More attention will be given to the consistency of data reported by the Member States. Together with the Member States, DG HOME will develop common definitions for each common indicator set out in the Fund Regulation.

Moreover, the European Court of Auditors issued recommendations on the strengthening of the management of the AMIF emergency assistance and national programmes. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by EMAS funded projects, ensuring that EMAS project contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc.

While the Commission started implementing the ECA’s recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations will be put in place in the context of the next MFF, including on performance reporting on EMAS projects.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Strengthen and develop all aspects of the common European asylum system, including its external dimension

Indicator 1: Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute Number of Participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve the functioning of and develop the Common European Asylum System via training to the relevant staff
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baselines refer to the situation prior to the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Participants (absolute value)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve the functioning of and develop the Common European Asylum System via training to the relevant staff
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before

	adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of persons placed in alternatives to detention

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve reception condition as a means to implement the Common European Asylum System
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 2 :To strengthen and develop legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, and to promote and contribute to the effective integration of third-country nationals

Indicator 1: Number of participants in language courses who have improved the proficiency level in the host-country language upon leaving the language course by at least one level in the Common European Framework of the Reference for Languages or national equivalent

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.

Link to the objective	Improve language skills of migrant to improve legal migration patterns, inclusion and integration as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of participants who report that the activity was helpful for their integration

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve the integration of third-country nationals via training as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of participants who applied for their qualification/skills acquired in a third country to be recognised/assessed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary

	depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve labour market integration via recognition and validation of skills of third country nationals, as per the specific objective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 4: Number of participants who applied for a long-term status

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve legal migration as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 3: To contribute to countering irregular migration, enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as to contribute to and to promote effective initial reintegration in third countries

Indicator 1: Number of returnees voluntarily returned

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on	No data									

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of returnees
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve the number of returnees voluntarily returned to contribute to countering illegal migration and ensuring safe and dignified return and readmission, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States counted the "Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who returned voluntarily and persons who were removed"
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of returnees who were removed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of returnees
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improving the number of returnees to contribute to countering illegal migration and ensuring safe and dignified return and readmission, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States counted the "Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who returned voluntarily and persons who were removed"
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of returnees subject to alternatives to detention

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029

0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of returnees
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve the reception conditions of returnees, thus contributing to countering illegal migration and safe and dignified return and readmission, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 4: To enhance solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges, including through practical cooperation

Indicator 1: Number of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States in the area of asylum and reception as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States have monitored "the number of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another with support of the Fund"
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for

	the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of persons resettled

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Increase the number of persons resettled to contribute to the enhancing of solidarity and fair sharing between MS with respect to migration and asylum challenges.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States have monitored this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of persons admitted through humanitarian admission

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	AMIF's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Increase the number of persons admitted through humanitarian admission as a way of enhancing solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between Member States, particularly as regards those most affected by asylum and migration challenges, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States do not monitor this indicator
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency

	situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

General Objective 1: To contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection and the common immigration policy, while fully respecting the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Indicator 1: Effectiveness of return policy as reflected by the ratio between the number of irregular migrants returned to their country of origin compared to return decisions issued

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
39.2%				Increased ratio						Increased ratio
	Actual Progress									Final
	31.91%	33.85%	45.15%	35.67%	31.95%	28.97%	17.72%			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Ratio
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Eurostat
Narrative	
Methodology	The indicator measures the number of third country nationals who have been returned to third countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is not included in the core performance indicators for the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Extract from Eurostat on 15/02/2022. Data are revised on a continuous basis according to the most recently updated data provided by the countries. There is a one year delay for this indicator due to data availability from Eurostat. For accuracy purposes, the indicator should be called: 'Effectiveness of return policy as reflected by the ratio between the total number of irregular migrants returned compared to return decisions issued'. All data, including historical data, refers to EU-27. The first result below the baseline is just the sign of a negative trend already in 2014.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In light of the declining return rate, the Pact includes measures for stepping up returns, notably by closing loopholes between asylum and return procedures – including at the external borders by means of a border procedure – through the recast Return Directive and the amended proposal for an Asylum Procedure Regulation. The Pact announces a new strategy to reinforce voluntary return and reintegration, foresees the appointment of a Return Coordinator who will be supported by a High-Level Network which will provide technical support and bring together the strands of the EU return policy. Moreover, the implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) mandate on returns and measures for enhancing cooperation with third countries will further contribute to returns. A further drop in 2020 is visible but the situation is clearly affected by the onset of the pandemic, as explained in section 3.1.3. In any event. This drop refers to 2020, latest available year, and not 2021.

Indicator 2: Ratio voluntary/forced return

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2022
45.5%				Increased						Increased ratio
	Actual Progress									Final
	58.4%	86.8%	133%	136%	109.2%	100.2%	99.5%			

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Ratio
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Eurostat
Narrative	This indicator is not included in the AMIF Regulation.
Methodology	The number of voluntary returns divided by the number of enforced returns.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is not included in the core performance indicators for the MFF 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	Please note that not all MS report this indicator. Also, some MS do not report it every year so the figures are not fully comparable. It will become obligatory to report this breakdown from reference year 2021. There is a one year delay in the reporting which depends on data availability from Eurostat.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The Commission has always promoted the voluntary return as a preferred option for being more dignified concerning potential returnees. The Pact announces a new strategy to reinforce voluntary return and reintegration. Moreover, the implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) mandate on returns implies also an increase of the support that the Agency is able to provide to MS in the field of Assisted Voluntary Returns including through the takeover of the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN). The ratio is nevertheless substantially increased with respect to the 2014 and baseline values, although on a slightly negative trend ever since 2017. No significant variation is registered between 2019 and 2020, further suggesting that the sudden drop in the ratio between actual returns vs return decisions is not due to substantial changes in the system in place, but rather to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indicator 4: Convergence of recognition rates for international protection by Member States for asylum applicants from the same third country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
				Lower (increased convergence)						Lower (increased convergence)
	Actual Progress									Final
	24	24.2	28.3	25.3	22.4	28.1	24.2	19.9		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Decisions of the Member States' determining authorities on the applications for international protection of Afghan nationals, annual.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Calculations based on Eurostat data
Narrative	This indicator aims to measure the harmonisation of rules and practices in the EU regarding asylum procedures. This is done by using a proxy: the ratio between the number of Afghan nationals who are granted international protection at first instance in the Member States and the number of first instance decisions concerning Afghan nationals. The target is to reach a lower standard deviation than in 2014. Notwithstanding progress achieved in the development of the Common European Asylum System, there are still significant disparities between the Member States, and in 2019 the standard deviation increased compared to 2014. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum aims to further harmonise rules and practices in the EU and decrease the deviation.
Methodology	The standard deviation of the recognition rate of Afghan nationals, calculated among a pre-defined group of ten Member States that took the highest number of first instance decisions on asylum applications from Afghan nationals in the period from 2016-2018. To get the recognition rate, the number of positive decisions (refugee status and subsidiary protection, not including humanitarian status) granted in first instance for Afghan nationals are divided by the total number of decisions in first instance relating to this nationality.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will continue to be reported. However, it is not included in the list of core performance indicators for the MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Under the previous methodology (considering Member States taking at least 100 decisions), the number and range of Member States considered varies from year to year, distorting the calculation.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The objective to be reached is to have more streamlined asylum decisions across Member States' determining authorities, meaning that if e.g. an Afghani national makes an application for international protection in Member State X, he should have a similar outcome on his application were it made in Member State Y. Although the EU asylum acquis integrates this objective as an important

	one, and some convergence is starting to show, Member State practices still result in some divergence. With the New Pact on Asylum and Migration, adopted in September 2020, as well as instruments such as practical guidance developed by EASO, it was expected that further convergence will emerge; and in 2021 the impact seems that it is materialising. Overall, it can be concluded that the indicator is on track, as the elements for convergence are in place and the values are improving.
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Specific Objective 1: To strengthen and develop all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension

Indicator 1: Number of target group persons provided with assistance through projects in the field of reception and asylum systems supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
				643 350						1 263 700
	Actual Progress									Final
	155 246	396 734	898 859	1 351 630	1 712 157	2 089 764	2 442 908	2 723 629		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons, milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will report on the following indicators: Number of participants supported; of which number of participants who received legal assistance; of which number of participants benefiting from other types of support, including information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure; of which number of vulnerable participants assisted; These indicators are, however not included in the list of core performance indicators.
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The values are reflecting the crisis in 2016 and the current situation in migration flows which is decreasing. The target was achieved and the progress appears steady.

Indicator 2: Capacity (i.e. number of places) of new reception accommodation infrastructure set up in line with the common requirements for reception conditions set out in the Union acquis and of existing reception accommodation infrastructure improved in accordance with the same requirements as a result of the projects supported under the Fund and percentage in the total reception accommodation capacity

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
				25 389						51 028
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 533	3 068	8 668	24 868	28 325	32 453	36 346	41 266		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will report data on the following indicators: Number of newly created places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis; of which number of newly created places for unaccompanied minors; Number of renovated/refurbished places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis; of which number of renovated/refurbished places for unaccompanied minors. These indicators are not included in the list of core performance indicators. The following indicators are included in the list of core performance indicators. Number of persons placed in alternatives to detention; of which number of unaccompanied minors placed in alternatives to

	detentionof which number of families placed in alternatives to detention.
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Values increased as of 2017 when implementation picked up. The indicator is not fully on track to reach the 2022 target but the extension of the implementation period means it should be possible to achieve it by 2023, if the 2021 is maintained. Delays in procurement and refurbishment projects meant limited progress in a number of Member States.

Indicator 3: Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund, and that number as a percentage of the total number of staff trained in those topics

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund										
	Milestones									2022
0	0			12 603						25 205
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	1 826	7 799	22 898	39 752	54 210	64 294	71 235		
Are we on track :	On track									
Percentage of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund of the total number of staff trained in those topics										
	Milestones									2022
0%	0%			28%						56%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0%	4,75%	9,33%	14%	16,66%	18,39%	20,34%	21,03%		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will report on the Number of participants in training activities. This indicator is, however not included in the list of core performance indicators. The following indicators for the period MFF 2021-2027 are included in the list of core performance indicators: Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work;Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Initial target slightly underestimated, more personnel resources had to be trained on asylum-related topics.Percentage however is underachieved showing that resources other than the AMIF fund were also used to train the personnel. The trends remained stable in 2021.

Indicator 6: Number of persons resettled with support of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2022
0	7 362			30 139						108 860
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	3 766	16 189	24 844	38 887	62 651	77 463	86 243		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	15/02/2022
Data source	Provided in the accounts submitted by Member States on 15/2 each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Member States will continue to monitor this indicator in MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Although Member States report resettlement data also in their Annual Implementation Report, the Commission has decided to use the resettlement data provided by the Member States in their annual accounts for this purpose. It appears that the resettlement data submitted in the annual accounts is up to date and thus provides an accurate and updated picture of resettlement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Member States are committed to resettlement which is shown by the gradually increasing number of pledges and the very good implementation rates (almost 90% for the “50 000 scheme” in 2018-2019). In 2020 and 2021, the implementation of the pledges was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these difficulties, 14 812 people were resettled in the EU in 2020, and around 9 000 in 2021. Considering the two additional years of implementation and the pledges for Member States for 2021, the indicator should be considered on track..

Specific Objective 2: To support legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, such as labour market needs, while safeguarding the integrity of the immigration systems of Member States, and to promote the effective integration of third-country nationals

Indicator 1: Number of target group persons who participated in pre-departure measures supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
0	0			120 460						240 920
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	9 259	20 573	33 039	52 800	71 135	88 608	114 659		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Member States will continue to monitor this indicator in the MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year’s programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Underachieved. Member States often opt to provide comparable support after arrival. Hence, when setting this ambitious target, this approach may not have been known. Progress concentrated in a few Member States.

Indicator 2: Number of target group persons assisted by the Fund through integration measures in the framework of national, local and regional strategies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
				1 312 031						2 618 062
	Actual Progress									Final
	51 456	120 210	1 561 763	2 916 841	4 952 746	5 924 130	6 926 925	7 822 289		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027 Member States will report the following indicators: Number of participants in language courses who have improved their proficiency level in the host-country language upon leaving the language course by at least one level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages or national equivalent; Number of participants who report that the activity was helpful

	for their integration; Number of participants who applied for their qualification / skills acquired in a third country to be recognised / assessed; Number of participants who applied for a long-term status.
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overachieved. In general MS made consistent efforts to implement actions under SO2. Top ups were allocated in 2017 and 2018. Trend remained positive in 2020 and 2021 despite the impact of COVID-19.

Indicator 3: Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for the integration of third-country nationals and involving civil society and migrant communities, as well as all other relevant stakeholders, as a result of the measures supported under the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
0				3 722						7 443
	Actual Progress									Final
	8	402	2 314	4 806	7 512	8 966	10 461	12 786		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will report the following indicator, which is however not included in the list of core performance indicators: Number of integration projects where local and regional authorities are the beneficiary
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overachieved. In general MS made consistent efforts to implement actions under SO2. Top ups were allocated in 2017 and 2018. Stable trend in 2021.

Specific Objective 3: To enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member States which contribute to combating illegal immigration, with an emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin and transit

Indicator 1: Number of persons trained on return-related topics with the assistance of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
0	0			14 020						28 040
	Actual Progress									Final
	40	1 033	4 533	8 572	17 879	25 273	30 298	34 314		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The number of participants in training activities will be monitored by the Member States in the MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	

Justification of the trend	Well on track, despite a somewhat slower pace in 2020 and 2021 in connection to COVID-19.
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Indicator 2: Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Milestones										2022
0	0			101 810						200 020
	Actual Progress									
	7 638	27 933	51 671	67 979	91 756	118 229	130 717	140 395		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of returnees, Milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The following indicator will be monitored by the Member States in MFF 2021-2027: Number of returnees who received re-integration assistance
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Underachieved, in-line with the decreased numbers of persons effectively returned. Stable trend, also in the light of COVID-19.

Indicator 3: Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Total										
Milestones										2022
0				307 050						612 400
	Actual Progress									
	5 981	48 593	87 840	141 213	214 531	279 722	319 678	347 387		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Voluntary returns										
Milestones										2022
0				158 050						297 930
	Actual Progress									
	4 574	37 647	67 663	88 591	129 220	158 273	177 422	187 983		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Forced returns										
Milestones										2020
0				148 965						297 930
	Actual Progress									
	1 407	10 946	20 177	52 622	85 311	121 449	142 256	159 404		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of returnees, milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will monitor the following indicators included in the list of core performance indicators: Number of returnees voluntarily returned; Number of returnees who were removed; Number of returnees subject to alternatives to detention
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	

Justification of the trend	Underachieved, in line with the implementation of return projects which is slow with difficulties reported more on forced return but also on voluntary return. Many return operations have been delayed or cancelled due to disagreements with the receiving countries or legal obstacles. Activities have been particularly hampered in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 and related travel restrictions.
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Indicator 4: Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
0	0			3 428						6 856
	Actual Progress									Final
	29	4 695	10 793	17 566	24 195	33 323	38 347	39 021		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of operations, milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Member States will not monitor this indicator in the MFF 2021-2027
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overachieved, original target set lower.

Specific Objective 4: To enhance solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States, in particular with those most affected by migration and asylum flows, including through practical cooperation

Indicator 1: Number of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another with support of the Fund

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
0				16 000						38 703
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	34	5 175	24 523	31 375	32 069	32 256	35 451		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of persons, milestones and target are cumulative, actual results are cumulative
Cut-Off Date	15/02/2022
Data source	Provided in the annual accounts sent by receiving Member States on 15 February each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	This indicator monitors relocation operations under the two Council decisions of September 2015 as well as under ad hoc voluntary operations. It should be noted that the number of persons relocated under the two 2015 Council decisions is 34,708 persons, reported by Greece and Italy. It includes relocations to Schengen associated countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member states will continue to monitor this indicator, which is included in the list of core performance indicators
Other methodological comments	Although Member States report resettlement data also in their Annual Implementation Report, the Commission has decided to use the data provided by the Member States in their annual accounts for this purpose. It appears that the data submitted in the annual accounts provides an up-to-date and accurate picture.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	On track - transfers are taking place under both shared and direct management. Increased disembarkations in frontline MS since 2018 increased the demand for pledges and actual persons transferred. After a drop in 2020, implementation regained momentum in 2021.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	0.00 ¹¹							0.00	0%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1. Contribution to gender equality

6.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 496.8							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

On the 2014-2020 period, the AMIF Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 516/2014), covering the previous programming period, stipulates that eligible actions need to take account of the human rights-based approach to the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and should, in particular, ensure that special attention is paid to, and a dedicated response is provided for, the specific situation of vulnerable persons, in particular women, unaccompanied minors and other minors at risk. Support for third country national victims of trafficking is ensured on this ground.

The AMIF regulation for the MFF 2021-2027 stipulates under article 6 about gender equality and non-discrimination. The Member States and the Commission must ensure the integration of the gender perspective and that gender equality and gender mainstreaming are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of programmes and projects supported under the Fund. Moreover, the Member States and the Commission must take appropriate steps to exclude any form of discrimination prohibited by Article 21 of the Charter. The AMIF will apply a horizontal expenditure tracking methodology in order to assess impacts of gender mainstreaming in the AMIF.

6.2. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.2.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

AMIF supports the most vulnerable groups by providing material aid, providing assistance in housing, means of subsistence, health, psychological and social care including through adapting reception centres and services to the most vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors.

Under the national programme of Romania, a project ‘My place’ financed between 2017 and 2019 aimed at providing a bridge for the integration of beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals in Romania. The general objective of the project was to support the socioeconomic and cultural integration of beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals into Romanian society through an integrated approach by providing the necessary information and services and by enhancing the active collaboration and involvement of the authorities/institutions, the private sector and other entities with relevance to the field of migrant integration. The target group was beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals with the right of residence on the Romanian territory (long- or short-term residence permit), in need of support with accommodation and integration in a specific region. The project’s aim was to provide assistance to a group of at least 150 migrants receiving some form of protection in Romania, or granted refugee status or subsidiary protection, along with some 109 third-country nationals or stateless persons with the right of residence in Romania.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

AMIF makes a meaningful contribution to safe migration by supporting information campaigns on legal migration channels to the EU, legal migration through resettlement and family reunification and by promoting mobility schemes to EU such as circular or temporary migration schemes. AMIF also contributes to social inclusion of third country nationals by supporting their integration,

¹¹ Eur 0.000507564 mln

active participation in the society and their acceptance in the receiving society through for instance, actions focusing on civic orientation and training, including language trainings to newcomers, or promoting meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between third country nationals and the receiving society.

The project ‘Stadsdelsmammor 2.0’ (‘neighbourhood mothers 2.0’) financed between 2016 and early 2020 under the Swedish national programme was a project in the city of Helsingborg in southern Sweden. Helsingborg, like most major cities in Sweden, is characterised by great challenges of segregation and polarisation. The ‘neighbourhood mothers’ method was based on an existing need to reach those residents who were the most socially isolated. For many years, there has been an upward trend in societal disparities, for example between the economic and social resources of residents in different residential areas. The project aimed at reducing social and economic gaps by engaging local newly arrived mothers and creating meeting places and social activities for them, while at the same time contributing to city development.

6.2.2. Key achievements and performance

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

AMIF supports the most vulnerable groups by providing material aid, providing assistance in housing, means of subsistence, health, psychological and social care including through adapting reception centres and services to the most vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

AMIF makes a meaningful contribution to safe migration by supporting information campaigns on legal migration channels to the EU, legal migration through resettlement and family reunification and by promoting mobility schemes to EU such as circular or temporary migration schemes. AMIF also contributes to social inclusion of third country nationals by supporting their integration, active participation in the society and their acceptance in the receiving society through for instance, actions focusing on civic orientation and training, including language trainings to newcomers, or promoting meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between third country nationals and the receiving society.

HEADING 4: Migration and Border Management

Integrated Border Management Fund

Lead DG: HOME

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The effective management and protection of EU external borders is a prerequisite for ensuring the safe area for the free movement of persons and goods within the Union. The achievement of an internal area without borders brings important benefits, both to European citizens as well as to businesses. The significance of the Schengen area makes it even more necessary to strengthen efforts aiming to safeguard its integrity, especially in times of challenges posed by migratory pressure, and reinforce it so that it can address serious cross-border crime and ensure a high level of internal security within the EU. Customs services help to safeguard the financial interests of the Union and of the Member States and, in their role as guardians of the external EU border for goods, also protect the public against terrorist, health, environmental and other threats.

The challenges in the areas of the management of the external borders and common visa policy cannot be adequately addressed by the Member States acting alone. The abolition of internal border controls must be accompanied by common measures for the effective control and surveillance of the Union's external borders as well as a common asylum and migration policy. At the same time, customs services, as gatekeeper for the passage of goods across the EU external borders, play a central role in protecting the external border of the internal market, safeguarding the financial interests of the Union, protecting the public, enabling the free flow of goods inside the market and managing the trade flows into the EU.

This is necessary to preserve the European Union as an area without internal border controls, preventing and addressing any secondary movements as well as ensuring the integrity of the single market. EU funding in this area is indispensable to ensure strong and effective integrated border management while safeguarding the free movement of persons and goods in the EU.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) will address these challenges through its two instruments, namely the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment (CCEI) and the instrument for financial support for border management and visa policy (BMVI).

In particular, the mission of the newly established CCEI is to provide financial support to Member States customs administrations for the purchase, maintenance and upgrade of relevant state-of-the-art customs control equipment that should also be secure, safe, and environmental-friendly. CCEI will be deployed at for Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and customs laboratories. It is the first funding instrument dedicated entirely to strengthening Member States' capacities to perform customs controls and comes as a response to the long-standing calls by the Member States for a structured solution to provide national customs administrations with adequate and effective technical equipment for controlling goods entering and leaving the EU.

The CCEI supports actions aim at delivering on the Commission's Political Guidelines by equipping the Customs Union with a stronger framework to better protect EU citizens and the single market. CCEI is in full compliance with the Union's commitments on fundamental rights, as it contributes to guaranteeing a high level of security in the EU and aiming to provide vital and reinforced support to the Member States to secure the common external borders of the Union.

BMVI's mission is to provide support to Member States, to ensure strong and effective European integrated border management at the external borders, thereby contributing to ensuring a high level of internal security within the Union, while safeguarding the free movement of person within it and fully respecting the relevant Union *acquis* and the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party. Article 80 TFEU states that the common policies on asylum, migration and external borders are based on the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibilities between Member States. EU funding through the BMVI is the mechanism, which gives effect to the financial implications of this principle.

1.3. Specific objectives

CCEI's mission is operationalised through:

- Its general objective to support the customs union and customs authorities to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, to ensure security and safety within the Union and to protect the Union from unfair and illegal trade while facilitating legitimate business activity.
- Its specific objective to contribute to adequate and equivalent results of customs controls through the transparent purchase, maintenance and upgrade of relevant, state-of-the-art, such as secure, safe and environmental-friendly, and reliable customs control equipment, thereby supporting the customs authorities acting as one to protect the interests of the Union.

BMVI's mission is operationalised through the pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- To support effective European integrated border management at the external borders, implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard, as a shared responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and of the national authorities responsible for border management, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, to prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows.
- To support the common visa policy to ensure a harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping prevent migratory and security risks.

1.4. Public intervention context

EU powers regarding customs policy are of **exclusive** competence as per Article 3 TFEU. The Customs Union means that the customs authorities of all 27 EU countries work together as if they were one. They apply the same tariffs to goods imported into their territory from the rest of the world, and apply no tariffs internally. Customs administrations are involved in the implementation and enforcement of EU legislation on import and export from and to non-EU countries.

The Customs Control Equipment instrument has the general objective to support the customs union and customs authorities to protect the financial and economic interests of the Union and its Member States, to ensure security and safety within the EU and to protect it from illegal trade while facilitating legitimate business activity. The CCEI supports the Member States to purchase, maintain and upgrade customs control equipment that will enable them to improve the performance of the customs union and to contribute to adequate and equivalent results of customs controls. It will thus contribute to improving the performance of the customs union with a view to the long-term aim of harmonised application of customs controls by the Member States.

The IBMF is complemented by a range of other EU activities and instruments with an impact on developments in the policy area. EU powers regarding common policy on border management are **shared** with the Member States. While Article 71 TFEU facilitates cooperation among Member States to strengthen internal security, Member States retain the competence to exercise law-enforcement power when they enforce measures adopted pursuant to EU provisions on operational cooperation and border control (Article 72 TFEU) and on national security (Article 4(2) TEU) to engage in forms of administrative cooperation in matters of national security (Article 73 TFEU).

1.5. Actions

For the CCEI, this includes in particular actions supporting the purchase, maintenance or upgrading of customs controls equipment including innovative detection technology equipment that has one or more of the following customs control purposes:

- non-intrusive inspection;
- indication of hidden objects on humans;
- radiation detection and nuclide identification;
- analysis of samples in laboratories;
- sampling and field analysis of samples;
- handheld search.

The BMVI supports a broad range of actions, in line with the European Agenda on Migration and the Security Union Strategy. This includes, in particular, the following actions:

- support the capabilities of the Member States acting as national components of the European Border and Coast Guard;
- Support of large-scale IT systems and their interoperability;
- Support of training, exchange of information, innovation and studies;
- Support for infrastructure and equipment;
- Deployment of experts and immigration liaison officers.

1.6. Delivery mode

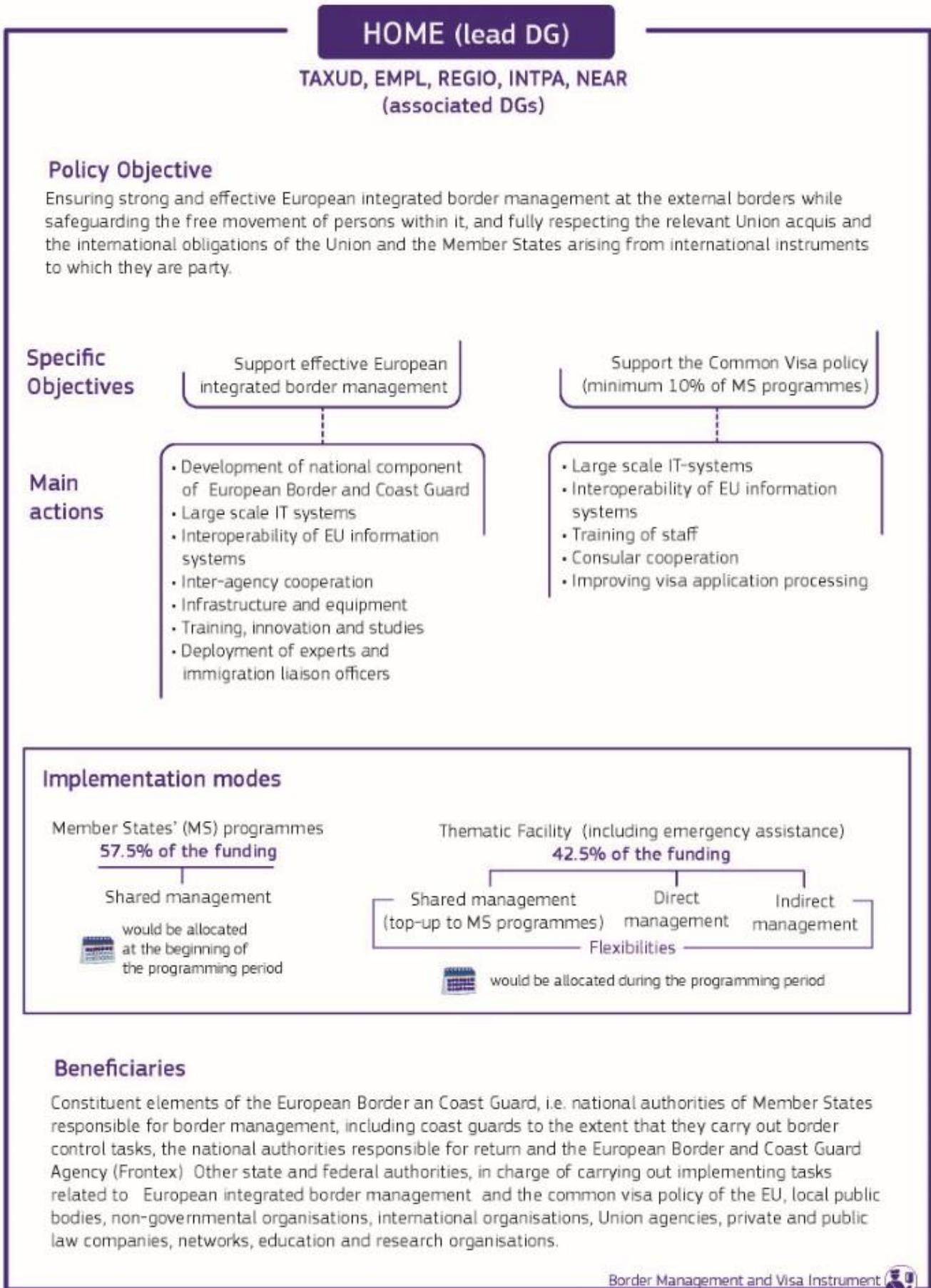
The Commission implements the actions under CCEI under direct management. The lead Directorate General is DG TAXUD. For the purposes of the CCEI, DG TAXUD closely cooperates with OLAF, in relation to the Anti-Fraud programme managed by the latter. Appropriate and adapted coordination takes place with services managing other complementary programmes: Customs programme, Recovery Resilience Facility and Horizon Europe. A constant coordination will ensure the complementarity of activities or/and equipment funded by the different programmes while excluding any double financing of the same equipment.

The BMVI is implemented under shared, direct or indirect management. The largest part of the resources (initially 57.5% of the total BMVI budget) will be allocated to the Member States' programmes under shared management. The remaining budget will be allocated to a thematic facility⁵ to be used for specific actions (implemented by the Member States nationally or transnationally), EU actions (direct/indirect management), and emergency assistance (shared, direct or indirect management). The lead Directorate General is DG HOME.

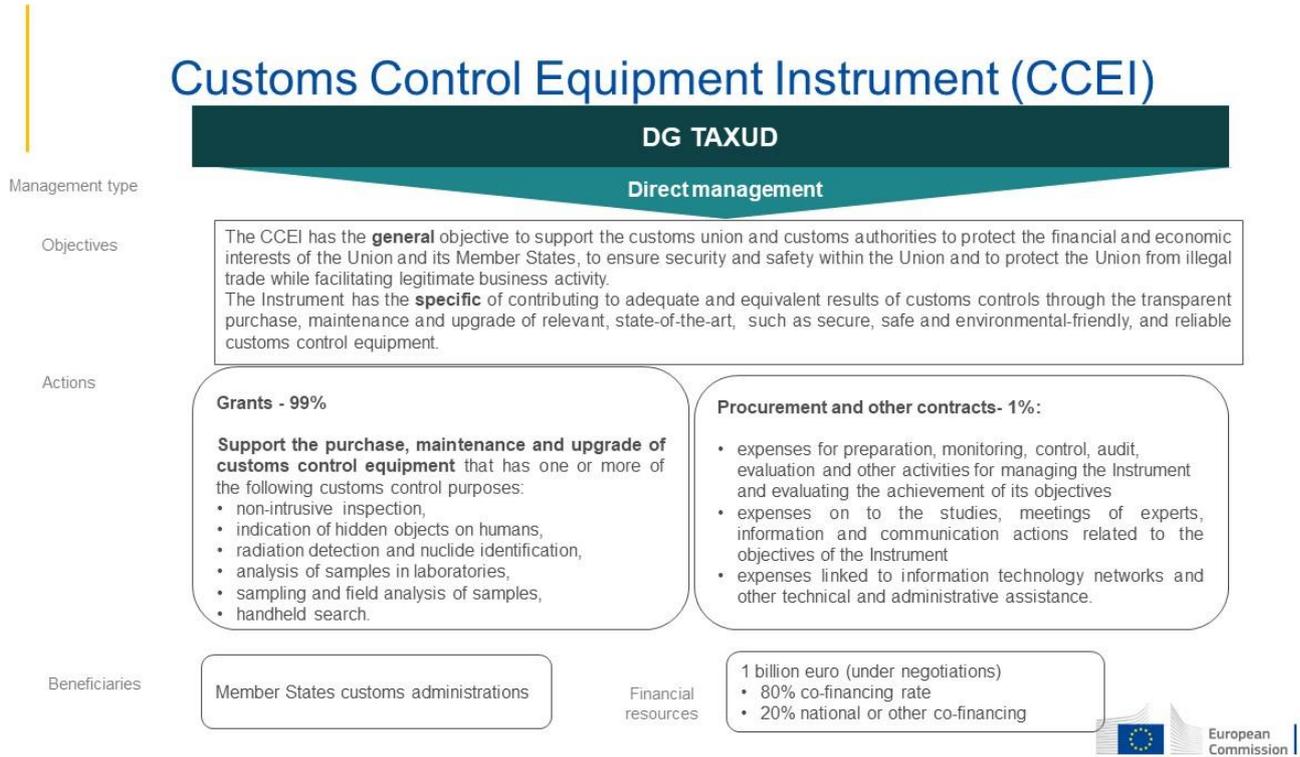
Since the BMVI is also covered by the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, there will be close cooperation between the Commission services DG HOME, REGIO, EMPL and MARE. Close cooperation and coordination will be ensured between the two DGs managing the IBMF's instruments, DG TAXUD and DG HOME, e.g. by regular interservice meetings between the two Directorates, to provide for consistency in their implementation. In relation to the external dimension, DG HOME closely coordinates with DGs INTPA and NEAR.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Instrument for Border Management and Visa (BMVI)



Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI)



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 48).	2021 - 2027	5 241.00
Regulation (EU) 2021/1077 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment (OJ L 234, 2.7.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	1 006,4
Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, OJ OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159–706.		N/A

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The legal basis of the CCEI is the Regulation ((EU) 2021/1077) of the European Parliament and of the Council Establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund (which has no own basic act), the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment. The other part of the Integrated Border Management Fund is the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy ((EU) 2021/1148). Since the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy is majorly implemented through shared management, it is covered partially (financial, not policy provisions) by of the Common Provision Regulation ((EU) 2021/1060).

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	289.0	983.7	1 195.3	1 050.3	1 187.2	1 091.1	1 105.1	6 901.7
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.5	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.5
Total	289.5	983.7	1 195.3	1 050.3	1 187.2	1 091.1	1 105.1	6 902.2

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

CCEI

2021-2027 programme	2021	2022
Commitment appropriations	135 403 000	138 111 000
Payment appropriations	32 887 000	103 620 000

The Customs Control Equipment Instrument is a brand new programme with a total budget of EUR 1 006 407 000. There is no financial data of a predecessor programme that can be used for precise calculation of payment appropriations. It is expected that the bulk of payments of the initial 2021 grant agreements will only take place in 2022 and beyond.

BMVI

2021-2027 programme	2021	2022
Commitment appropriations	398 014 000	642 173 000
Payment appropriations	67 805 000	193 615 000

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Commission proposal for the CCEI comes as a response to the long-standing calls by the Member States for a structured solution providing national customs administrations with adequate technical equipment to control goods crossing the EU's external borders. It is a newly established instrument that forms part of the EU Multiannual-financial framework for the first time.

The BMVI builds on the lessons learned during the programming period 2014-2020 such as the need to ensure sufficient cooperation, coordination and strategic steering between the HOME funds and other relevant EU funds, and the need to increase flexibility to address unforeseen needs. The BMVI addressed these challenges to facilitate the steering of the funds towards Union priorities, as well as towards pressing, yet unforeseeable challenges. Simplification is another important element of the new Fund, with the establishment of common rules for programming, reporting and financial management and the alignment of the Fund with similar EU funding instruments. Finally, a common monitoring and evaluation framework has been further developed to ensure a strengthened performance orientation, as well as improved and more frequent reporting on the progress towards targets and milestones.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

On the Commission website the reader will be able to see a description of the scope and the budget allocation of the Funds:

[Integrated Border Management Fund – Border Management and Visa Instrument \(2021-27\) \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/euifundamentals/en/integrated-border-management-fund-border-management-and-visa-instrument-2021-27)

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022 led to a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine to several EU Member States. This places renewed pressure on the Member States to deal with urgent migration management needs and face related financial needs. The increased migratory pressure, including reception and asylum processing procedures, particularly affects Member States bordering Ukraine but will likewise create pressure afield throughout the whole territory of the European Union. Given the uncertain nature of the situation the pressure is expected to persist beyond 2022 and into 2023.

With a view to providing immediate support to people arriving in the Union and showing concrete solidarity with the most affected Member States, the Commission has proposed to increase flexibilities in the use of 2014-2020 funds following the proposal of prolonging the implementation period. In addition, with the pledge made on April 9 2022, the Commission proposes to make EUR 400 million available for emergency assistance, consisting of redeployment within the Thematic Facility under AMIF and BMVI as well as reinforcement of AMIF from the margin under H4 and from the SEAR (internal strand). The Ukrainian crisis and the needs following are expected to be within the proposed total envelope of the BMVI in 2023.

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	288.6	6 826.8	4%
Payments	0.4		0%

In 2021, an amount of EUR 155.4 million was implemented in commitments under BMVI, of which EUR 154.1 million was related to the first Thematic Facility under BMVI and EUR 1.3 million was related to the support expenditure.

In 2021, an amount of EUR 0.45 million was implemented in commitments under BMVI, of which EUR 0.43 million was related to the support expenditure and EUR 0.02 million related to the first Thematic Facility under BMVI.

In case of CCEI, there were neither commitments nor payments granted in 2021.

Shared management

For the BMVI, due to the delays in the adoption of the legal basis for 2021-2027 and time needed for the programming procedure in shared management, shared management programmes may only be formally approved starting from the second quarter in 2022.

The Commission also prepared a 2021-2022 Work Programme for the Thematic Facility to ensure the programming of the funding for indirect/direct and shared management on top of the basic allocations for the national programmes. The Commission adopted the financing components of the Thematic Facility and the Work Programme for 2021 and 2022 amounting to EUR 496 770 573 on 25 November 2021 (C(2021) 8459 Final). Direct and indirect management (Union Actions) measures under the Thematic Facility include among others innovative methods for assessing the impacts of future border control systems, support for national components of the EBCG Standing Corps, EU-wide secure, interoperable Communication for all security practitioners (including Border and Coast Guard), communication campaigns on EES, ETIAS, SIS and ILO Network.

Union Actions

As mentioned above as of 2021 the Union Actions have become a part of the Thematic Facility covered by the multiannual Work Programme for 2021-2022. In view of delayed adoption of the legal basis of consequently the work programme, implementation of most of the actions is commencing in early 2022 and continuing throughout 2023.

In continuation of the experiences of its predecessor Internal Security Fund (ISF) – Borders and Visa instrument, BMVI Union Actions will cover the area of strengthening the external borders and supporting a common visa policy. To that end four topics in open calls for proposals have been established in the work programme and relevant actions to be undertaken by identified beneficiaries are also foreseen. These are complemented with procurements to support the Commission’s activities.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Given that the CCEI is a newly established programme, the information under this section is not relevant to it.

For 2014-2020, actions concerning the management of external borders and a common visa policy are financed under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – Borders and Visa instrument.

Internal Security Fund – Border and Visa

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
--	----------------	------------------	---------------------

Commitments	2 689.8	2 732.4	98%
Payments	1 957.3		72%

The Commission made a proposal to make remaining funding under the HOME Affairs Funds for the 2014-2020 programmes, including AMIF, available for the acute migration and border management needs following the Russian aggression towards Ukraine. Through the proposal remaining funds would be more accessible and thereby provide immediate support to the Member States as it swiftly can be re-direct under existing national programmes. The proposal were adopted in April 2022

Shared management

After an initial delay in the adoption of the legal bases of the Home Affairs Funds by the co-legislators, all ISF Member State national programmes were adopted in 2015 with their implementation reaching a cruising speed in 2017.

The four Schengen Associated Countries (SAC), Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, also participate in the ISF-Borders and Visa instrument. The process regarding the participation of SAC has been successfully finalised.

Since 2017, the ISF national programmes have been revised on several occasions:

- for ISF-Borders and Visa, to include in 2017 an additional EUR 76 million and in 2018, EUR 128.7 million for the purchase of equipment to be put at the disposal of the EBCG Agency during joint operations;
- in addition, still in 2018, to include an overall amount of EUR 192.3 million allocated equally to all the Member States participating in the ISF-Borders and Visa instrument to cover certain costs for the implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES): each Member State received a top-up to their national programme of EUR 6 million;
- in 2018, to include an additional overall amount of EUR 158.6 million (EUR 128 million foreseen in article 6(1)c) of the ISF-Borders & Visa regulation plus EUR 30.6 million as contribution from three SAC), through the revision of the national programmes;
- in 2019, to include an overall amount of EUR 212.4 million allocated to all the Member States participating in the ISF-Borders & Visa instrument, to cover costs related to the adoption of European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and the recast of the SIS II Regulations, as well other substantial costs incurred with the development of border management IT systems. Of the total amount, EUR 96.5 million was allocated for ETIAS, EUR 36.8 million for the SIS-recast, and EUR 79 million, funded from the SAC contribution to ISF-Borders & Visa, for IT systems in general;
- in 2020, to include an overall amount of EUR 78.9 million to seven Member States for support to border control activities, in particular in those Member States confronted with high migratory pressure at the external borders.
- In 2021, no revisions made.

As regards the **Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa**, for the period 2014-2020, EUR 2.42 billion were allocated to the national programmes of the Member States. Up to 2021, Member States have actually spent EUR 1.61 billion equivalent to an absorption rate of 66.42%.

In terms of overall performance of the Fund, for many of the indicators set in the Regulation, either the milestones have been exceeded or even the targets have already been achieved. The implementation of ISF-Border and Visa will run until end-2022, and thus two years of implementation remain. Up to 2021 accounts, ISF-Borders and Visa has attained an absorption rate of 66.42% which can be considered overall satisfactory, given that the Fund is implemented mainly through long-term projects for heavy equipment or development of relevant large scale IT systems and the fact the national programmes were reinforced considerably with funding over period 2017-2020. In 2021 accounts, the Member States have submitted EUR 288.57 million of payments to the Commission, lower than the level of 2020 expenditure (EUR 385.63 million). The payments are broken down as follows: EUR 239.93 million in the area of border management, EUR 16.64 million for operating support, EUR 16.58 million for the Special Transit Scheme in Lithuania, EUR 7.92 million for common visa policy and EUR 7.50 million for technical assistance.

In the latest Annual Implementation Reports concerning 2021, Member States mostly reported that the COVID-19 pandemic meant delays in project implementation due to e.g. delays in public procurement procedures, travel restrictions, hiring processes of staff, construction works due to lockdown and other restrictions related to COVID-19. Training activities were particularly negatively affected by the travel restrictions imposed in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigating measures included the extension of duration of projects, increasing the co-financing rates for some projects.

In order to strengthen external border checks and to close existing information gaps, including those necessary to detect identity fraud, the co-legislators adopted in May 2019 **the interoperability package**⁶, which encompasses Schengen Information System II (SIS II), Eurodac, Visa Information System (VIS), as well as the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation system (ETIAS), Interoperability will allow the front line law enforcement officers, border guards and migration officials to make the best use of the existing information in the systems in a timely manner, thus contributing to improving internal security and border management. The Fund's resources are used to support the implementation the interoperability of EU information systems and to meet the politically agreed timeline of end 2023.

Three new regulations on the operational and use of the Schengen Information System were adopted at the end of 2018 [SIS Recast]. One of the new elements is the deployment of a fingerprint search functionality of SIS in Member States, for which EU funding was used. The revised SIS should become operational in 2022.

In 2021, the implementation of the Funds has gained further momentum, notably as regards the absorption of the extra allocations provided for IT systems in late 2018 (EES) and late 2019 (ETIAS, SIS Recast and IT systems in general). The implementation of those IT systems has reached a critical phase, most of the development have to be complemented by end 2022/early 2023 and the use of these extra allocations reflects the progress of the different projects. In 2021, Member States prepared the integration of their national systems for the Schengen Information System, including SIRENE. They will continue working on the integration to the interoperability infrastructure and ETIAS in 2022. This is not a new policy initiative but the consequence of an ongoing policy initiative.

The Commission is steering the Member States to enhance the implementation of the programme in its final phase, among others through the (virtual) participation to national monitoring committee meetings, bilateral discussions, monitoring visits, messages at political level, etc. Great heed is now being paid by the Commission to help Member States best use the increased flexibility introduced by the amendments to the funds regulations related to the war in Ukraine. This is expected to further boost implementation on the ground, although changing priorities are likely to alter progress towards the targets originally set.

Union Actions

Due to their transitional character, the Union Actions have traditionally not been the most adequate instrument for the implementation of the ISF – Borders and Visa. 2021 has not been a very active year either. Nonetheless five new grant agreements were concluded for actions under the 2020 annual work programme and their implementation started in late 2021 and early 2022.

These five grant agreements support the activities of the European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO Network), one of the principal EU tools that contributes to building up partnerships with third countries. EUR 3.2 million will support capacity building activities for authorities involved in migration management and border control in third countries; assistance to consular authorities on document fraud detection related to visa applications; support to Common Airport Liaison Officers; support to the ILOs' return and readmission tasks in third countries; support for the promotion of legal pathways to the EU.

A vast majority of projects selected under previous annual work programmes, covering longer time span are still running. The implementation of the Union actions have continued also to be impacted by COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the modifications of originally approved grants, be it for the description of the actions or deadlines, hence no-cost extensions and amendments of the numerous grant agreements.

For the programming period 2014-2020, the ISF – Borders and Visa committed 453.24 million for **EMAS**. The largest beneficiaries of this funding over this period have been Bulgaria, Greece and Italy, but eleven Member States in total have benefitted. During 2021 the Commission awarded three Emergency Assistance grants under ISF-Borders and Visa: to Spain for the provision of assistance services and facilities for the police and border forces and migrants undergoing identification controls upon arrival in the Canary Islands; to Croatia for a project to support the reinforcement and continuation of border management activities at the external borders; and to Lithuania for urgent support to strengthen border protection at the border with Belarus.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

As the implementation of the CCEI has not started yet, information on it under this section is not relevant. The Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (MEF) to establish the indicators and intervention logic is currently being developed. It is based on a PMF study carried out by a contractor and finalised in December 2020. The MEF is expected to be finalised in Q2 2022.

For the BMVI, Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 have properly started and the first performance reports received. The first reports should be received by 15 February 2023 and by 15 February of each subsequent year.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Given that the CCEI is a newly established programme, the information under this section is not relevant to it.

For the BMVI, Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 have properly started and the first performance reports received

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Taking into account the difficult situation at the borders due to migration pressure as well as the continuous security challenges, it is important to stress that until the end of 2021, ISF-Borders and Visa has proven an efficient fund getting closer to its set objectives – ensuring an efficient protection of the EU's external borders and a high level of security in the Union.

The instrument for border and visa policy builds on the investment and achievements made with the support of the predecessors: the External Borders Fund, the Internal Security Fund - Borders and Visa. The fund has supported overall EU policies

in the area of external border management and visas, such as the uniform implementation of the Schengen acquis, Eurosur, the purchase of the border management equipment for the use by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the common visa policy and the relevant IT systems for Home affairs. Support under direct management has mainly contributed to the relevant supporting studies for the IT system, relevant evaluation mechanisms scheme, some transnational projects in the area of buying and employing the operational equipment and trainings.

Strengthening the protection of EU's external borders and supporting a common visa policy

The protection of the external border and supporting a common visa policy are closely intertwined objectives. Therefore, the section will first present achievements at the level of the fund overall and then present the achievements at the level of individual specific objectives.

In 2021, the Commission continued the work to address the root causes of irregular migration and strengthen the protection of EU's external borders. The total number of detected irregular border crossings remained at approx. 200 000, marking an increase compared to 2020 (125 000) and 2019 (142 000). The increases are mostly explained by increases in the number of Syrians and Afghans apprehended within the western Balkan route as well as migrants from Egypt in the Central Mediterranean route.¹

As pointed out in the impact assessment,² the **ISF-Borders and Visa** is making a crucial contribution to the application of the Schengen acquis. The Commission has considerably invested in the effective control of the external borders through the information systems at EU level and their interoperability (SIS II, VIS, Eurodac, EES and ETIAS), providing border guards and police officers with relevant information. Even though each of these systems created for a specific purpose, all together at EU level, have facilitated the sharing of information among but also within the Member States. The Fund has also contributed to the reinforcement of Member States' authorities component for border management which act as the national components of the European Border and Coast Guard, mainly through funding their technical capabilities and infrastructure.

In addition, the European Border Surveillance System (Eurosur) funded from the ISF-Borders and Visa provides further support to border authorities and helps to strengthen the external borders security.

As regards information systems, for the Schengen Information System and the Visa Information System, Member States have extensively used the Fund's resources to cover their needs in this area, including for operating support. For the new Information systems such as the Entry/Exit and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System, Member States required a lot of support on how to use the funds properly. Time is however short in particular for the Entry/Exit System that will enter into operation in the fourth quarter of 2022. The European Travel Information and Authorisation System will enter into operation in May 2023. The full implementation of all Information systems and their interoperability should be in place by the end of 2023. As the systems are not yet fully operational, it is too early to provide a comprehensive assessment of the efficiency of the related EU funding. Special attention will be paid to the use of funds also in this area, to ensure that all funding made available through the ISF National Programmes has been duly absorbed by December 2022. **However, the Commission's proposal to prolong the implementation period for the money available to Member States under the 2014-2020 Home Affairs funds by one year due to crisis in Ukraine, was adopted in April 2022.**

Member States have received additional support ('top-up') from the ISF-Borders and Visa for the upgrade of the Schengen Information System. Funding has also been provided for the maintenance and evolution of the national systems for Schengen Information System and the Supplementary Information Request at National Entries (SIRENE) Bureaux.

The Fund also fostered a better use of resources by increasing the capacity of Member States through e.g. specialised training of border guards or study visits to undertake border surveillance and by developing consular cooperation between Member States.

The 2014-2020 programme was also instrumental to help technological and knowledge update for European security, development of capabilities of European security authorities, and European strategic autonomy on critical security technologies. Member States used the 2014-2020 programme to take up innovations coming from Union-funded research for civil security of the past decades, under FP7 or Horizon 2020. Examples include: new detectors for Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological or Explosive substances; the Automated Border Control gates in airports and border crossing points; biometric technologies; or systems used by police and civil protection for sanitizing public areas during the COVID-19 pandemics.

Supporting a common visa policy

In 2021, Member States have implemented projects for a value of EUR 7.92 million under the specific objective "Support a common visa policy" and EUR 4.52 million under the specific objective "Operating Support" in relation to visa policy.

Between 2014 and 2021, a total of 449 consular cooperation activities have developed with the help of the Instrument. The trend shows that the cumulative values reported by Member States have steadily been increasing and have already exceeded the set milestones and targets. The forms of consular cooperation include co-locations, common application centres, representations and

¹ Increases in migrants apprehended might also follow from improved operational capacity of Frontex Services as well as increases in the push-pull factors at the global level.

others. The trend towards more cooperation between Member States is correlated with savings in this area and the need to achieve economies of scale in consular support.

However, training staff in the area of visa and border management is still below the targets. Up to 2021, 5 578 persons have been trained in the area of visa policy, which is about half of the target of 11 365 persons. If one looks at the number of hours of training delivered, the average target achievement is even lower, at 12%. However, the low aggregated target achievement hides important differences at the Member States level and it is mostly explained by too optimistic targets being set in two Member States. A simple average of the Member States' target achievement is in fact 98%, suggesting better overall performance. In addition, as pointed out above, training activities, were the most negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.² Consequently, the number of persons trained decreased to 790 in 2020 compared to 1 222 in 2019, and only marginally improved to 901 in 2021.

With the support of the Instrument, a total of 720 specialised posts in third countries were supported by the Instrument, nearly doubling the target value. This is largely due to the fact that cooperation with third countries in the area of border management and tackling irregular migration has improved significantly in the past years. This coincides with the trend of deploying increasing numbers of ILOs and other specialised staff to third countries.

Strengthening the EU external borders

In 2021, Member States have implemented projects for a value of EUR 239.93 million in view of strengthening the EU external borders, EUR 16.58 million for the Special Transit Scheme for Lithuania, EUR 12.12 million for Operating support for borders and EUR and EUR 7.50 million for Technical assistance.

In the area of border management, 34 369 border guards have been trained up to 2021, already virtually achieving the target of 34 603. Data at Member State level shows different degrees in the delivery of training to staff on border management topics as compared to the target: some Member States have already attained or exceeded their targets, while others are yet to report projects for trainings or show more modest achievement ratios.

In total up to 2021, the instruments supported the development or upgrade of 38 901 border control (checks and surveillance actions) infrastructure and means, which is well above the target of 19 902, with several projects leading to upgrades and developments beyond the expectations especially in some MS.

It should also be noted that the number of incidents reported by Member States to the European Situational Picture is in line with the target set in the national programmes (with 149 897 incidents reported up to 2021 as compared to the target of 157 593). This actually represents a positive trend as it matches the situation on the ground with a significant decrease in the irregular border crossings observed since the peak of the migration crisis in 2015 and only a small increase due to the increased pressure at the borders in 2021.

Lessons learnt

Insufficient cooperation, coordination and strategic steering in the implementation of the ISF with other EU level initiatives: This challenge was addressed by including eight shared management funds, including the HOME funds, in a single legal framework. This allows for a closer coordination and cooperation of the shared management funds both at strategic level as well as at the level of implementation. A need for simplification: in order to simplify and build on synergies, the rules applicable to the shared management funds will be aligned with rules applicable to the management of other Union Funds under shared management ('single rule book'). This provides better guidance on the management and control systems and audit requirements, and ensures that the eligibility rules under shared management make full use of simplified cost options (SCOs). A closer coordination of IBMF with EU civil security research was also analysed in the Action Plan on Synergies between Civil, Defence and Space Industries.

Better exploitation of innovation opportunities from EU civil security research. Two challenges identified with the 2014-2020 programme to facilitate the take up by Home Affairs Funds of innovation coming from EU security research were that a) the mapping of innovations is difficult, and likely incomplete; b) innovations with a closer market and to be taken up directly by law enforcement agencies, risk not to be exploited. As the Commission indicated in the CSWD Enhancing Security Through Research and Innovation (SWD(2021) 422 final), and in the Action Plan on Synergies between Civil, Defence and Space Industries, achievements IBMF promoting new European security technologies coming from EU security research will be improved in the 2021-2027 period. This includes promoting a capability-based programming, better tracking of innovation going from EU research to IBMF support, stronger links and incentives to exploit security research results. To this aim, the Commission is assisting Member States to identifying opportunities, is planning Specific Actions focused on exploiting innovations based on previous Union-funded security research and is carrying out the Study on the EU Security Market.

Insufficient flexibility to respond to changing needs during the programming period: This challenge was addressed in two ways. Firstly, Member States will initially be provided with around 47.9% to Member States programmes. An additional share of 9.6% of

² This is confirmed e.g. in one MS that alone explains around 20 p.p. of the cumulate gap. The low target achievement in this specific case is explained by a combination of too optimistic target setting at the beginning of the programming period, and the negative effect of COVID on training activities.

the total budget will be allocated at mid-term (technical adjustment of the distribution key subject to financial performance according to which a Member State should have submitted payment claims covering at least 10 % of the initial amount of payment appropriations). Secondly, a financial envelope of 42.5% will be managed through the thematic facility, which will periodically provide funding for a number of priorities defined in Commission financing decisions. This facility in particular offers flexibility in the management of the instrument by allowing the disbursement of funds to the technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission and the following components of the thematic facility: support for specific actions, providing additional funding for dedicated actions of high EU added value, through the Member States’ national programmes; support for Union actions, managed through direct and indirect management; and emergency assistance.

The third main challenge was the need to strengthen the performance monitoring in terms of quality and frequency of the data. In order to address this challenge, the Commission proposed greatly improved performance monitoring with more regular and reliable data setting out common output and result indicators. In cooperation with the Member States, the Commission services has developed definitions for each of these indicator. This will ensure a common understanding of each indicator across all Member States and programmes. Moreover it will this not only greatly contribute to improving data quality, it will also enhance data comparability. Member States will be required to develop this performance framework for each of its programmes and underpin it by methodological considerations. The managing authority, in its yearly management declaration and as part of the annual assurance package, will have to confirm the reliability of submitted data relating to indicators and the progress of the programme. The annual performance review will be an occasion for a policy dialogue with the Member States on issues of programme implementation and performance. In particular, the annual performance reports will provide qualitative information on programme implementation going beyond the quantitative data submitted for the indicators. It will complement the biyearly transmission of structured data and strengthen the performance review process. In the context of the performance framework, Commission services will hold at least two meetings with Member States during the programming period. All data required for monitoring progress in programme implementation will be transmitted electronically. Twice a year, Member States will transmit to the Commission structured data on the common output and result indicators. Thus, the Commission services will have a much more updated picture of programme performance than in the current period. In addition, the HOME programmes will now also use the open data platform, which had been established in the current programming period for the European Structural and Investment Funds. It will allow stakeholders to access almost real time data on programme implementation. This is an important novelty for the HOME funds, which in the current period do not publish data on the open data platform.

Moreover, Member States are now required to set up a system of electronic data exchange between beneficiaries and managing authorities, and between different authorities of the management and control system. This requirement builds on the current CPR regulation, which did not cover the HOME funds, and further develops certain aspects of data collection. It is thus a novelty for the HOME funds. Beneficiary and project information, as well as the performance reports will be published on a dedicated website run by the managing authority. This will give greater visibility to achievements and allow better communication.

3.2. Key achievements

Given that the CCEI is a newly established programme, the information under this section is not relevant to it.

Cumulative number for 2014-2020 , incl. 2021	Number of hits in SIS: 222 967	Total number of alerts: Ratio: 0.25%	449	720	38 901
Explanation of the number	Number of hits in the Schengen Information Systems in relation to the total number of alerts. The number of hits dropped as a consequence of travel restrictions imposed under the Covid-19 crisis.	Cumulative number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Instrument.	Cumulative number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Instrument.	Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument	

BMVI

Following several reinforcements between 2017-2020, the total allocation to the national programmes under the **Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa** instrument now reaches EUR 2.42 billion.

A lot of progress was reached in protecting the EU external borders through **building new and strengthening the existing IT systems and technologies**, increasing internal security and facilitating regular border crossings.

Examples of success stories

Shared management

Thanks to the ISF BV SA, there have been **7 Thermo-Vision Vehicles** purchased, as well as **14 Coastal Patrol Boats and Rigid Inflatable Boats, 9 Coastal Patrol Vessels, and 6 Fixed Wing Aircrafts**. These **36 large scale assets** have been registered in the **Technical Equipment Pool** of the Agency, and are to be made available to the Agency, in application of Article 64(14) of the EBCG 2.0 Regulation.

The example of the purchase of the **Thermo-Vision Vehicle** by Austria may serve as a success story. Awarded in 2015, delivered in 2017, this asset have been pledged for the **entire years of 2020, 2021, as well as 2022** in Greece.

Bulgaria

To protect an important part of the EU external border the ISF Borders and Visa has been supporting Bulgaria in the establishment and development of the Integrated Surveillance System at the Bulgarian-Turkish border with funding amounting to EUR 26.3 million. This is an example of a big action funded through various management modes – the national programme contributed EUR 6 million, EUR 26 million was provided from the emergency assistance envelope of ISF Borders and Visa and under Union Actions EUR 0.3 million. The surveillance system covers the main part of the 274 km Bulgarian-Turkish border from the Black Sea coast to the Bulgarian-Greek border, and includes stationary and mobile surveillance equipment. The Integrated Surveillance System will continue to be supported also under the new Border Management and Visa Instrument.

Germany

Another good example is the “Document and Visa advisors” project implemented by the German Bundespolizei (Federal Police) since 2015, with a total of 4 consecutive projects and a total allocated EU contribution of EUR 11.2 million. The project funds the posting of currently 53 Bundespolizei officers in 33 locations in 25 third countries, where they work to prevent travelling into the EU without valid documents, by training and advising personnel of visa offices (German and from other EU-MS or SAC) and airlines employees on the assessment of the authenticity of documents presented by visa applicants or travellers.

Greece

During 2020, Greece initiated the important project of extending the integrated border surveillance system in the Evros area using a number of autonomous automated border surveillance facilities at key points of the border between Turkey and Greece. After completion – estimated for 2022 – this will ensure the transmission of accurate information regarding the entire length of the border in real time to the staff dedicated to the control of the external borders at the Operations Centres. The project is implemented by the Hellenic Police Headquarters and the EU contribution amounts to EUR 11.24 million.

Direct management

In **Spain**, emergency assistance (EUR 28.5 under ISF – Borders and Visa from 2014-2020) mainly funded actions related to tackling irregular migration in Southern Spain. A new ISF – Borders and Visa project was selected in 2020, to help the national police to acquire necessary equipment (IT equipment, scanners and software) in view of an efficient registration of the irregular migrants in the EURODAC database.

On 19 December 2018, the Commission awarded an emergency assistance grant of EUR 3.15 million under ISF Borders to the Ministry of Interior of **Cyprus**, in order to support needs for staff, equipment and consumables for operating the ‘Pournara’ First Reception Centre. The project was completed in January 2021.

Union actions

Examples of ISF funded Union actions can be found in the Snapshot published by the Commission at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/e-library/multimedia/publications/20190909_snapshot-2019-eu-asylum-migration-integration-internal-security-fund_en.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The key findings of the latest Interim evaluations of the Internal Security Fund - Borders and Visa 2014-2017⁸ and of the Internal Security Fund - Police⁹ have been presented in the Programme Statements DB2020.

By 31 December 2023, the Member States will provide an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions under their national programmes and the Commission will present by 30 June 2024 an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of the legal bases.

At the same time, the Commission is implementing the Action Plan following the internal audit findings on the monitoring and reporting on the implementation and performance of National Programmes. In particular, the Commission has strengthened its

processes for monitoring the National Programmes and increased its efforts to improve the reliability of performance data reported by the Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports submitted annually. More attention will be given to the consistency of data reported by the Member States. The Commission has provided guidance to the Member States with a view to ensure common understanding of the indicators established in the Fund and to establish better links with information provided in the accounts.

Moreover, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) issued recommendations on the strengthening of the management of the ISF emergency assistance and national programmes. They cover in particular strengthening the performance monitoring framework by monitoring and reporting the outcomes achieved by projects funded by emergency assistance, ensuring that such projects contain output and outcome indicators with clean targets and baselines etc.

While the Commission started implementing the ECA’s recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations will be put in place in the context of the next MFF.

A study on the Performance Measurement Framework on funding programmes managed by DG TAXUD was carried out in 2020 and finalised in December 2020. When designing the now called Monitoring and Evaluation Framework on the CCEI, the Commission will aim to take into account, to the extent possible, the recommendations provided by the contractor in this report.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard as a shared responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and of the national authorities responsible for border management, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, to prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows

Indicator 1: Number of persons who have applied for international protection at the border crossing points

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
NA	Milestones									2029
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Data collected by the Member State. It is not generated by projects supported by BMVI.
Link to the objective	Support to the integrated border management as per the specific objective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline NA for output indicators. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of items of equipment registered in the Technical Equipment Pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on	No data									

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of equipment registered in the TEP
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Supporting integrated border management via registration of the relevant equipment, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator. It reflects the growing focus of the Commission to strengthen operational capacity of the EBCGA.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of equipment items
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Supporting integrated border management via registration of the relevant equipment, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator. It reflects the growing focus of the Commission to strengthen operational capacity of the EBCGA.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 4: Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre (NCC)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029

0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of new authorities with which Eurosur NCC is exchanging information
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Improve cooperation of relevant authorities to support integrated border management as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, an indicator monitored the number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 5: Number of border crossings through Automated Border Control gates and e-gates

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of crossings
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Data collected by the Member State. It is not generated by projects supported by BMVI.
Link to the objective	Increases in the number of border crossings through automated border control gates and e-gates are a means to contribute to effective and integrated border management as per the specific objective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020 a similar indicator was monitored: Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Instrument out of the total number of border crossings
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 6: Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of addressed recommendations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Addressing recommendations from Schengen Evaluation and vulnerability assessments in the area of border management directly contributes to the effective European Integrated Border management at the external border, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is new as it reflects the growing focus the Commission puts on the recommendations of Schengen evaluation
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 7: Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Upskilling relevant staff is a means to supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator as it monitors for the first time the effectiveness of the training
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 8: Number of persons refused entry by border authorities

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of persons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Data collected by the Member State. It is not generated by projects supported by BMVI.
Link to the objective	This indicator can inform on the correct functioning of the European integrated border management system, as per the specific objective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, we report in the programme statement the following indicator: Number of irregular migrants apprehended at the EU external borders. The data for this indicators is provided by Frontex.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 2: Supporting the common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel and prevent migratory and security risks

Indicator 1: Number of new/upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of consulates
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI's monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Expand and improve the consulates' network as a means to support the common visa policy as per the specific objective.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States reported in their Annual Implementation Report on the percentage and number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the instrument out of the total number of consulates.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency

	situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of addressed recommendations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI’s monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Addressing recommendations from Schengen Evaluation in the area of the common visa policy directly contributes to the Common Visa policy as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is new as it reflects the focus the Commission puts on the recommendations of Schengen evaluation.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of visa applications using digital means

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of visa applications made using digital means
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Data collected by the Member State. It is not generated by projects supported by BMVI.
Link to the objective	Digital visa applications contribute to the support to the Common Visa Policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator and it reflects the digitalisation agenda of the Commission
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was

	adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 4: Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation set up among Member States in visa processing

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of forms of cooperation
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI’s monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Cooperation in visa processing as a means to support the Common Visa policy, as per the specific objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, an indicator monitored the number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Instrument.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 5: Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of participants
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	BMVI’s monitoring systems, for each programme. The exact data collection method will vary depending on the choice of the Managing Authority, which remains responsible to ensure quality and accuracy of the data, and in line with the provisions in the legal basis.
Link to the objective	Upskilling relevant staff is a means to support a Common Visa policy
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator as it monitors for the first time the effectiveness of the training
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before

	adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 3: Contributing to adequate and equivalent results of customs controls through the transparent purchase, maintenance and upgrade of relevant, state-of-the-art, such as secure, safe and environmental-friendly, and reliable customs control equipment, thereby supporting the customs authorities acting as one to protect the interests of the Union

Indicator 1: Percentage of BCPs and customs laboratories which have equipment that meets the common list of equipment that should be available per customs laboratory/type of BCP (i.e. land, sea, air, postal, rail)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
				60%			80%			80%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Applications for funding and annual reporting by Member States
Link to the objective	Degree of adherence of BCPs and customs laboratories equipment to the common list of equipment's that should be available per laboratory/type of border crossing point in order to respond to risk/threats applicable to them, thus contributing to harmonised application of customs control.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A for MFF 14-20 (new programme) /
Other methodological comments	External factors may influence the evolution of this indicator, notably the policies and resources of Member States and the evolution of threats applicable to border crossing points.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Internal Security Fund

General Objective 1: To contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union

Indicator 1: Number of irregular migrants apprehended at the EU external borders

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2022
				750 000						250 000
73 042	Actual Progress									Final
	282 873	2 104 975	2 616 022	2 820 676	2 969 712	3 111 453	3 236 563	3 436 485		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of crossings
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	https://frontex.europa.eu/along-eu-borders/migratory-map/
Narrative	
Methodology	Cumulative numbers over the years
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Impact indicators no longer present in 21-27
Other methodological comments	Number of persons refused entry by border authorities' will be monitored in the MFF 2021-2027. The data will be provided by the Member States in their annual performance report.

Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	After the migration wave of 2015, the trend remained rather stable. A small increase in 2021 (from around 140 000 and 120 000 in 2019 and 2020, respectively, to 200 000 in 2021) is mostly due to stronger pressure on the western Balkan route (especially from Syrians and Afghans) and partly in the central mediterranean one (especially from Egypt). In general, the high volatility of the relevant external factors make forecasting difficult (political situation in the main third countries of transit and origin of irregular migration, the migration crisis due to the war in Syria, and the evolution of the COVID pandemic).. The partial lifting of border restriction measures in 2021 lifting of border restriction measures introduced for the COVID-19 pandemic might have led to an increase of migratory flows. The deep socio-economic impact of the pandemic in the third countries may also be factor at play in the increase of migration flows. In addition, the better availability of vaccines in the EU as opposed to third countries may constitute an additional pull factor, given that vaccine doses are likely to be generally available in receiving countries of migration, less so in countries of origin. Finally, several ongoing crisis situations in third countries (e.g. in Syria, Ethiopia or Libya) may lead to future flows towards the EU. In addition, the progressive strengthening of Frontex might contribute to increasing levels of irregular migrants apprehended. Please note that the number refe

Specific Objective 1: Supporting a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel, provide a high quality of service to visa applicants, ensure equal treatment of third-country nationals and tackle illegal immigration

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Instrument. Broken down in co-locations, common application centres, representations, others

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
0	Actual Progress									Final
	14	60	105	178	269	400	431	449		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of consular cooperation, actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be monitored in MFF 2021-2027. However, cooperation in visa processing will be monitored through the following indicator: ‘Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation set up among Member States in visa processing’
Other methodological comments	The cumulative number provides a cumulative picture without providing insight into the type of cooperation activities developed. Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year’s programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The trend shows that the cumulative values reported by Member States have steadily been increasing and have already exceeded the set milestones and targets. The forms of consular cooperation include co-locations, common application centres, representations and others. The trend towards more cooperation between Member States is correlated with savings in this area the need to achieve economies of scale in consular support.

Indicator 2: Cumulative number of staff trained and number of training courses in aspects related to the common visa policy with the help of the Instrument

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Staff										
2013	Milestones									2022
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0	418	1 099	1 886	2 665	3 887	4 677	5 578		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Regional training courses										
2013	Milestones									2022

0				92 137						184 273
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	173	2 446	5 456.5	8 333.5	10 872.8	17 383.8	22 061.8		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	The indicator is based on the number of staff trained and related number of hours of training delivered. In the Annual Implementation Report, the Responsible Authority will indicate the cumulative amount of hours of training delivered during the financial year. In general, the duration of the training courses is limited to the hours spent for training purposes hence it is a good practice to take out lunch breaks if these last an hour or more. However, there is no need to deduct also the shorter breaks. If a person attends several course s/he is counted each time because s/he acquires different knowledge.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Training remains an important area of support of the BMVI. Therefore, number of participants in training as well as the number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training will be monitored
Other methodological comments	Under the sub-indicator, it is not clear whether Member States provided data on whole courses, on training days or training hours. Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The COVID 19 pandemic certainly continued to limit the number of trainings conducted in 2021. However, there is continuing progress of the indicator and in many Member States the targets have been achieved. In some cases, it is the too optimistic target setting which affects negatively the cumulative figures for target achievement, giving the somewhat misleading impression that the progress is overall limited. If target achievement is calculated as a simple, non weighted average across all Member States, values are significantly higher.

Indicator 3: Cumulative number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Instrument. Broken down by ILOs, others

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0	31	222	364	492	560	693	720		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Indicators under MFF 2021-2027 will continue to monitor the number of staff deployed to consulates in third countries with a specific focus on number of staff deployed for visa processing, as well as the number of joint liaison officers deployed to third countries
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement. The table above only shows the total number of specialised posts and not the breakdown.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Cooperation with third countries in the area of border management and tackling irregular migration has taken a flight in the past years. This coincides with the trend of deploying increasing numbers of ILOs and other specialised staff to third countries. The set milestones and targets have been exceeded.

Indicator 4: Percentage and number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument out of the total number of consulates

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022

0				462						923
	Actual Progress									Final
	2	36	352	527	954	2 003	2 537	3 074		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, indicators will monitor the support setting up new or upgrading consulates outside the Schengen area, including the consulates, which upgraded to enhance client-friendliness for Visa applicants
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The ISF-B has more than expected (looking at the milestones and targets) been used to develop or upgrade consulates. In principle the number of consulates in third countries is not necessarily increasing, but it is possible that Member States have reported a variety of expenditure under this indicator (even for small scale upgrades of consulates).

Specific Objective 2: Supporting integrated border management to ensure, on one hand, a uniform and high level of control and protection of the external borders, and on the other hand, the smooth crossing of the external borders in conformity with the Schengen acquis, while guaranteeing access to international protection for those needing it, in accordance with the obligations contracted by the Member States in the field of human rights

Indicator 1: Number of staff trained and number of training courses in aspects related to border management with the help of the Instrument

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Staff										
2013	Milestones									2022
0				17 302						34 603
	Actual Progress									Final
	43	2 303	5 414	8 260	13 268	15 949	30 214	34 369		
Are we on track :	On track									
Courses										
2013	Milestones									2022
0				167 162						334 323
	Actual Progress									Final
	34	352.5	10 231.5	28 857.5	49 232.5	88 874.5	130 687	142 514		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	The indicator is based on hours of training delivered. In the Annual Implementation Report, the Responsible Authority will indicate the cumulative amount of hours of training delivered during the financial year. In general, the duration of the training courses is limited to the hours spent for training purposes hence it is a good practice to take out lunch breaks if these last an hour or more. However, there is no need to deduct also the shorter breaks. If a person attends several course s/he is counted each time because s/he acquires different knowledge.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Training remains an important area of support of the BMVI. Therefore, number of participants in training as well as the number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training will be monitored
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's

	programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The cumulative number of trained staff has reached its target, although this value hides some variation across Member States. The number of training courses continues to be below its target, but this gap is largely explained by a calculation method used in one Member State. Simple (non weighted) average of MS level target achievement equals to 97%.

Indicator 2: Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Instrument. Broken down by infrastructure, fleet (air, land, sea borders), equipment, others

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
0	Actual Progress									Final
	348	1 159	7 091	10 697	22 352	27 815	34 190	38 901		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	a) Infrastructures are non-moveable objects, such as buildings. Equipment are moveable objects and should hence not be counted here. In the case of IT system, large-scale IT infrastructures are considered as infrastructure, small IT equipment are considered as equipment. b) The indicators should be counted until the end of the eligibility period (period covered: 1 Jan 2014 to 31.12.2022).c) All equipment should be counted, not high value investments only. d) Only the number of infrastructure should be counted, not the upgrades. Under this indicator it is possible to report border crossings where infrastructure will be replaced/upgraded as well as means (including e.g. replacement of vehicles, drug detectors et.). Member States can use both interpretations for the purpose of annual implementation reports as this indicator is broken down in sub-categories to measure, among others, infrastructure and means.
Methodology	The most important is to ensure consistency throughout the years. Member States were advised that methodology/interpretation used to set your targets during the programming phase should be the same used to report data.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027 indicators will continue to monitor the number of facilities for border crossing points constructed / upgraded
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Differently from the training of staff, that is more unpredictable and more significantly affected by contextual factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of infrastructures and means for border management to be upgraded can be planned more easily and it is visible from the trend that the data on the indicators is more or less aligned with the set milestone and target. The overachievement is mostly due to a single Member State.

Indicator 3: Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Instrument out of the total number of border crossings

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Baseline	Milestones									2022
0	Actual Progress									Final
	0	7 225 887	18 782 564	34 639 176	55 528 260	99 117 842	107 075 304	112 177 703		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of border crossings
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, an indicator will monitor the number of border crossings through Automated Border Control gates and e-gates
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data

	retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of border crossing points through ABC gates is continuously growing. The peculiar thing about this indicator is the fact that the Fund cannot contribute to the number of border crossings as such. Instead, this indicator aims at showing that the ABC gates will contribute to a smoother crossing of the external borders – which is the case; an increasing number of border crossings is taking place through the ABC gates co-financed with the Fund. In addition, as in previous cases, distance to the target largely connected to the low performance of only one MS, hence not reflective of the overall performance of the fund.

Indicator 4: Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR. Broken down by National Coordination Centres, Regional Coordination Centres, Local Coordination Centres, other types of coordination centres

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
19	30			30						30
	Actual Progress									Final
	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Absolute Number of infrastructures of national border surveillance
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2014
Data source	Eurosur Regulation. The 19 MS having external borders to the east and to the south were required by the Eurosur Regulation to set up their NCCs by December 2013. All the NCCs were set up by December 2014.
Narrative	The indicator was set up to monitor the setting up of national coordination centres stipulated by the Eurosur Regulation.
Methodology	The Regulation stipulates only one national coordination centre per Member State
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be not be monitored in MFF 2021-2027 as the target is already implemented. However, an indicator will be established to monitor the number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre (NCC).
Other methodological comments	The indicator reports the number of National Coordination Centres (1 NCC per Member State), which during these years were gradually upgraded and received more competencies. We consider setting up more relevant than the further developing of the NCCs. The data provided by Member States in the Annual Implementation reports is not presented here.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	There is no trend to be reported because the data remained stable.

Indicator 5: Number of incidents reported by Member States to the European Situational Picture. Broken down by illegal immigration, including incidents relating to a risk to the lives of migrants, cross-border crime, crisis situations

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2022
				78 797						157 593
	Actual Progress									Final
	12 005	21 986	34 190	47 172	64 613	90 862	116 453	149 897		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of incidents, actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, this indicator will be discontinued as the link with the support of the fund is rather weak.
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	This indicator is not linked to the Fund, but is rather a number collected by MS that is reported in the ISF-B annual implementation report for information purposes. The numbers depend on the pressure at

the border and cannot be planned in advance.
--

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	0.05							0.05	0%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Horizontal climate mainstreaming (and biodiversity) targets are novelties in the IBMF funds in the 2021-2027 period. The IBMF Funds do not have a binding target (%) in the basic act, but a horizontal recital common for all funds in the EU budget indicating that the IBMF funds will contribute to the overall, horizontal, mainstream target within its potential. Since the ex-ante estimates/predictions do not qualify within the 40% or 100% markers in the case of IBMF, the contribution is calculated in the ABAC when the actual use of the appropriations is available.

6.1.3. Key achievements

It is still too early to provide examples and demonstrate concretely how any action funded in the programming period 2021-2027 served towards climate change mitigation or adaptation, since Member States' programmes have not yet been adopted.

6.1.4. Performance

Please see 6.1.3 above.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 3 Score 0: 285.3							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

In 2021, the Commission committed 3million for the Union Actions which have a potential to impact on gender equality, to which a 0* score is assigned. However, these should be considered as proxies, as an exact monetary value of individual activities benefiting gender equality cannot be reliably estimated also due to the lack of disaggregated data on the voted budget implementation of 2021. The figure covers project actions, such as trainings and knowledge sharing which habitually tackle gender specific issues, amongst others. As regards shared management, the implementation of 2021-2027 funds has not started yet in 2021 and the current reporting tools do not allow to trace gender relevant contribution for the 2014-2020 funds. Therefore, the value for gender equality contributions by shared management activities in this context is reported as zero. The remaining voted budget implementation to which a score 0 is assigned should equally be considered as a proxy, due to the lack of granular data on actions, such as the purchase of equipment or support to infrastructures, which have no significant impact on gender equality.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

All actions funded under the Border Management and Visa Instrument, including those carried out in third countries, should be implemented in full compliance with the rights and principles enshrined in the Union acquis, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and should be in line with the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from international instruments to which they are party, in particular by ensuring compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and non-refoulement.

The Border Management and Visa Instrument is committed to the horizontal approach of the EU budget in which equality between women and men, as well as rights and equal opportunities for all, and the mainstreaming of these objectives should be taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation, implementation and monitoring of relevant programmes.

In the broader context, in order to receive payments from the Commission, Member States programmes for HOME funds will have to comply with the number of horizontal enabling conditions, one of which concerns the effective application and implementation of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the equality of men and women. The horizontal enabling conditions have to remain fulfilled throughout the entire programming period and MS have to report on their application to the programme monitoring committee and the Commission.

The BMVI facilitates orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

In line with the Union's commitments to work towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development, the CCEI Regulation commits to contributing to the achievement of the Union's goal of spending at least 30% of the total amount of Union budget on supporting climate objectives and of the Union's ambition to spend 7.5% of the annual Union budget on biodiversity in 2024 and 10% in both 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.

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

The policy objective of the Border Management and Visa Instrument is to develop and implement a strong and effective European integrated border management at the external borders, thereby contributing to ensuring a high level of internal security within the Union, while safeguarding the free movement of persons within it, and fully respecting the relevant Union acquis and the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from international instruments to which they are party.

The Fund facilitates legitimate travel, while preventing irregular migration and security risks, was identified as one the main objectives of the Union's approach presented in the Commission's Communication on *A New Pact on Migration and Asylum* ¹⁰.

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Over recent years, security threats have intensified and diversified in Europe. They have come in the form of terrorist attacks, new types of serious and organised crime, as well as cybercrime. Security has an inherent cross-border dimension and therefore a strong, coordinated EU response is required. Beyond internal security challenges, Europe faces complex external threats that no Member State can meet on its own.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

While terrorist and other serious and organised crime networks increasingly operate across borders/in a globalised manner, Member States remain with a responsibility towards their citizens to deliver public security, in full compliance with EU fundamental rights, but the EU can support these actions. In this regard, the Treaties envisage the need to ensure a high level of security, including through preventive measures and through coordination and cooperation between police, judicial and other competent authorities.

The Internal Security Fund is set up to contribute to a high level of security in the Union through facilitating cross-border cooperation and exchange of information between Member States' competent authorities, in particular by enabling the interoperability of the different security-relevant EU information systems and by facilitating joint operational actions, as well as by providing support for trainings, for the construction of essential security-relevant facilities, and for maintaining and upgrading the infrastructure necessary for the collection and processing of passenger name record (PNR) data. It aims at intensifying cross-border operational cooperation in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of cross-border crime and at supporting efforts aimed at strengthening the capabilities to prevent such crime, including terrorism, in particular through increased cooperation between public authorities, civil society and private partners from across the Member States.

1.3. Specific objectives

There are three specific objectives:

1. To improve and facilitate the exchange of information among and within competent authorities of the Member States and relevant Union bodies, and where relevant, with third countries and international organisations;
2. To improve and intensify cross-border cooperation, including joint operations among and within Member States' competent authorities in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime with a cross-border dimension;
3. To support the strengthening of the Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism radicalisation as well as managing security-related incidents, risks and crises, including through increased cooperation between public authorities, the relevant Union agencies, civil society and private partners across the Member States.

1.4. Public intervention context

The evolving security challenges addressed by the ISF make it a key instrument in realising the Union's objective of constituting an area of freedom, security and justice under Article 67(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which is an area of **Shared Competence** between the EU and the Member States (Article 4, TFEU). The ISF shall support measures to promote and support the action of Member States in the field of crime prevention, joint training and police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters in line with Articles 84 and 87 TFEU.

In 2021 DG HOME continued to focus on delivering actions in key areas of the Security Union Strategy 2020-2025 which are organised crime, terrorism and radicalisation and fighting crime in a digital age. The EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025, which includes a Commission Staff Working Document on EMPACT (SWD(2021) 74 final), was presented together with the Strategy on combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in April 2021. The EU Action Plan for enhancing law enforcement capacity in digital investigations, which sets out mechanisms to identify gaps and needs, to oversee the development of new tools and trainings, and to ensure that core tools, services and trainings are accessible to law enforcement, was integrated into the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime, adopted in April. To improve efficiency in the fight against organised crime, DG HOME started work to deliver on two of the initiatives announced in the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime for 2022: the revision of the Directive on the freezing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime and of the Council Decision on Asset Recovery Offices, with an impact assessment and a back-to-back evaluation, including a public consultation. DG HOME continued supporting the work of the Council in preparing the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025, published in July 2021.

In 2021, DG HOME also produced the Commission SWD(2021) 422 "Enhancing security through research and innovation", focusing on how to use EU research and innovation on civil security to develop and deploy technologies and knowledge for European law enforcement, stressing the role of Home Affairs Funds to support innovations from Union-funded research, in a capability-development approach.

In December 2021, DG also introduced the EU police cooperation package, in order to enhance law enforcement cooperation across Member States and give EU police officers more modern tools for information exchange. The package includes a proposal for a Council recommendation on operational police cooperation, a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on information exchange between law enforcement authorities of Member States and a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on automated data exchange for police cooperation.

Since the overarching objective of the ISF, namely to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States acting alone and can be better achieved at Union level, the ISF is based on the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

1.5. Actions

The Fund shall in particular support:

- setting up, adapting and maintaining IT systems and communication networks contributing to the achievement of the objectives of this Regulation, training on the use of such systems, testing and improving the interoperability components and data quality of such systems;
- actions supporting the set-up and development of effective and coordinated cooperation to anticipate and respond to cross-border crime and terrorism.
- monitoring of the implementation of Union law and Union policy objectives in the Member States in the area of security information systems, including data protection, privacy and data security;
- implementing or facilitating the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle / EMPACT¹ activities and operational actions;
- actions supporting an effective and coordinated response to crisis linking up existing sector-specific capabilities, expertise centres and situation awareness centres, including those for health, civil protection, terrorism and cybercrime;
- actions developing innovative methods or deploying new technologies with a potential for transferability to other Member States, especially projects aiming at testing and validating the outcome of Union-funded security research projects;
- actions that improve resilience to emerging threats including trafficking via online channels, hybrid threats, malicious use of unmanned aerial systems and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats;
- support to thematic or cross-theme networks of specialised national units and national contact points to improve mutual confidence, exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experiences and best practices, pooling of resources and expertise in joint centres of excellence;
- education and training of staff and experts of relevant law enforcement and judicial authorities and administrative agencies taking into account operational needs and risk analyses, and in cooperation with CEPOL and, when applicable, the European Judicial Training Network including on prevention policies with special emphasis on fundamental rights training;
- cooperation with the private sector, for instance in the fight against cybercrime, in order to build trust and improve coordination, contingency planning and the exchange and dissemination of information and best practices among public and private actors including in the protection of public spaces and critical infrastructure;
- actions empowering communities to develop local approaches and prevention policies, and awareness-raising and communication activities among stakeholders and the general public on Union security policies;
- equipment, means of transport, communication systems and essential security-relevant facilities;
- cost of staff involved in the actions that are supported by the Fund or actions requiring involvement of staff for technical or security-related reasons;
- addressing key deficiencies and challenges for the Member States, identified during Schengen evaluations in the field of Schengen Information System and police cooperation, and requiring urgent action.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Internal Security Fund will be implemented under shared, direct and indirect management. The largest part of the resources (70% of the total budget) will be allocated to the national programmes under shared management. The remaining part will be allocated to a Thematic Facility to be used for specific actions (implemented by the Member States nationally or transnationally), Union actions (direct/indirect management) and emergency assistance (shared, direct or indirect management). Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission will be implemented by direct management.

The Union actions will be designed in the new tool, Thematic Facility, as a part of the overall strategy for the implementation of the Home Affairs budget, keeping the necessary links with the Member States' programming of the three Home Affairs Funds and other EU Programmes. They will follow clear and well identified needs and priorities for funding.

The lead DG is DG HOME. Since the ISF is also covered by the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, DG HOME closely coordinates with DG REGIO, EMPL and MARE. In relation to the external dimension, DG HOME closely coordinates with DG INTPA, NEAR and FPI. It also coordinates with RTD and CNECT.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

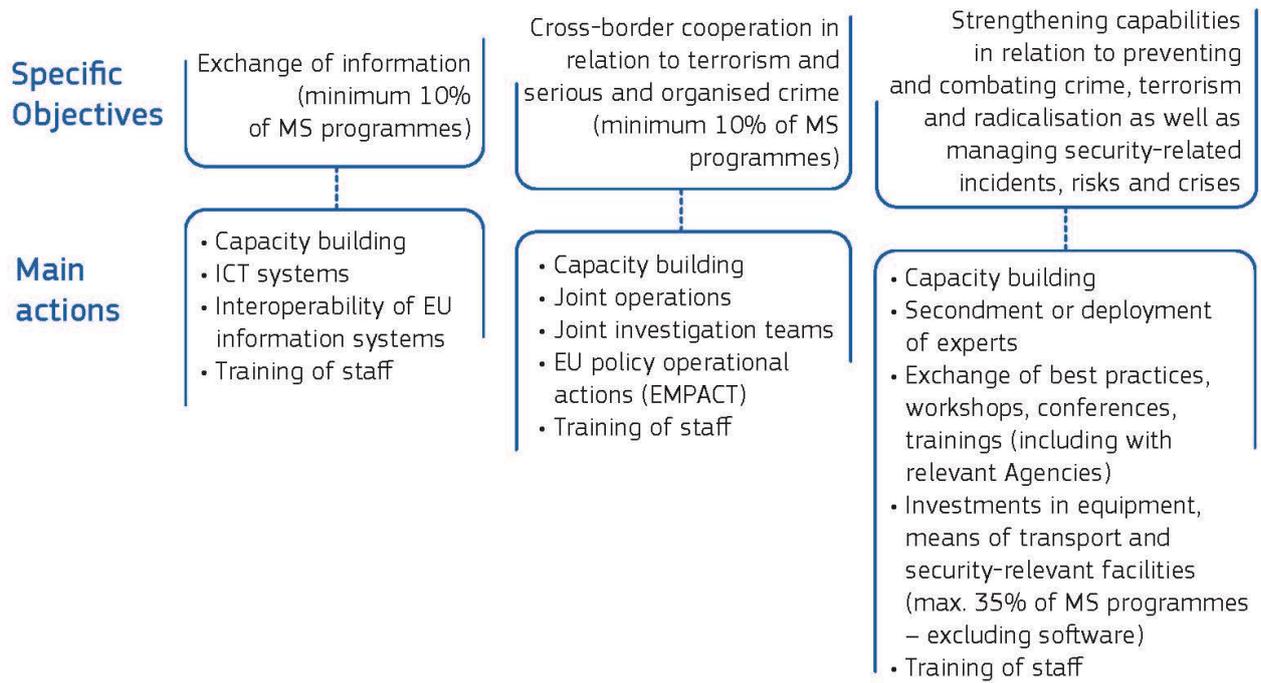
¹ EMPACT: European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats.

HOME (lead DG)

EMPL, REGIO, INTPA, NEAR, CNECT, RTD
(associated DGs)

Policy Objective

Contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, in particular by preventing and combating terrorism and radicalisation, serious and organised crime, and cybercrime, and by assisting and protecting victims of crime as well as by preparing for, protecting against and effectively managing security related incidents, risks and crises within the scope of this Regulation



Implementation modes

Member States' (MS) programmes

70% of the funding

Shared management



would be allocated at the beginning of the programming period

Thematic Facility (including emergency assistance)

30% of the funding

Shared management (top-up to MS programmes) Direct management Indirect management

Flexibilities



would be allocated during the programming period

Beneficiaries

State/Federal Police, Customs and other specialised law enforcement services (including national cybercrime units, anti-terrorism and other specialised units), local public bodies, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, Union agencies, private and public law companies, networks, Research Institutes and Universities

1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Internal Security Fund (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 94).	2021 - 2027	1 931.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The legal basis of the ISF is the Regulation ((EU) 2021/1149) of the European Parliament and of the Council Establishing the Internal Security Fund. Since the Internal Security Fund is majorly implemented through shared management, it is covered partially (financial, not policy provisions) by of the Common Provision Regulation ((EU) 2021/1060).

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	70.0	254.1	309.9	314.9	337.2	321.7	285.4	1 893.1
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

In the period 2014-2020, the support for police cooperation was financed through the police instrument of the Internal Security Fund, which also included an instrument for border management and visa. In the MFF 2021-2027, the Internal Security Fund is fully supporting police cooperation.

The policy objective of the Fund remains the same but with a new viewpoint taken on the specific objectives of the Fund. In particular, the specific objectives in the 2014-2020 period were focused on crime and crisis whereas the new objectives are more horizontal in nature. Its scope has been enlarged as it also includes the non-health related demand side of drugs, taking over a part of the drugs component of the former Justice programme.

The implementation modalities of the Fund will also remain the same – a split between shared and direct management.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

On the Commission website the reader will be able to see a description of the scope and the budget allocation of the Funds: [Internal Security Fund \(2021-2027\) \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu).

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	70.0	1 926.6	4%
Payments	0.1		0%

The EUR 70 million implemented in 2021 in commitments represent the Thematic Facility envelope (EUR 68.5 million) and supporting expenditure (EUR 1.5 million) to the Fund.

The EUR 0.1 million implemented in 2021 in payments represent expenditures under ISF support line.

The foreseen use of the 2022 and 2023 appropriations will cover initial allocations to Member States (EUR 155 million in 2022 and EUR 232 million in 2023), Thematic Facilities amounts for Specific Actions and Union Actions (EUR 96.4 million in 2022 and EUR 75 million in 2023), supporting expenditure for Technical assistance (EUR 2.45 million per year).

Shared management

For the Member States’ programmes, due to the delays in the adoption of the legal basis for 2021-2027 and time needed for the programming procedure, shared management programmes may only be formally approved starting from the second quarter in 2022.

The Commission also prepared a 2021-2022 Work Programme for the Thematic Facility to ensure the programming of the funding for indirect/direct and shared management on top of the basic allocations for the national programmes. The Commission adopted the financing components of the Thematic Facility and the Work Programme for 2021 and 2022 amounting to EUR 163 407 026 on 26 November 2021 (C(2021) 8460 Final).

Union Actions

As mentioned above as of 2021 the **Union Actions** have become a part of the Thematic Facility covered by the multiannual Work Programme for 2021-2022. In view of a very abundant Work Programme for 2020 and its successful implementation, most of the actions have been pencilled in for 2022 with their implementation commencing in early 2022 and continuing in 2023. Nonetheless, first activities (open calls for proposals) were initiated at the end of 2021 and are ongoing.

In continuation of previous years, ISF Union Actions will cover the area of police cooperation. The calls for proposals planned under the work programme will be progressively published and invitation of the beneficiaries of direct award of grants identified under the work programme to submit the grant applications are scheduled to roll out still in the course of the first half of 2023. In total 10 topics in open calls for proposals have been established in the work programme and continued support to various networks is also foreseen. These are complemented with procurements to support the Commission’s activities.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Internal Security Fund – Police (including drugs)

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 230.2	1 231.0	100%
Payments	916.8		74%

The table above presents the cumulative implementation rate of the Internal Security Fund 2014-2020, the Police strand.

Shared management

For the period 2014-2020, for the ISF-Police, EUR 751.56 million were allocated to the national programmes of the Member States. Up to 2021 MS spent EUR 572 million equivalent to an absorption rate of 76.21%, which can be considered satisfactorily. By 31 March 2022, the 2021 Annual Implementation Reports for ISF were submitted by Member States.

In 2017, the ISF-Police national programmes received a top-up of EUR 70 million for the Passenger Name Record (PNR) and EUR 22 million for information exchange and interoperability of information systems.

Information exchange projects under ISF P include on the one hand the inter-connection of national databases and IT tools of different national police entities, and on the other hand the connection of national databases and IT tools with their EU equivalents in view of cross-border exchange of structured data on crime. The data exchanged is for example in relation to the Prüm Decisions, to step up cross-border cooperation to combat terrorism and cross-border crime by fast and efficient data exchange of DNA analysis files, automated fingerprint identification systems and vehicle registration data. Other examples of data exchange projects could be related to the Passenger Name Record system, the Schengen Information System, the Europol Information System, the Interpol Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database, or related to the exchange of forensic data on the chemical composition of seized drugs, firearms, explosives, economic and financial crime related information, trafficking in human beings, environmental crime etc. Projects are also about better information exchange, namely finding technical solutions to filter results and to improve data quality.

The co-legislators adopted in May 2019 **the interoperability package**² to close existing information gaps. The law enforcement component of this package allows police authorities to perform identity checks in the territory of the Member States by querying the Central Identity Repository (CIR). CIR includes data from five central EU information systems: EES, VIS, ETIAS, Eurodac and ECRIS-TCN. Projects eligible under ISF P include for instance the purchase of software and hardware to query the CIR, thus allowing law enforcement officers to make the best use of existing information systems in a timely manner and contribute to improve internal security.

In the latest Annual Implementation Reports concerning 2021, Member States mostly reported that the COVID-19 pandemic did lead to delays in project implementation due to e.g. delays in public procurement procedures, travel restrictions, difficulties in the hiring processes of staff, construction works due to lockdown and other restrictions related to COVID-19. Training activities were particularly negatively affected by the travel restrictions imposed in the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mitigating measures included extension of duration of projects, a more widespread use of online trainings via e-learning platforms, increasing the co-financing rates for some projects. Especially in the area of training and capacity building, this allowed getting closer to the 2022 targets.

Union Actions/direct and indirect management

To support Member States, **ISF-Police emergency assistance** has been made available to address urgent and specific needs. The overall amount granted since 2014 amounts to EUR 12 million. No emergency assistance under ISF-Police was granted in 2021.

Last year (2021) was a very active for the **Union actions projects**. A vast majority of projects selected under the 2017 annual work programme were closed. In 2018 programmes were still running, while those of 2019 have reached a cruising speed. The implementation of the Union actions have continued to be impacted by COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the modifications of originally approved grants, be it for the description of the actions or deadlines, hence no-cost extensions and amendments of the numerous grant agreements. New grant agreements and contribution agreements were concluded for actions under the 2020 annual work programme and their implementation started in principle in early 2022.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 have properly started and the first performance reports received. The first reports should be received by 15 February 2023 and by 15 February of each subsequent year.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 have properly started and the first performance reports received.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Internal Security Fund: Police strand

The majority of security threats, which the EU is facing are cross-border by nature. Taking into account the continuous security challenges, it is important to stress that until the end of 2021, ISF-Police has proven an efficient fund getting closer to its general objective to contribute to a high level of security in the Union. In particular, the interim evaluation concluded that the Fund has been shown to be flexible enough to respond to the changing needs which emerged as a consequence of the security crises. This assessment was carried over into the impact assessment on which the new ISF is based.³

The ISF supports overall EU policies in the area of internal security, e.g. on police cooperation, preventing and combatting crime (including counterterrorism), protection of people and critical infrastructures and combatting illicit drugs trafficking. Through Union actions, transnational projects and projects of particular EU interest are being financed. The needs of both policy and its stakeholders evolve continually. Therefore, the (bi)annual programming for Union actions offers a unique chance to align the actions to most urgent and important needs identified on the ground (e.g. Trafficking in Human Beings, child sexual abuse and anti-corruption), as well as allowing continuity, for example on the European Crime Prevention Network.

The 2014-2020 programme were also instrumental to help technological and knowledge update for European security, development of capabilities of European security authorities, and European strategic autonomy on critical security technologies. Member States used the 2014-2020 programmes to take up innovations coming from Union-funded research for civil security of the past decades, under FP7 or Horizon 2020. Examples include: new detectors for Chemical, Biological, Nuclear, Radiological or Explosive

³ SWD(2018)347, 12.6.2018.

substances; the Automated Border Control gates in airports and border crossing points; new technologies used by Police forces for investigations in the Dark Web; new security systems to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks or incidents in long highway tunnels; or systems used by police and civil protection for sanitizing public areas during the COVID-19 pandemics.

In terms of overall performance of the Fund, for many of the indicators set in the Regulation, the targets have been either achieved or exceeded. **In addition, the Commission's proposal to prolong the implementation period for the money available to Member States under the 2014-2020 Home Affairs funds by one year due to crisis in Ukraine, was adopted in April 2022.** Hence, the implementation of ISF will run until end-2023. Up to 2021, ISF-Police has attained an absorption rate of 76.21%, which can be considered overall satisfactory. In 2021, the Member States have submitted EUR 70.3 million of payments to the Commission.

Lessons learnt

The ISF 2021-2027 provides financial resources with the objective to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, in particular by preventing and combating terrorism and radicalisation, serious and organised crime, and cybercrime and, by assisting and protecting victims of crime as well as by preparing for, protecting against and effectively managing security related incidents, risks and crises. Lessons learned and incorporated into the design of the new ISF include an allocation which reflects the different needs and pressures of Member States, and a thematic facility offering flexible funding for a number of priorities including support for solidarity and responsibility efforts between the Member States.

– The main lessons learnt during the programming period 2014-2020 include:

– *Insufficient cooperation, coordination and strategic steering in the implementation of the ISF with other EU level initiatives:* This challenge was addressed by including eight shared management funds, including the ISF, in a single legal framework (the Common Provision Regulation (EU) 2021/1060). This allows for a closer coordination and cooperation of the shared management funds both at strategic level as well as at the level of implementation. A closer coordination of ISF with EU civil security research was also analysed in the Action Plan on Synergies between Civil, Defence and Space Industries.

Better exploitation of innovation opportunities from EU civil security research. Two challenges identified with the 2014-2020 programmes to facilitate the take up by Home Affairs Funds of innovation coming from EU security research were that a) the mapping of innovations is difficult, and likely incomplete; b) innovations with a closer market and to be taken up directly by law enforcement agencies, risk not to be exploited. As the Commission indicated in the CSWD Enhancing Security Through Research and Innovation (SWD(2021) 422 final), and in the Action Plan on Synergies between Civil, Defence and Space Industries, achievements on ISF and BMVI promoting new European security technologies coming from EU security research will be improved in the 2021-2027 period. This includes promoting a capability-based programming, better tracking of innovation going from EU research to ISF and BMVI support, stronger links and incentives to exploit security research results. To this aim, the Commission is assisting Member States to identifying opportunities, is planning Specific Actions focused on exploiting innovations based on previous Union-funded security research, and is carrying out the Study on the EU Security Market.

– *A need for simplification:* in order to simplify and build on synergies, the rules applicable to the shared management funds will be aligned with rules applicable to the management of other Union Funds under shared management ('single rule book'). This provides better guidance on the management and control systems and audit requirements, and ensures that the eligibility rules under shared management make full use of simplified cost options (SCOs).

Insufficient flexibility to respond to changing needs during the programming period: This challenge was addressed in two ways. Firstly, Member States will be provided with around 58.3 % to Member States programmes. An additional share of 11.7% of the total budget will be allocated at mid-term (technical adjustment of the distribution key subject to financial performance according to which a Member State should have submitted payment claims covering at least 10 % of the initial amount of payment appropriations). Secondly, a financial envelope of 30% should be managed through the thematic facility, which will periodically provide funding for a number of priorities defined in Commission financing decisions. This facility in particular offers flexibility in the management of the instrument by allowing the disbursement of funds to the technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission and the following components of the thematic facility: support for specific actions, providing additional funding for dedicated actions of high EU added value, through the Member States' national programmes; support for Union actions, managed through direct and indirect management; and emergency assistance.

The need to strengthen the performance monitoring in terms of quality and frequency of the fund in general. In order to address this challenge, the Commission proposed greatly improved performance monitoring with more regular and reliable data setting out common output and result indicators. In cooperation with the Member States, the Commission services have developed definitions for each of these indicators. This will ensure a common understanding of each indicator across all Member States and programmes. Moreover, it will not only greatly contribute to improving data quality it will also enhance data comparability. Member States will be required to develop this performance framework for each of its programmes and underpin it by methodological considerations. The managing authority, in its yearly management declaration and as part of the annual assurance package, will have to confirm the reliability of submitted data relating to indicators and the progress of the programme. The annual performance review will be an occasion for a policy dialogue with the Member States on issues of programme implementation and performance. In particular, the annual performance reports will provide qualitative information on programme implementation going beyond the quantitative data submitted for the indicators. It will complement the biyearly transmission of structured data and strengthen the performance review process. In the context of the performance framework, Commission services will hold at least two meetings with Member States

during the programming period. Twice a year, Member States will transmit to the Commission structured data on the common output and result indicators. Thus, the Commission services will have a much more updated picture of programme performance than in the current period. In addition, the ISF programmes will now also use the open data platform, which had been established in the current programming period for the European Structural and Investment Funds. It will allow stakeholders to access almost real time data on programme implementation. This is an important novelty for the HOME funds, which in the current period do not publish data on the open data platform.

Moreover, Member States are now required to set up a system of electronic data exchange between beneficiaries and managing authorities, and between different authorities of the management and control system. This requirement builds on the current Common Provisions Regulation, which did not cover the ISF, and further develops certain aspects of data collection. It is thus a novelty for the HOME funds in general. Beneficiary and project information, as well as the performance reports will be published on a dedicated website run by the managing authority. This will give greater visibility to achievements and allow better communication.

Justice Programme: Drugs initiatives

The actions of the programme as far as the Specific Objective 4: Drugs initiatives is concerned - which was implemented in the 2014-2020 programming period - are achieving their goals. Several projects have been financed through the Justice Programme over the last years, which have lasting impact on the drug situation in the EU. A good example is a relevant initiative addressing the issue of methamphetamine use in the EU, which aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the translation processes of best practice prevention of methamphetamine use. The last call for proposals under the Justice Programme chapter on drugs was concluded in 2021 and grants were signed with beneficiaries before the end of 2021. In the 2021-2027 programming period, drugs-related activities are addressed by the Internal Security Fund with the focus on security-relevant measures, while the health-focused intervention at EU level is undertaken by the EU4Health Programme.

3.2. Key achievements

2014-2020 period

<i>Cumulative number for the period 2014-2020, incl.2021</i>	341	497	107	501	111	3 143
	Number of joint investigation teams (JITs) and European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) operational projects supported by the Instrument, including the participating Member States and authorities.	Number of projects in the area of crime prevention	Number of projects supported by the Instrument, aiming to improve law enforcement information exchange which are related to Europol data systems, repositories or communication tools.	Number and tools put in place and/or further upgraded with the help of the Instrument to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy	Number of projects relating to the assessment and management of risks in the field of internal security supported by the Instrument	Number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and online consultations organised with the help of the Instrument. Broken down by relating to critical infrastructure protection, and relating to crisis and risk management

Internal Security Fund: Police strand

Shared management

Following a reinforcement in 2017, the total allocation for the **Internal Security Fund – Police** equals EUR 751.56 million.

In 2021, the Fund (Police part) significantly contributed to **enhancing exchanges of information and cooperation among national authorities** With the support of the ISF – Police, 32 165 law enforcement officers have received training on cross-border related topics in 2021, adding up to a cumulative value of 68 898 for the entire period. This is a stark increase compared to previous years.

A good example of how the Fund enhances exchange of information between police and other law enforcement authorities, is found under the National Programme of **Germany**. Through several activities over a number of years, the Programme supports the “Police Information and Analysis Network” (PIAV) for EUR 32 million (with 17 beneficiaries). The initiative consists of a number of projects implemented at Federal and Land level to improve police data exchange and information management by connecting all federal and regional police authorities in one system.

In the same vein, the establishment of **national PNR systems** and development of national Passenger Information Units were also supported by the Fund in all Member States with EUR 70 million in top-ups to the national programmes in 2017.

Moreover, ISF Police allowed to support actions implementing the **joint investigation teams (JIT)**. ISF Police also allowed to support activities of the **European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT)**, which led to tangible operational results and many achievements in various fields, such as training and capacity building, prevention, cooperation with non-EU partners, fighting online crime, arresting high-value targets⁴.

According to Europol Te-Sat report figures, in 2020⁵ the number of **terrorist attacks** remained stable at 119 (compared to the same 119 value in 2019 and 129 in 2018) and the number of terrorist related deaths slightly increased with respect to 2019, but remained in line with 2018, and far below values from 2015-2017.

Examples of national programme success stories

Italy

Under the Police component of its ISF national programme, in 2020 Italy completed the implementation of project **Strengthening of the information** and operational capacity of the Anti-Mafia Investigation Directorate *in relation to the functioning of the European anti-mafia network @ ON*. Through this project, the Italian Ministry of Interior acquired highly sophisticated hardware and software to fight crimes such as money laundering, corruption, weapons, drugs and waste smuggling. The project also enabled the MoI to enhance exchange of information with other MS and Europol, particularly in the framework of Europol-led coordination mechanisms such as the Operational Network/@ON established by the JHA Council Resolution of 4 December 2014.

Direct management

Examples of success stories under emergency assistance:

In **Spain**, the emergency funds (EUR 52 million for the years 2018 and 2019) mainly funded actions related to illegal migration. Under the ISF - Police, a software to detect terrorism activities in the internet and social media, as well as automatic number plate equipment have been acquired and used by the police.

Union and specific actions

Security has an inherently cross-border dimension and therefore a strong, coordinated EU response is required. Beyond internal security challenges, Europe faces complex external threats that no Member State can meet on its own. About 40% of the overall financial envelope of the Fund is managed through the thematic facility, which periodically provides funding for a number of priorities defined in the Commission financing decisions.

Examples of recently initiated activities at EU level include further strengthening of support to EMPACT, the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats and law enforcement actions against illicit drug trafficking with support of Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre. Additional examples of ISF funded Union actions can be found in the Factsheets and Snapshots published by the Commission at the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/publications/snapshot-action-europe-eu-projects-enhance-security-and-effectively-manage-migration_en and https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/publications/isfp-and-just-drugs-factsheet-compilation_en.

To date there are **17 European networks** which are financed via direct grants under Union Actions for ISF-Police. The networks carry out activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on accounts of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers and that do not fall within the scope of calls for proposals. The networks support co-operation between authorities across borders and carry out activities such as trainings and simulations, cooperation meetings, while producing together guidance manuals and operational tools. Without EU support, these cross-border activities are unlikely to materialise as they would be wholly dependent on the willingness of individual Member States to pay for the activity at European level, including notably the travel expenses of representatives of other countries involved. For example, in order for the European police cooperation to thrive in a world where crime is transnational, the network activities need to be financed on a regular basis by the EU. The networks also provide useful fora for exchange of good practices, the testing of new methods and tools

⁴ EMPACT results in 2020: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50209/empact_factsheet_20.pdf

EMPACT results in 2019: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7623-2020-INIT/en/pdf>

EMPACT results in 2018: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/fight-against-organised-crime-2018-results/>

⁵ Latest available year at the time of writing

and exchanges of views with experienced practitioners on the relevance of new policies. They are crucial players and act as mediators between policy making and project development.

In addition to these established networks, Union actions support transnational projects selected through **calls for proposals**, for example:

In 2021 the Commission granted EUR 26 million to Member States and religious communities to enhance the protection of places of worship and other public spaces from terrorist threats, as part of the new Counter-Terrorism Agenda for the EU. Ten projects received EUR 22.7 million worth of funds and involve entities from 20 Member States. These projects focus on the protection of places of worship belonging to different faith communities (churches, synagogues, mosques); the protection of other types of public spaces such as public transport systems and major sports venues; and the detection of threats by detection dogs. Finally, EUR 3.3 million fund a project to test solutions countering possible threats posed by drones. The Commission organised a conference on the protection of public places and places of worship on 25 March 2021 to present some of the selected projects to the public. Given the importance of the topic, the Commission published on 8 February 2022 another call on the protection of public spaces, reinforcing the already allocated budget but additional EUR 14.5 million.

TRANSTUN stands for "TRANSnational TUNnel operational CBRN risk mitigation". It is a 2019 project selected under the ISFP-2018-AG-CT-Protect call and financed 90% by ISF Police Union Actions with a total budget of some EUR 1 million, that ended on October 2021.

TRANSTUN engaged private operators and end-users from France, Italy and Spain in an effort to define, produce and test standardized operational guidelines for effective response to chemical events affecting cross-border tunnels in the EU. It aimed to:

- Create a Network of Stakeholders to capitalize & consolidate knowledge;
- Develop a Harmonised Toolkit of Guidelines for use by tunnel operators and first responders across the EU;
- Improve Joint Operational Response, particularly amongst various national and transnational agencies.

In September 2021 the project completed a real-life CBRN exercise at the cross-border Bielsa-Aragouet Cross-Border Tunnel between France and Spain. More than 250 players joined their effort in this exercise, which tested their operational procedures in case of CBRN events within the framework the Binational Plan established between France and Spain. The event was also the opportunity to involve more than 50 observers from eight EU countries, and the European Commission.

During the two days of TRANSTUN real-life exercise, first responders and tunnel operators had the chance to test the operational guidelines and harmonised procedures drafted in the previous 24 months of project implementation by a pool of around 40 experts also engaged as official members of the TRANSTUN Network of Stakeholders.

The TRANSTUN exercise was a unique opportunity to outline current strengths and weaknesses of the main actors involved in such a peculiar emergency response, which is a fundamental achievement to increase not only better inter-agency coordination but also a multi-country response to a CBRN event towards a more CrossBorder SecurityUnion.

Other examples of recently initiated activities at EU level include support to the fight against organised property crime. The SWORD project ("Struggling against widespread organized property crime at the root and in all its dimensions") supports EMPACT activities to tackle 'organised property crimes' in 2021-2022. Since January 2021, the project has already led to the dismantling of 18 criminal networks, supported 117 joint arrest operations, 61 serious crime investigations, seizure of 2,4 million EUR and over 20 events and operational meetings which allowed 123 investigators to travel and improve international cooperation.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Internal Security Fund: Police strand

The key findings of the latest Interim evaluations of the Internal Security Fund - Borders and Visa 2014-2017⁶ and of the Internal Security Fund - Police⁷ have been presented in the Programme Statements DB2020.

By 31 December 2024, the Member States will provide an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions under their national programmes and the Commission will present by 30 June 2025 an ex-post evaluation report on the effects of the legal bases.

At the same time, the Commission is implementing the Action Plan following the internal audit findings on the monitoring and reporting on the implementation and performance of National Programmes. In particular, the Commission has strengthened its processes for monitoring the National Programmes and increased its efforts to improve the reliability of performance data reported by the Member States in their Annual Implementation Reports⁸ submitted annually. More attention will be given to the consistency

⁶ SWD(2018)340final https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180612_swd-2018-340-commission-staff-working-document_en.pdf ;

⁷ SWD(2018)341final https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20180612_swd-2018-341-commission-staff-working-document_en.pdf

⁸ Annual Performance Reports in the 2021-2027 period

of data reported by the Member States. The Commission has provided guidance to the Member States with a view to ensure common understanding of the indicators established in the Fund and to establish better links with information provided in the accounts.

Moreover, the European Court of Auditors has issued 16 new recommendations in 2021 concerning the Home Affairs funds in 2014-2020 and 2021-2027, the Emergency Assistance and the co-operation with the agencies. DG HOME has accepted all recommendations and started implementing them. In total, there are 23 open recommendations by the European Court of Auditors to date.

While the Commission started implementing the ECA’s recommendations already under the ongoing programmes, the main structural recommendations were put in place for the 2021-2027 programming period.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Better information exchange

Indicator 1: Number of ICT systems made interoperable in the Member States/with security relevant EU and decentralised information systems/with international databases

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of ICT systems made interoperable
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Beneficiaries - national authority
Link to the objective	Interoperability has a direct link to the objective and it contributes through increased number of interoperable IT systems the aim at improving and facilitating the exchange of information between different bodies
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is new. It was not reported in the MFF 2014-2020.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of administrative units that have set up new or adapted existing information exchange mechanisms/procedures/tools/guidance for exchange of information with other Member States/EU agencies/international organisations/third countries

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of administrative units
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	public authorities -> managing authority

Link to the objective	Direct link to objective regarding improved exchange of information. Increased number of administrative units should automatically intensify exchange of information
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States report on the ‘Number of projects supported by the Instrument, aiming to improve law enforcement information exchange which are related to Europol data systems, repositories or communication tools.’
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	absolute number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	participants of training -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	direct link - training activity focusing on the substance of the objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States did not report on the effectiveness of the training, They only reported on the number of law enforcement officials trained
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 4: Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	absolute number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	beneficiary -> Managing Authority

Link to the objective	direct link - training focusing on the substance of the objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States did not report on the effectiveness of the training, They only reported on the number of law enforcement officials trained
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 2: Increased operational cooperation

Indicator 1: The estimated value of assets frozen in the context of cross-border operations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	euro
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	cross-operation teams -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	The estimated value of assets frozen in the context of cross-border operations is a good and direct indicator indicating intensified cross border co-operation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator not reported in the MFF 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations by type of product

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Quantity of drugs, expressed in kg.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	cross border operation teams -> Managing Authority

Link to the objective	direct link since the indicator measures the level of intensity of the cross border operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Drug related indicators with a different scope are reported in the MFF 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations by type of weapon

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of weapons
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	cross border operation teams -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	seized weapons has a direct link to the level of intensity of cross border operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator not monitored in MFF 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 4: Number of administrative units that have developed/adapted existing mechanisms/procedures/ tools/guidance for cooperation with other Member States/EU agencies/international organisations/third countries

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of administrative units
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Public administration -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	Direct link - increased number of administrative units should increase intensity of cross border operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States report on the 'Number of projects supported by the Instrument, aiming to improve law enforcement information exchange which are related to Europol

	data systems, repositories or communication tools.’
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 5: Number of staff involved in cross-border operations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of law enforcement officials in cross-border operations
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	entities in charge of law enforcement officials
Link to the objective	Number of staff has a direct link to the level of intensity in the cross-border operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States reported on the cumulative number of joint investigation teams (JITs) and European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) operational projects supported by the Instrument, including the participating Member States and authorities. Broken down by Leader (Member State), Partners (Member State), participating authorities, participating EU Agency (Eurojust, Europol), if applicable
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 6: Number of Schengen Evaluation Recommendations addressed

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of recommendation in the area of police cooperation with financial implications falling within the scope of ISF
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Schengen evaluators -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	Schengen evaluations focusing on external borders/Schengen area are closely linked to cross border

	activity/intensity of cross border operations
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is new as it reflects the growing focus the Commission puts on the recommendations of Schengen evaluation
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthened capabilities to combat and to prevent crime

Indicator 1: Number of initiatives developed / expanded to prevent radicalisation

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of initiatives
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Public bodies/beneficiaries - > Managing Authority
Link to the objective	this indicator is directly linked to the objective, to the radicalisation element
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator not reported in the MFF 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 2: Number of initiatives developed / expanded to protect / support witnesses and whistle-blowers

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of initiatives
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	public bodies/beneficiaries - > Managing Authority
Link to the objective	the link between initiatives developed/expanded to protect/support witnesses and whistle blowers to

	capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation is obvious
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a new indicator not reported in the MFF 2014-2020
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 3: Number of critical infrastructure/public spaces with new/adapted facilities protecting against security related risks

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of infrastructure or public spaces protected against security related risks
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Project promoters -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	infrastructure or public spaces protected against security related risks directly linked to Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation as well as managing security-related incidents, risks and crises
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States reported on the number and tools put in place and/or further upgraded with the help of the Instrument to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy.
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 4: Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	project beneficiaries - Managing Authority

Link to the objective	training activity is directly focused on the substance of the objective
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States did not report on the effectiveness of the training, They only reported on the number of law enforcement officials trained
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

Indicator 5: Number of participants who report three months after leaving the training that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2029
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	Beneficiaries -> Managing Authority
Link to the objective	Training activity should focus on the substance of the objective, thus a direct link
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2014-2020, Member States did not report on the effectiveness of the training, They only reported on the number of law enforcement officials trained
Other methodological comments	SM Baseline sets out the situation prior the programme. A result indicator has to be linked to the support of the Instrument. Therefore, contextual information about the situation prior to the programme is not relevant and the baseline is zero. MS have to set indicator values in the programming process. The methodology for setting targets/milestones should be clear about evidence used for estimating the indicator values and about assumptions used. COM will assess the methodology proposed by MS as part of the assessment process of the draft programmes before adopting the programme. Direct and indirect mgt (<10% of the fund) EMAS is NA since emergency situations cannot be foreseen in advance. Union actions: WP 21-22 of the Thematic Facility was adopted in November 2021. Funding for DM is not known until next WPs. DG HOME needs aggregated data on baselines, milestones, targets from MS in order to finalise target setting process for the fund. This can be done for DB 2024 PS.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No values nor trends to be assessed as Member States programmes will only start to be adopted in the second half of 2022.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Internal Security Fund

General Objective 1: To contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union

Indicator 2: Volume of terrorism in the EU expressed by the number of failed, foiled or completed terrorist attacks in the EU

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Attacks										
2012	Milestones									2022
152	Actual Progress									120
										Final

	226	211	142	205	129	119	119			
Are we on track :	On track									
Deaths										
2012	Milestones									2022
7	0									0
	Actual Progress									Final
	4	119	261	329	342	352	376			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Annual Number of terrorist attacks, Cumulative Number of Victims
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Annual EU Terrorism Situation & Trend Report (Te-Sat) produced by Europol in June each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	The Directive (EU) 2017/541 on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision (2002/475/JHA) and amending Decision (2005/671/JHA) define terrorist offences, as well as offences related to terrorist groups or offences linked to terrorist activities. The notion of terrorist offence is a combination of: objective elements (murder, bodily injuries, hostage taking, extortion, committing attacks, threat to commit any of the above, etc.); and subjective elements (acts committed with the objective of seriously intimidating a population, destabilising or destroying structures of a country or international organisation or making a government abstain from performing actions). A terrorist group as a structured group of two or more persons, established over a period of time and acting in concert to commit terrorist offences. Data relate to criminal preparatory acts as offences linked to terrorist activities - examples include public provocation to commit a terrorist offence.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be reported by the Member States in the context of the data reporting requirements as the link to the support of the ISF is very weak. Europol will continue to collect this data
Other methodological comments	Data comes with a one year lag, as it is provided in the Te-Sat report produced by Europol in June. First results and target should be ideally below the baselines as the goal is to reduce the number of deaths.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Following a series of deadly terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016 (incl. in Paris, Brussels and Nice), the EU and its Member States stepped up their efforts in fight against terrorism. Actions have been implemented or proposed which include preventing and combatting radicalisation and terrorist financing, protecting public spaces and restricting the use of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRN-E) materials, improving the controls on explosives precursors. As a result, the number of deaths and terrorist attacks related to terrorism significantly decreased in the past three reporting years (2018 - 2020) with respect to 2015-2017.

Specific Objective 3: Crime prevention, combating cross-border, serious and organised crime including terrorism, and reinforcing coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of joint investigation teams (JITs) and European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) operational projects supported by the Instrument, including the participating Member States and authorities. Broken down by Leader (Member State), Partners (Member State), participating authorities, participating EU Agency (Eurojust, Europol), if applicable

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
0	108									216
	Actual Progress									Final
	6	6	7	114	202	253	287	341		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of JITs, actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year.
Narrative	
Methodology	As the main principle, data should be reported only by the leaders of JITs and EMPACT projects therefore double counting should be avoided. Data on participating authorities include authorities from both leading and participating countries. The partners are the participating countries but the

	participating authorities should be indicated on the top of that.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will report on the total number of cross-border operations, on the number of joint investigation teams as well as on EU policy cycle operational actions.
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overall, MS are well on track to achieve the target. No particular issues to report.

Indicator 2: Cumulative number of law enforcement officials trained on cross-border-related topics with the help of the Instrument, and the duration of their training (person days). Broken down by type of crime (Art. 83 TFEU), and horizontal area of law enforcement

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Officials trained										
2013	Milestones									2022
0				64 070						128 110
	Actual Progress									Final
	283	1 109	2 172	7 975	15 270	23 340	36 733	68 898		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Person days										
2013	Milestones									2022
0				99 038						198 075
	Actual Progress									Final
	142	4 822	16 209	44 602.96	70 207.23	94 210.73	124 781.35	144 179.35		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of participants, actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year
Narrative	
Methodology	Member States could chose the structure of data reporting by types of crime or horizontal area of crime, without double counting of outputs. The outputs can relate to any cross-border, serious and organised crimes, beyond those indicated in Article 83 TFEU• In principle, the structure should be kept for the entire eligibility period. If the focus areas of trainings change substantially during it, the structure of their reporting will be impacted a) The unit of measurement established by the basic acts is "persons/days". For instance - 20 officers x 5 days = 100 person days b) Double counting in the same operations should be avoided. The main topics/policy area should be identified if the training related to many issues.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will continue to report on the number of participants in training activities. In addition, they will report on the number of participants who considered the training useful for their work as well as on the number of participants who report three months after leaving the training that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year's programme statement.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overall, MS are lagging behind with the provision of training in terms of numbers of persons trained. However, in terms of numbers of person days, the delay is far less. Target achievement appears within reach. In terms of backlog of persons trained, this may be due to a backlog in reporting for these indicator values, with some MS still waiting for a project to be finalised before reporting indicator values. In addition, the situation deteriorated as of March 2020 with the outbreak of COVID, which became a real obstacle to the provision of training. MS had to get organised to go virtual, which in addition is not possible for all types of training. For the training days, it appears that Member States had initially focused more on longer training activities than originally planned. 2021 marks a difference in this respect, as a significant increase in the number of persons trained is visible, whereas the increase in the number of person/days is less apparent. This is likely due to the implementation of shorter virtual trainings, to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

Indicator 3: Number and financial value of projects in the area of crime prevention. Broken down by type of crime (Art. 83 TFEU)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number										

	Milestones									2022
0				189						375
	Actual Progress									Final
	5	35	137	252	360	431	470	497		
Are we on track :	On track									
Financial value										
	Milestones									2022
0				130 000 000						260 436 836
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 621 577	18 983 299	59 518 504	163 105 076	264 531 355	318 588 951	361 516 011	384 199 684		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of projects and financial value of assets, actual results, milestones and target are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year
Narrative	
Methodology	Instruction to the Member States: On the breakdown of type of crime: If the project deals with multiple types of crime, the primary type of crime/the most important (financial value, operational importance) should be selected. If two or more crime types are the main focus, please categorise under one of these. Cybercrime/computer crime only includes cyber offences (i.e. attacks against information systems). It does not include other activities such as drug trafficking where elements such as the sale, payment, or organisation/logistics take place online.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	In the MFF 2021-2027, Member States will continue to report on the indicator ‘number of projects to prevent crime’
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year’s programme statement. Under this indicator, Member States provided decimal numbers. In the above table, we report rounded numbers. Reporting decimals under this indicator suggests that there is an issue with the reliability of data.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Targets exceeded. Importance of crime prevention increased. Progressive increase of the indicator value as the projects implementation advances.

Specific Objective 4: Enhancing the capacity of Member States and the Union for managing effectively security-related risks and crises, and preparing for and protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security-related incidents

Indicator 1: Number and tools put in place and/or further upgraded with the help of the Instrument to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2022
0			1	239						478
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	46	141	236	266	337	406	501		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number, actual results, milestones and target are cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Provided in the annual implementation reports sent by Member States on 31 March each year
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Member States will report on the following indicator in the MFF 2021-2027: Number of critical infrastructure/public spaces with new/adapted facilities protecting against security related risks
Other methodological comments	Every year, together with the Annual Implementation Report, Member States can update data retroactively. This explains why data for previous years are changed in comparison to e.g. last year’s programme statement. Under this indicator, Member States provided decimal numbers. In the above table, we report rounded numbers. Reporting decimals under this indicator suggests that there is an issue with the reliability of data.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Target achieved. Some MS understood the definition of critical infrastructure protection (CIP) in a

	much wider sense, also including public spaces. Though it is correct that the ISF-P can in theory also be used to finance certain activities related to the physical protection of critical infrastructure, these are very limited amounts of funding and their use is further restricted by the focus on security. Resilience of critical infrastructures goes much further than security, however, and is therefore better covered by other complementary EU funding sources which include in their scope resilience against natural disasters, technological accidents, hybrid threats, business continuity, disaster mitigation strategies, etc.
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Previous Program 2: Justice Programme

Specific Objective 4: To support initiatives in the field of drugs policy as regards judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects closely linked to the general objective of the Programme, insofar as they are not covered by the Internal Security Fund or by the Health for Growth Programme

Indicator 1: Number of new psychoactive substances assessed (including through testing, if necessary) to enable the EU or the Member States to take appropriate action to protect consumers, depending on the type and level of risk that they may pose when consumed by humans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target	
2012	Milestones									2020	
68				86				95			95
	Actual Progress										Final
	101	100	66	52	55	53	47	52		47	
Are we on track :	Moderate progress										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	See section “other methodological comments” below.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
Narrative	See section “other methodological comments” below.
Methodology	See section “other methodological comments” below.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Efforts co-funded by the anti-drugs chapter of the Justice Programme will be mainly continued by demand-reduction relevant efforts co-funded by the Health Programme in 2021-2027. Complementary security-focused measures will be funded by the Internal Security Fund in 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	The indicator is based on the actual number of New Psychoactive Substances detected and notified to the European Union Early Warning System Network. The data is provided by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), an EU Agency based in Lisbon. Changes of this indicator as compared with previous years should be interpreted with caution – ideally we would prefer to see zero NPS substances reported, as ideally, there would be no illicit NPS on the market whatsoever. On the other hand, many of the newly reported substances – while fewer in number – are more dangerous, cause addiction more rapidly, and present more serious environmental harms.
Full metadata available at this address	NA
Justification of the trend	Despite the lower number of dangerous illicit New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), as compared to the baseline situation from 2012, the number of substances assessed does enable to EU and the Member States to take appropriate action to protect consumers, depending on the type and level of risk that they may pose when consumed by humans. It is important to highlight that the fact that we do not achieve the milestone should be considered as a good result: the fewer new psychoactive substances are on the market, the better. See also section “other methodological comments” above.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)	Total	Share
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	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		compared to total envelope
Climate contribution	0.00 ⁹							0.00	0%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Horizontal climate mainstreaming (and biodiversity section 6.2.1) targets are novelties in the ISF in the 2021-2027 period. The ISF does not have a binding target (%) in the basic act, but a horizontal recital common for all funds in the EU budget indicating that the ISF will contribute to the overall, horizontal, mainstream target within its potential. Since the ex-ante estimates/predictions do not qualify within the 40% or 100% markers in the case of ISF, the contribution is calculated in the ABAC when the actual use of the appropriations is available.

6.1.3. Key achievements

It is still too early to provide examples and demonstrate concretely how any action funded in the programming period 2021-2027 served towards climate change mitigation or adaptation, since Member States’ programmes have not yet been adopted.

6.1.4. Performance

Please see 6.1.3 above.

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 65 Score 0 : 5							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

In 2021, the Commission committed 65 million for the Union Actions which have a potential to impact on gender equality, to which a 0* score is assigned. However, these should be considered as proxies, as an exact monetary value of individual activities benefiting gender equality cannot be reliably estimated also due to the lack of disaggregated data on the voted budget implementation of 2021. The figure covers project actions, such as trainings and knowledge sharing which habitually tackle gender specific issues, amongst others. As regards shared management, the implementation of 2021-2027 funds has not started yet in 2021 and the current reporting tools do not allow to trace gender relevant contribution for the 2014-2020 funds. Therefore, the value for gender equality contributions by shared management activities in this context is reported as zero. The remaining voted budget implementation to which a score 0 is assigned should equally be considered as a proxy, due to the lack of granular data on actions, such as the purchase of equipment or support to infrastructures, which have no significant impact on gender equality.

6.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

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

By supporting the fight against crime and terrorism, the ISF contributes to fighting and preventing organised crime and tackling radicalisation terrorist ideas and beliefs, while at the same time guaranteeing fundamental rights and values. As such it supports, the development of modern police and law enforcement authorities working together to contribute towards a more peaceful and inclusive society.

‘Keeping people save’ is a project, initiated in 2019 in IE which aims to combat intolerance and radicalisation and create positive relationships with community-based stakeholders form a key part of the project. To achieve this, one aspect of the project was the hosting of a conference that was attended by over 220 Garda diversity officers and regional inspectors, tackling themes such as combating radicalisation and intolerance, diversity in policing and hate crime. Over the course of 2 days, the conference saw 14 specialist speakers from across the diversity spectrum.

‘Change of viewpoint’ project in DE, implemented between 2016 and 2019 aimed to introduce lasting measures for de-radicalisation, the prevention of radicalisation, and the protection of the citizen against politically motivated crime, with the emphasis on work in and with the social media. The project is intended to enable members of the public more easily to recognise extreme right-wing propaganda, to offer alternative sources of information, to generate a better exchange of information by means of networking between public authorities and players in civil society, and to step up de-radicalisation measures in social networks.

⁹ EUR 0.000203024 mln

HEADING 5: Security and Defence**Nuclear decommissioning (Lithuania)****Lead DG: ENER**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The decommissioning of a nuclear installation such as a power plant or research reactor is the final step in its lifecycle. It starts with shutdown, then it proceeds with removal of nuclear materials, decontamination, dismantling and demolishing until the environmental restoration of the site. The aim of nuclear decommissioning is the progressive removal of hazards inherently associated with the concerned installations. The corresponding phasing out of the necessary safety measures and associated costs is stepwise in nature, mainly because the removal of major batches of radioactive materials is obtained over several stages.

At this point in time, the decommissioning operator in Ignalina (Lithuania) is focusing on dismantling activities. Dismantling and decontamination works are well advanced in the turbine hall and auxiliary buildings. In addition, the key safety-related project to remove the spent nuclear fuel from the Chernobyl type reactor buildings is planned to be completed in 2022. However, important technical and financial challenges remain: never before has a large power reactor with a graphite core been dismantled. The removal of the graphite is planned for after 2027. The focus of the programme over the 2021-2027 period will be the preparation of

this key task. While the funds dedicated by the EU and Lithuania cover the activities planned under this MFF, they are not sufficient to ensure the completion of the decommissioning programme until 2038.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the Programme is to assist Lithuania in implementing the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, with specific emphasis on managing the safety challenges in respect thereof, while creating knowledge with regard to the nuclear decommissioning process and the management of radioactive waste resulting from the decommissioning activities.

1.3. Specific objectives

The specific objective of the programme is to carry out the dismantling and decontamination of the equipment and reactor shafts of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant in accordance with the decommissioning plan, including the management of radioactive waste resulting from the decommissioning activities, and to continue with the safe management of the decommissioning and legacy waste.

The programme will assist with activities included in the decommissioning plan submitted by Lithuania, in particular the following:

- a) dismantling and decontamination of the reactor shafts' top and bottom zones and equipment in accordance with the decommissioning plan;
- b) the design for the dismantling and decontamination of the reactor shafts' central zones (graphite cores). This objective is to be accomplished before 2027, when the relevant authorisations will be granted to carry out the actual dismantling and decontamination, which is scheduled to occur after 2027;
- c) safe management of the decommissioning and legacy waste up to interim storage or to disposal (depending on the waste category), including the completion of the waste management infrastructure where necessary. This objective is to be accomplished in accordance with the decommissioning plan;
- d) implementation of the building demolition programme;
- e) obtaining the decommissioning licence once Unit 1 and Unit 2 of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant are defueled;
- f) downgrading of radiological hazards.

1.4. Public intervention context

The decommissioning of a nuclear installation such as a power plant or research reactor is the final step in its lifecycle. It involves activities from shutdown and removal of nuclear material to the environmental restoration of the site. The whole process is complex and lengthy (typically 20 to 30 years), and it is carried out with the highest safety standards.

In accordance with its Act of Accession to the Union, Lithuania anticipated the shutdown of the two nuclear reactors in Ignalina within the agreed deadlines (2004 and 2009). The Union committed to provide financial support for the decommissioning, in accordance with approved plans, while keeping the highest level of safety.

The Council Directives 2014/87/Euratom and 2011/70/Euratom establish the ultimate responsibility of Member States for the safety of nuclear installations and for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. That principle of national responsibility, as well as the principle of prime responsibility of the licence holder for the safety of its installations, include the decommissioning operations.

Lithuania has appointed a Programme Coordinator responsible for overseeing the programming, coordination and monitoring of the Ignalina decommissioning programme. The decommissioning operator, as the licence holder, is responsible for implementing the decommissioning programmes under the supervision of the Programme Coordinators. The decommissioning operator in Lithuania is the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (INPP).

1.5. Actions

The actions to be funded by the Ignalina programme are within the scope of the decommissioning plan presented to the Commission. The actions focus on activities related to the delivery of the general and specific objectives and with the highest EU added value, i.e. removal of radiological hazards and creation and dissemination of relevant knowledge. When preparing the multiannual work programme, the Commission, in close cooperation with Lithuania, will consider distributing the available funds as per the priorities identified in the legal basis.

1.6. Delivery mode

Indirect Management entrusted to the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and CPMA (Central Project Management Agency – national agency in Lithuania).

In 2001, the Ignalina International Decommissioning Support Fund (IIDSF), a multi-donor fund managed by EBRD, was created to finance the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant.

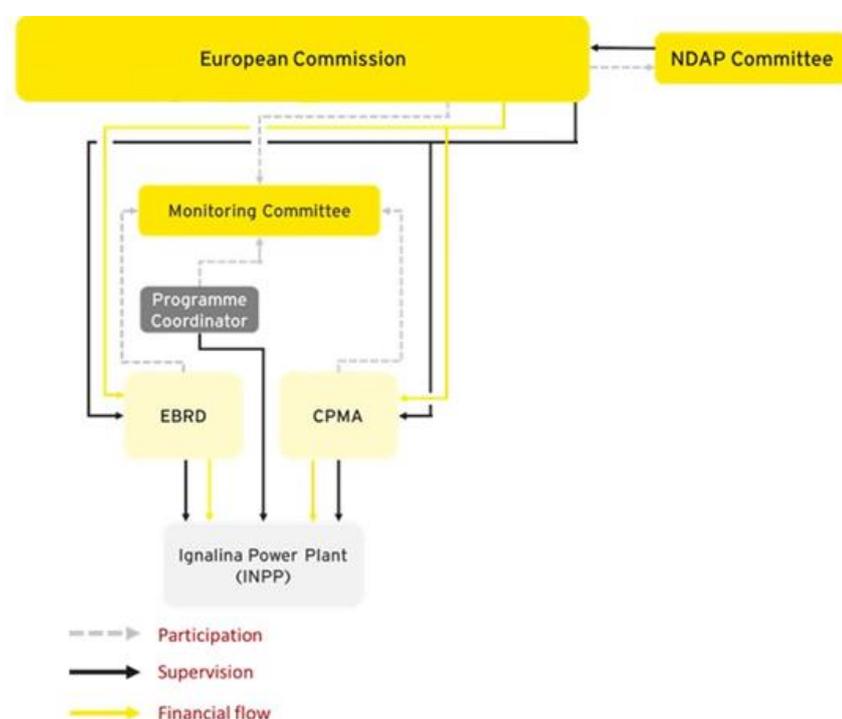
From 2005, the Commission channelled EU funds to the Ignalina Programme also via a national agency, a precursor of CPMA. From 2009, the Lithuanian authorities consistently supported assigning the management of new projects to CPMA instead of EBRD.

However, Lithuania expressed in March 2021 the view that EBRD should continue to be involved in the programme, in parallel to CPMA, and take over the dismantling of eight steam drum-separators from the two reactor units.

The Directorate-General for Energy manages directly a limited fraction of the funds for preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Graphic overview Ignalina NDAP structure:



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EU) 2021/101 of 25 January 2021 establishing the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in Lithuania and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1369/2013 (OJ L 34, 1.2.2021, p. 18).	2021 - 2027	552.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

When joining the European Union in 2004, Lithuania committed to close and proceed with the decommissioning of its Chernobyl type nuclear reactors at Ignalina. The Union declared its willingness to provide financial assistance to Lithuania for the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant in accordance with its decommissioning plans.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R0101>

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	72.5	98.9	68.8	74.6	74.7	80.1	82.4	552.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear power plant (LT) has received EU support since 2001 under various instruments. The EU assistance in the MFF 2021-2027 is the continuation of the long-term programme scheduled over the period 2001-2038.

During the MFF 2014-2020, the Ignalina programme progressed steadily towards the decommissioning end state, in accordance with its decommissioning plan, whilst maintaining the highest level of safety. The process will continue in the MFF 2021-2027 and a new objective will be pursued: the dissemination of knowledge to all EU Member States on the decommissioning process. The activities funded in the period 2021-2027 will be subject to a EU co-financing rate of 86%. This rate was not explicitly set previously.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/nuclear-energy/decommissioning-nuclear-facilities_en

<https://www.iae.lt/en/activity/decommissioning-projects/155>

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?**2.1. Programme 2021-2027**

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021:

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	72.5	552.0	13%
Payments	0		0%

Regarding the Commitments, for the year 2021, one Contribution Agreement was signed with CPMA beginning of 2022 (total value EUR 62 500 000).

It was not possible to sign in 2021 a Contribution Agreement with EBRD (IIDSF), due to the ongoing negotiations for a Financial Framework Partnership Agreement between the European Commission and EBRD. However, it is still planned to sign during 2022 one Contribution Agreement for the implementation of the Ignalina programme with the EBRD (total value EUR 10 000 000).

For the year 2022, it is expected to commit EUR 98 640 000 to the CPMA for the implementation of the Ignalina programme. It is also planned to commit EUR 260 000 to studies and consultancy assessments performed under direct management. For the year 2023, it is expected to commit EUR 68 700 000 for the implementation of the Ignalina programme. It is also anticipated to commit EUR 100 000 in direct management studies.

The above allocation of funds will sustain the ongoing progress on the decommissioning programmes in Lithuania.

Regarding the Payments for the period 2021-2027, the total payments made during 2021 for the Ignalina NDAP was EUR 45 964 525. Moreover, EUR 70 555 were paid for the final payment of a direct management study. For the current year 2022, it is planned to perform payments for the value of EUR 52.1 million to CPMA and EUR 10.9 million to EBRD for the implementation of projects in the Ignalina programme. In addition, it is planned to perform payments in direct management contracts for the value of EUR 91 000 during 2022. For the Draft Budget 2023, it is anticipated a total amount of EUR 60 million in payments.

These payments will be performed from the 2014-2020 appropriations until its exhaustion. Decommissioning projects are, in many cases, highly complex from the procurement and implementation point of view and extend over a long period of time. This explains the inherent interval between the commitments and the payments of the programme.

On the overall progress of the programme, with the completion of the Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility, the transfer of spent-fuel assemblies from the reactor buildings (units 1 and 2) to the new facility started in September 2016. By September 2022, the last fuel assemblies is planned to be transferred from the spent-fuel pools to storage casks and then to the interim spent-fuel storage facility. This will be a major milestone in terms of nuclear safety and reduction of the radiological risk, opening the way to the dismantling of the reactor core systems.

The next step, the dismantling of the Ignalina reactors is a first-of-a-kind challenge: never before has a large power reactor with a graphite core been dismantled. In a first phase (2020 to 2027), the decommissioning operator will remove all equipment around and on top of the reactor shaft. The subsequent removal of the graphite from the shaft is being prepared with an optioneering study and detailed design of the preferred solution and a facility for the temporary storage of irradiated graphite waste.

New radioactive waste processing and storage facilities have been completed during the period 2014-2020. They are now operational. The construction of the landfill facility for very low-level waste was completed and the procurement procedure of the near surface repository for low-level waste is under-way. With those two facilities, the decommissioning operators in Ignalina will have all the tools needed for the management, storage and disposal of the radioactive waste under the decommissioning plan.

In accordance with the updated performance baseline, the programme completion date remains for 2038. The selection of the technical solution for the dismantling of the reactor graphite cores will be decisive for the confirmation of the programme end-date and overall funding needs after 2027.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	450.8	450.8	100%
Payments	146.2		32%

Including the payments made during the period 2014-2020 on the previous MFF commitments, the total of payments made for the Ignalina NDAP programme is EUR 430 058 299, which represent 95.5% of the committed amount for the same period (EUR 450 448 000). Therefore, the rhythm of payments has been aligned with the commitments during the period 2014-2020. Decommissioning projects are, in many cases, highly complex from the procurement and implementation point of view and extend on a long period of time. This explains the inherent interval between the commitments and the payments of the programme, and that most of the payments during the 2014-2020 period were related to commitments from the previous period. The figures in the table above are expressed in EUR million.

The cost of work carried out since 2014 is within budget.

COVID-19 crisis affected the progress at the site, with limited temporary furlough for some staff in 2020 and restricted access to foreign experts and contractors. Measures to ensure that activities could continue safely included physical distancing, use of additional protective equipment and testing. These measures significantly reduced the short-term impact on project milestones. The EU supported during 2020 the salaries of the workers in these difficult times.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme (NDAP) in Lithuania has progressed despite of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued to reduce nuclear and radiation safety risks related to the concerned reactors. However, during the starting year of the current MFF, the programmes did not progress as planned; in spite of a generally satisfactory and steady progress of works on the ground, preparatory activities of key upcoming projects progressed at a slower rate.

The most important achievement in 2021 was the continued removal of the spent fuel from the reactor-buildings. More than 99% of the spent fuel assemblies is now safely stored and the remaining elements will be stored away from the reactor-buildings in 2022.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

At Ignalina (Lithuania), decommissioning of the less radioactive areas of the plant nears completion. Moreover, in May 2021 the last cask with spent fuel from Unit 1 was transported to the new Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility (ISFSF); Unit 2 will be fully defueled in 2022. Therefore, the programme will now enter the phase of extensive dismantling inside the reactor buildings, which is a first of a kind challenge due to the large graphite-filled reactor cores. Contracts to design dismantling options should be placed in 2022.

The procurement procedure for the construction of the near-surface repository for low- and intermediate-level waste has not been completed yet due to the legal action of an excluded tenderer, which was resolved only at the end of 2021. The landfill facility for very low-level short-lived waste commenced operations.

The first indicator of the MFF 2021-2027 (see section 4) represents the management of very-low-level short-lived waste. The amount registered for 2021 is 0, because the landfill repository was completed in 2021 and its operations will only start in 2022. With the start of the landfill operations, it is expected that the pace of disposal will progressively increase based on a learning curve.

The second indicator of the MFF 2021-2027 (see section 4) represents the management of low level, intermediate level waste and long lived waste to be placed into dedicated storage and, in the future, into deep geological repository. The amount registered is also 0 as the construction of the near-surface repository has not been completed yet due to the legal action of an excluded tenderer, which was resolved only at the end of 2021.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The general objective of the Ignalina programmes in the period 2014-2020 was to assist the Member State concerned in implementing the steady process towards the decommissioning end state of Units 1 and 2 of the Ignalina nuclear power plant in accordance with its decommissioning plan, whilst maintaining the highest level of safety.

This programme has achieved most of the principal objectives for the period 2014-2020. However, important delays occurred during the implementation of key projects, which could impact the end date of the programme.

Preparatory design activities for Dismantling in the Reactor Building have encountered challenges, because of poor relationship between the stakeholders. This issue has not significantly impacted Programme performance under the 2014-2020 MFF, but resulted in delays for the post-2020 stages of the decommissioning Programme.

For the Ignalina programme, the situation in 2014 was:

- Unit 1 reactor core was defueled, Unit 2 reactor core was partially defueled;
- the spent fuel ponds in units 1 and 2 were loaded to maximum capacity;
- facilities for waste management treatment and storage were being constructed;
- start of dismantling works in turbine hall of unit 1.

The first specific objective for the period 2014-2020 (dismantling and decontamination of the equipment and reactor shafts in accordance with the decommissioning plan, and to continue with the safe management of the decommissioning and legacy waste) is being achieved ahead of schedule. The reactor core of Unit 2 has been fully emptied of its spent fuel in 2018; by the end of 2020 all undamaged spent fuel assemblies had been transferred to the new safe storage facility and the transfer of damaged fuel assemblies had started. By end 2020, the removal of spent fuel assemblies from the Unit 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds had reached 109% of the cumulative planned amount in 2020 and 98% of the final target.

The second specific objective, safely maintaining the reactor units has been consistently achieved. No incidents were registered during the period 2014-2020.

Activities related to the third specific objective (performing dismantling in the turbine hall and other auxiliary buildings and safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan) have progressed well. The dismantling operations in the 800 meters long turbine hall have been completed and it is proceeding as planned in auxiliary buildings. The lower than planned quantity of dismantled equipment is due to the overestimation of the material inventory: there is simply less material to dismantle in reality than in the plan.

Construction works at the interim spent fuel storage facility and the solid radioactive waste management facility were completed, and the facilities started operation in 2016 and in 2017 respectively. The design of the near-surface repository for low- and intermediate-level short-lived waste was completed. The construction of the landfill facility for very low-level short-lived waste was also completed.

Although knowledge sharing was not an explicit objective of the NDAP for the 2014-2020 period, several initiatives have been taken in favour of cooperation between the three NDAP Member States (Bulgaria, Slovakia and Lithuania). Decommissioning operators in the three NDAP programmes have engaged in several knowledge sharing actions at different levels, in order to both share their experience and gain knowledge from other stakeholders in Europe.

3.2. Key achievements

43 730	99%	191	42 703	0
tonnes of dismantled material from the turbine hall and auxiliary buildings by End 2020.	of spent-fuel assemblies safely stored away from the reactors.	new storage casks were delivered by February 2020, a year ahead of schedule.	m ³ of radioactive waste were processed and stored from the turbine hall and auxiliary buildings by the end of 2020 vs a target of 42 314 m ³ .	incidents were observed over the period 2014-2020. Maintaining the highest level of safety is part of the general objective of the Ignalina programme.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme (NDAP)

The Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States, has launched an *ex post* evaluation on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme for the period 2014 to 2020.

The evaluation will rely on existing reports on the progress of the technical and financial implementation of the programme.

The following studies are underway or recently finished:

- study to support the *ex post* evaluation of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme 2014-2020;
- safety culture maturity of the NDAP operations, supporting the *ex post* evaluation 2014-2020;
- development and try-out of an on-site process for sharing knowledge created in the frame of the NDAP;
- gap analysis of Earned Value Management Systems in use by operators under the NDAP and a follow-up study on baselining policy and monitoring.

The following evaluations, studies and reports have been published in the past years:

- Progress report period 2010-2014 [COM(2015) 78];
- Progress report 2015 and previous years [COM(2016) 405];
- Progress report 2016 and previous years [COM(2017) 328];
- Mid-term evaluation [COM(2018) 468];
- Progress report 2018 and previous years [COM(2019) 215];
- Progress report 2019 and previous years [COM(2020) 82];
- Progress report 2020 and previous years [COM(2021) 235];
- support to the *ex post* evaluation of the NDAP Energy window 2007-2013 [ISBN 978-92-76-08716-8];
- support to the mid-term evaluation of the NDAP [ISBN 978-92-76-08717-5, 978-92-76-08789-2];
- assessment of the robustness of the NDAP financing plans and of the relevance and feasibility of the detailed decommissioning plans [ISBN 978-92-76-08798-4].

The results of the NDAP mid-term evaluation and of the latest report on NDAP from the European Court of Auditors were communicated in the Draft Budget 2020.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To carry out the dismantling and decontamination of the equipment and reactor shafts of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant in accordance with the decommissioning plan, including the management of radioactive waste resulting from the decommissioning activities, and to continue with the safe management of the decommissioning and legacy waste.

Indicator 1: Safe management of the decommissioning and legacy waste up to interim storage or to disposal (depending on the waste category), including the completion of the waste management infrastructure where necessary: quantity and type of materials removed, with annual objectives by type, meeting the milestones of the Programme.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Very low level waste disposed (m3)										
	Milestones									2030
	1 787	3 911	5 429	7 603	10 379	13 155	16 610	21 685	27 410	29 020
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Low and intermediate level waste stored (m3)										
	Milestones									2030
	479	990	1 551	2 227	2 967	3 707	4 785	5 771	7 396	9 202
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes or m3 (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, decommissioning operator
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/101.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator also supports the MFF 2014-2020 objective “Performing dismantling in the turbine hall and other auxiliary buildings and safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan”. These figures are a cumulative value starting from year 2021 (waste accumulated until year 2021 not included).
Other methodological comments	Radioactive waste is classified as per national regulations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The first indicator represents very-low-level short-lived waste volume of the waste, (Class A according to the national regulations for radioactive waste management). The waste counted is pure volume, i.e. without packaging prepared for Landfill repository. The amount registered for 2021 is 0, however there are 12 940 m3 of very-low-level radioactive waste safely stored but awaiting for disposal. The pre-disposal processing of very-low-level waste has taken place without major obstacles. The landfill repository was completed in 2021 and its operations will only start in 2022. With the start of the landfill operations, it is expected that the pace of disposal will progressively increase based on a learning curve. The second indicator represents low level, intermediate level waste and long lived waste to be placed into dedicated storage and, in the future, into deep geological repository (Class B, C, D, E and F according to the national regulations for radioactive waste management). The amount is registered is 0 as the construction of the near-surface repository has not been completed yet due to the legal action of an excluded tenderer, which has been resolved by the end of 2021.

Indicator 2: Dismantling and decontamination of the reactor shafts top and bottom zones and equipment in accordance with the decommissioning plan: quantity and type of materials removed, with annual objectives by type, meeting the milestones of the Programme.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Metal dismantled (tonne)										
	Milestones									2028
	402	852	1 462	2 385	3 218	3 685	4 153	4 341		4 341
	Actual Progress									Final
	106									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, decommissioning operator
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/101.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator also supports the MFF 2014-2020 objective: to assist Lithuania towards the decommissioning end state of units 1 and 2 of the Ignalina nuclear power plant.

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The figures of the first indicator relate to the dismantling activities in the reactor shafts by 2021. One of the reasons explaining the underperformance is that there is still some new equipment for dismantling pending to be received that will accelerate the works. In addition, dismantling in Reactor Shafts in Unit 1 started in late autumn 2021, instead of beginning 2021 as planned. This is because the nuclear regulator permit was not received much later than scheduled. These figures show a strong progress since the start of works, but the rate of dismantling should increase in order to achieve the overall objectives.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Nuclear decommissioning assistance programme in Lithuania

General Objective 1: To assist Lithuania towards the decommissioning end state of units 1 and 2 of the Ignalina nuclear power plant

Indicator 1: Number of major components and systems dismantled in all the concerned nuclear reactors in accordance with the respective decommissioning plans

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2020
Unit 1 reactor core is defueled, Unit 2 reactor core is partially defueled. (See narrative)				Start_commissioning_Int erim_Spent_Fuel_Storage_Facility	Unit2_reactor_core_fully_defueled		Start_of_transferring_damaged_fuel_from_Unit1	Completion_of_transferring_damaged_fuel_from_Unit1	Completion_of_Transferring_damage_d_Fuel_from_Unit1	Ref. Detailed Decommissioning Plan 2014
	Actual Progress									Final
			Start_commissioning_Int erim_Spent_Fuel_Storage_Facility		Unit2_reactor_core_fully_defueled		Start_of_transferring_damaged_fuel_from_Unit1	Completion_of_transferring_damaged_fuel_from_Unit1		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Info on achieved milestones (yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, implementing bodies, decommissioning operator
Narrative	This is a general overview of the implementation of the Ignalina Detailed Decommissioning Plan, based on the main milestones to be achieved during the period 2014-2020 (e.g. start of transferring damaged fuel from Unit 1 by 2020). The planned completion date for the decommissioning of Ignalina units 1 and 2 is 2038.
Methodology	Data and information obtained from Monitoring Reports provided by National Authorities every 6 months.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Updated indicators are defined for the period 2021-2027.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	By December 2020, the end of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework, the transferring of damaged fuel from Unit 1 started, following the commissioning of trials of damaged fuel handling equipment in Unit 1. By December 2021, all fuel assemblies were removed from Unit 1 and the operator started transferring damaged fuel from Unit 2. The operator also started the spent fuel pools cleaning and debris collection in Unit 1, and commenced the dismantling of the Unit 1 reactor and its technological systems. Work is being carried out and progressing, but dismantling should be accelerated in order to achieve the targets of the decommissioning plan.

Specific Objective 1: Defueling of the reactor core of unit 2 and the reactor fuel ponds of units 1 and 2 into the dry spent fuel storage facility

Indicator 1: Cumulative number of unloaded fuel assemblies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

Removal of spent fuel assemblies from Units 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds										
2014	Milestones								2022	
Unit 1 reactor core defueled	0	0	0	3519	7159	10799	13984	15461	15630	15630
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0	0	267	3519	7796	12255	15243			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Spent fuel assemblies (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, implementing bodies, decommissioning operator
Narrative	Safe storage of spent fuel from the operation of the nuclear power plant and the ability to safely handle and store radioactive waste produced during dismantling works are key prerequisites for the decommissioning activities.
Methodology	Data and information obtained from Monitoring Reports provided by National Authorities every 6 months, and the monthly report from the implementing body.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The completion of this task is scheduled for 2022 and no progress indicator is defined for the period 21-27.
Other methodological comments	The removal of spent fuel assemblies could not start before the commissioning of the Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The objective of removing spent fuel assemblies from Unit 2 reactor core (1 134 spent fuel assemblies) was achieved in 2018. Both reactors Units 1 and 2 are completely defueled. The removal of spent fuel assemblies from the Unit 1 and 2 spent fuel ponds has progressed ahead of schedule and reached up to 15 273 assemblies by December 2020 i.e. 109% of the cumulative planned amount in 2020 and 98% of the total amount planned for 2022 (15 630 assemblies).

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to gender equality

6.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0: 73							

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The gender equality perspective is considered in our financing by Council Regulation 2021/101. Nonetheless, we determined that nuclear decommissioning is the primary and sole objective of our programme and as such has no significant impacts on gender equality even though some minor indirect impacts might manifest.

HEADING 5: Security and Defence**Nuclear Safety and decommissioning (incl. For Bulgaria and Slovakia)****Lead DG: ENER**

Associated DGs: JRC

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Specific Objective 2 :To support the decommissioning plan and to carry out the activities in accordance with the national law of the host Member State for the dismantling and decontamination of the Commission’s nuclear installations at the JRC sites, to carry out the safe management of associated radioactive waste and, when appropriate, to prepare the optional transfer of the related nuclear liabilities from the JRC to the host Member State	962
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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The decommissioning of a nuclear installation such as a power plant or research reactor is the final step in its lifecycle. It starts with shutdown, then it proceeds with removal of nuclear materials, decontamination, dismantling and demolishing until the environmental restoration of the site. The aim in nuclear decommissioning is the progressive removal of hazards inherently associated with the concerned installations. The corresponding phasing out of the necessary safety measures and associated costs is stepwise in nature, mainly because the removal of major batches of radioactive materials is obtained over several stages.

At this point in time, the decommissioning operators of the **Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme (NDAP)** in Bohunice (Slovakia) and Kozloduy (Bulgaria) are carrying out decontamination and dismantling. In Bohunice the programme has advanced the most and is at the stage of dismantling in the reactor building, while in Kozloduy dismantling is well advanced in the auxiliary buildings and has started in the reactor buildings.

The **JRC's Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Programme Management (D&WMP)** aims at the decommissioning of the nuclear research installations of the Joint Research Centre (JRC), and the management of their radioactive waste. They are located at four sites: Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium), Karlsruhe (Germany) and Petten (the Netherlands). Nuclear research installations at JRC sites are subject to the regulatory framework and supervision in the *host* country.

The implementation of the D&WM programme at the JRC-Ispra site has focused on the design and building of several waste handling and interim storage installations for waste sorting, characterisation, decontamination, material "clearance" from radiological control, and condition and temporary storage of radioactive waste until adequate radioactive waste interim long-term storage facilities or waste disposal facilities are available in Italy.

The other JRC's nuclear research installations, located in Petten, Geel and Karlsruhe, are still in operation. Decommissioning of the related operating facilities will not start before their shutdown. Waste management and pre-decommissioning activities are carried out including the dismantling of out-of-use equipment from past research work and for the removal off-site (including transfer of ownership) of obsolete nuclear spent fuel and nuclear materials.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the Programme is to provide funding for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the management of radioactive waste, in line with the needs identified in the respective decommissioning plan.

On the basis of the current needs for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027, the Programme, in addition to creating knowledge with regard to the nuclear decommissioning process and the management of radioactive waste resulting from the decommissioning activities, aims in particular to:

- (a) assist Bulgaria and Slovakia in implementing the Kozloduy programme and the Bohunice programme respectively, including with regard to the management and storage of radioactive waste in line with the needs identified in the respective decommissioning plan, with specific emphasis on managing the safety challenges in respect thereof;
- (b) support the JRC decommissioning and waste management programme.

This Programme is the continuation of the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia, and this last EU assistance will help bring both sites to their planned end state.

The JRC's Decommissioning and of Radioactive Waste Management Programme (D&WM) was formally launched in 1999 to eliminate historical and future liabilities at all nuclear sites of the JRC and will proceed under this instrument.

The decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the management of the arising waste under a common instrument aim to take advantage of **synergies and knowledge sharing** with a view to ensure dissemination of knowledge and return of experience in all relevant areas such as research and innovation, regulation, training, and to develop potential Union synergies.

1.3. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the programme are as follows:

- (a) to carry out the activities included in the Kozloduy and Bohunice respective decommissioning plans, the dismantling and decontamination of Units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and Units 1 and 2 of the Bohunice V1 Nuclear Power Plant, including associated systems, structures and components and auxiliary buildings, the safe management of radioactive waste in line with the needs identified in the respective decommissioning plans, and human resources support; and to pursue the release of Units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and Units 1 and 2 of the Bohunice V1 Nuclear Power Plant from regulatory controls;
- (b) to support the decommissioning plan and to carry out the activities in accordance with the national law of the host Member State for the dismantling and decontamination of the Commission's nuclear installations at the JRC sites, to carry out the safe management of associated radioactive waste and, when appropriate, to prepare the optional transfer of the related nuclear liabilities from the JRC to the host Member State;
- (c) for the JRC to develop ties and exchanges among Union stakeholders on nuclear decommissioning, with a view to ensuring the dissemination of knowledge and the sharing of experience in all relevant areas, such as research and innovation, regulation and training, and developing potential Union synergies.

1.4. Public intervention context

The decommissioning of a nuclear installation such as a power plant or research reactor is the final step in its lifecycle. It involves activities from shutdown and removal of nuclear material to the environmental restoration of the site. The whole process is complex and lengthy (typically 20 to 30 years), and it is carried out with the highest safety standards.

In accordance with their respective Act of Accession to the Union, Bulgaria anticipated the shut down of units 1 to 4 in Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and Slovakia of units 1 and 2 in Bohunice V1 Nuclear Power Plant. The Union committed to provide financial support for the decommissioning, in accordance with approved plans, while keeping the highest level of safety. With the financial support provided under the MFF 2021-2027 bringing both Kozloduy and Bohunice programmes to completion, the Union will have fulfilled its commitment.

The Council Directives 2014/87/Euratom and 2011/70/Euratom, establish the ultimate responsibility of Member States for the safety of nuclear installations and for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. That principle of national responsibility, as well as the principle of prime responsibility of the licence holder for the safety of its installations, include the decommissioning operations.

Each Member State has appointed a Programme Coordinator responsible for overseeing the programming, coordination and monitoring of the respective decommissioning programme. In each concerned MS, the decommissioning operator, as the licence holder, is responsible for implementing the decommissioning programme under the supervision of the Programme Coordinator. The decommissioning operators are the State Enterprise for Radioactive Waste (SERAW) in Bulgaria, and the Nuclear and Decommissioning Company (Jadrová a vyrad'ovacia spoločnosť or JAVYS) in Slovakia.

The JRC was established under the Euratom Treaty and site agreements were signed during the period 1960-1962 between the Community, Germany, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands. In the cases of Italy and the Netherlands, national nuclear installations were transferred to the Community. An infrastructure geared to nuclear research and comprising new installations was put in place at the four sites. Some of those installations are still in use today, while others have been shut down, in some instances more than 20 years ago, and have mostly become obsolete.

On the basis of the Euratom Treaty the JRC has to manage its nuclear liabilities and decommission its installations once they have been definitively shut down. The D&WM programme relates to all JRC nuclear installations at the sites of Ispra, Karlsruhe, Petten and Geel, either already shutdown or staying in operation.

1.5. Actions

The actions to be funded under the Kozloduy programme and the Bohunice programme are within the scope of the respective decommissioning plans presented to the Commission. The actions focus on activities related to the delivery of the general and specific objectives and with the highest EU added value, i.e. removal of radiological hazards and creation and dissemination of relevant knowledge.

During the 2021-2027 period, Ispra will be the main site for the decommissioning and waste management activities of the JRC. The gradual shift from safe conservation and pre-decommissioning to relatively large decommissioning and waste management tasks will continue, enabled by the relevant authorisations and licenses released by the safety authority and by the start of the operation of new supporting facilities. By 2024, all waste treatment facilities in Ispra should be ready for operation. In Karlsruhe, the requalification and removal of legacy low-level waste and glove boxes and the optimisation of spent fuel inventories will continue. In Petten, a multi-year campaign to dispose of the nuclear material/waste batches owned by JRC will be launched. Contacts with Dutch counterparts, aiming at defining an effective frame for the future decommissioning of the High Flux Reactor, will continue. In Geel, an effort to reduce/optimize the inventories of nuclear materials owned by the JRC and to remove waste will be implemented in agreement with the licensing authority.

1.6. Delivery mode

Kozloduy (BG) - NDAP

Indirect Management entrusted to EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development).

Bohunice (SK) - NDAP

Indirect Management entrusted to EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and the SIEA (Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency – national agency in Slovakia).

The Commission has selected the EBRD as entrusted entity for the NDAP since 2001. On the proposal of the Slovak authorities, the Bohunice programme funding is also channelled through a national implementation channel, the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA).

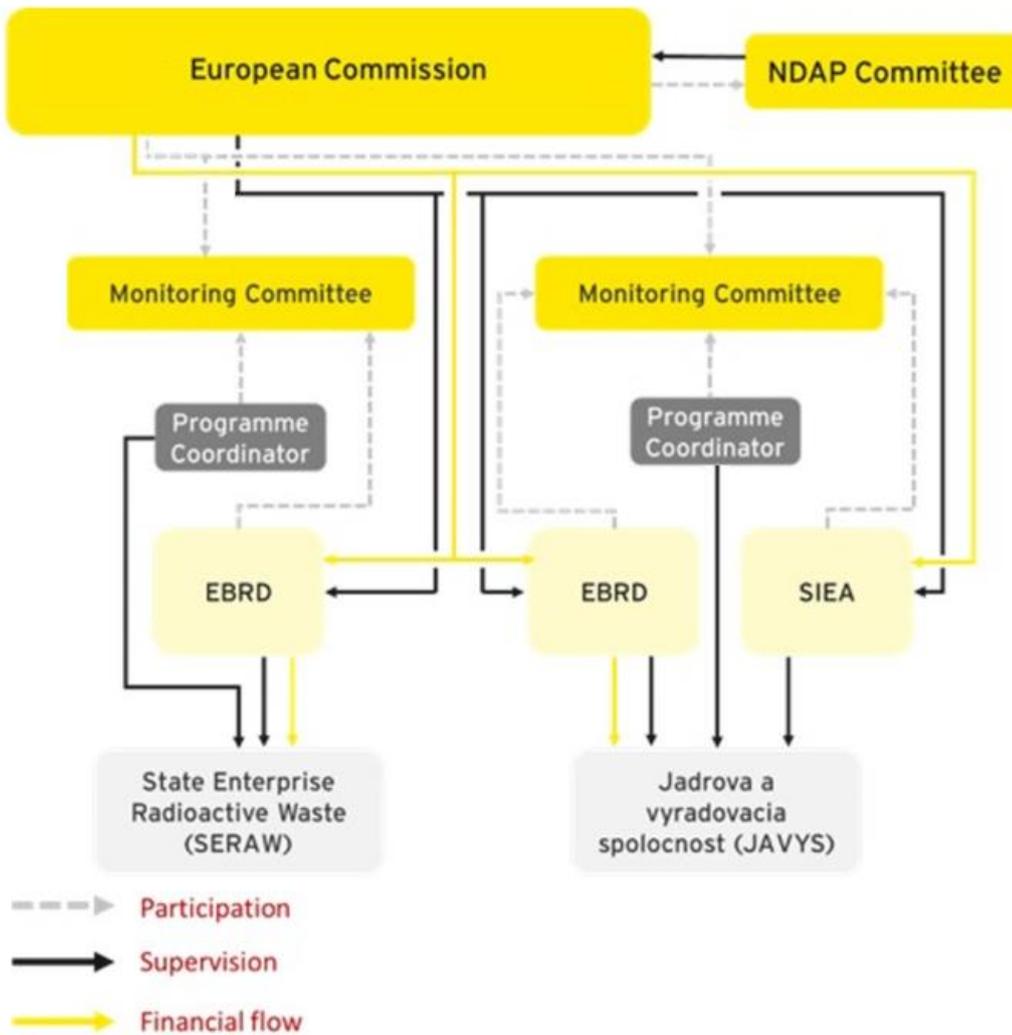
The Directorate-General for Energy is the lead DG for the implementation of the programme. It manages directly a limited fraction of the funds for preparatory, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities.

JRC (BE, DE, IT, NL) - D&WM programme

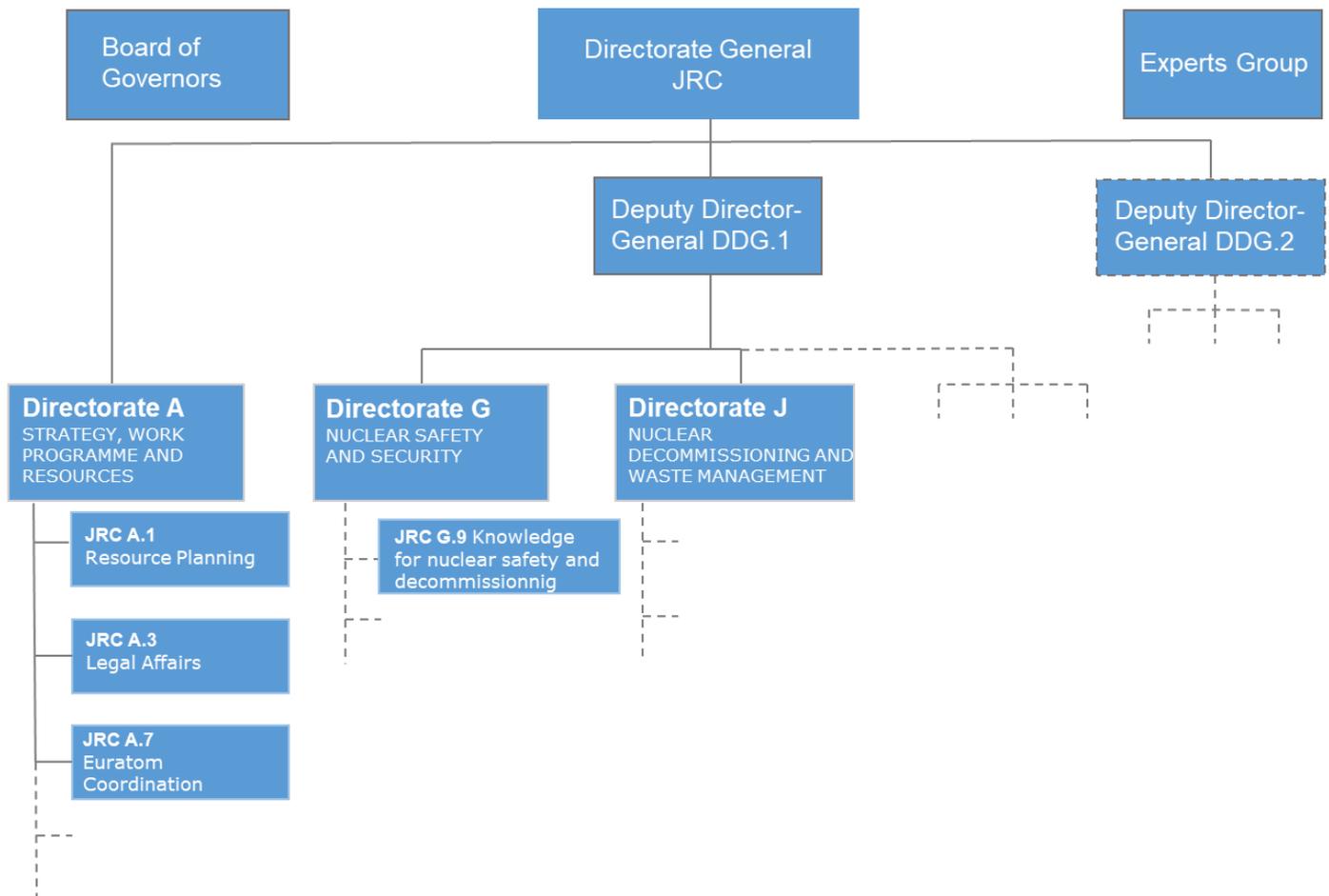
Direct Management by JRC.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Graphic overview of NDAP structure (BG, SK):



A new Directorate for Nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Management has been established with the mission of implementing the JRC Decommissioning and Nuclear Waste Management (D&WM) programme in line with the identified needs.



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100 of 25 January 2021 establishing a dedicated financial programme for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and the management of radioactive waste, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 1368/2013 (OJ L 34, 1.2.2021, p. 3). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/100	2021 - 2027	466.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

When Bulgaria and Slovakia joined the European Union, they committed to close and proceed with the decommissioning of six Soviet-designed, first generation nuclear reactors at two nuclear power plant sites. The Union declared its willingness to provide financial assistance to the concerned Member States for the decommissioning of Kozloduy units 1 to 4 and Bohunice V1 units 1 and 2 in accordance with their respective decommissioning plans.

On the basis of Article 8 of the Euratom Treaty and in line with Article 7 of Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom the JRC has managed its historical nuclear liabilities and decommissions its shut-down nuclear installations in accordance with the respective national legislation. Accordingly, the JRC decommissioning and waste management programme was launched in 1999.

JRC decommissioning programme concerns the nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management of the nuclear installations at the JRC sites, namely JRC-Geel in Belgium, JRC-Karlsruhe in Germany, JRC-Ispira in Italy and JRC-Petten in the Netherlands.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	69.2	43.9	57.2	62.3	70.5	73.1	89.8	466.0

(million)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The decommissioning of Bohunice (SK) and Kozloduy (BG) has received EU support since 2001 under various instruments. The co-funding in the MFF 2021-2027 is the last to complete the programme.

During the MFF 2014-2020, the Kozloduy and Bohunice programme progressed steadily towards the decommissioning end state, in accordance with their respective decommissioning plans, whilst maintaining the highest level of safety. The process will continue in the MFF 2021-2027 and a new objective will be pursued: the dissemination of knowledge to all EU Member States on the decommissioning process. The activities funded in the period 2021-2027 will be subject to a maximum EU co-financing rate of 50%. This rate was not explicitly set previously.

The JRC decommissioning programme was previously performed under direct management under a different financial instrument. It was launched in 1999¹ as an activity with separate ad-hoc budget line. Since the beginning, the Commission is regularly reporting to the Council and the European Parliament on its progress and status². Moreover, JRC reports on an annual basis on the mid-term targets and the progress achieved (JRC Management Plan, JRC Activity Report).

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

NDAP (SK, BG): https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/nuclear-energy/decommissioning-nuclear-facilities_en

JRC: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/research-topic/nuclear-waste-management-and-decommissioning/road-to-green-fields>

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (EUR million):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	69.1	466.0	15%
Payments	5.8		1%

Regarding NDAP commitments, two Delegation agreements were signed during 2021: one with EBRD (total value EUR 9 000 000 for the implementation of Kozloduy programme) and another one with SIEA (total value EUR 27 420 000 for the implementation of the Bohunice programme). In addition, a total amount of EUR 80 000 will be dedicated to a consultancy assessment performed under direct management. The cost of the work carried out during 2021 is within budget.

For the year 2022, it is expected to commit EUR 8 870 000 to the EBRD for the implementation of the Kozloduy programme, whereas no commitment are expected for the Bohunice programme. It is also planned to commit EUR 130 000 to studies and consultancy assessments performed under direct management.

¹ Historical liabilities resulting from nuclear activities carried out at the JRC under the Euratom Treaty – Decommissioning of obsolete Nuclear Installations and Waste Management, COM(1999)114 final

² Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament - Decommissioning of nuclear installations and waste management - Nuclear liabilities arising out of the activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) carried out under the Euratom Treaty: SEC(2004)621 final; COM(2008)903 final; COM(2013)734 final.

For the year 2023, it is expected to commit EUR 8 900 000 to the implementation of the Kozloduy programme, and to commit EUR 9 400 000 to the implementation of the Bohunice programme. It is also anticipated to commit EUR 200 000 in direct management studies.

The above allocation of funds will sustain the ongoing progress on the decommissioning programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia.

Regarding the NDAP payments, the total payments made during 2021 for the Kozloduy and Bohunice programme implementation was EUR 47 388 301. Moreover, EUR 105 410 were paid for the final payment of a direct management study.

For the current year 2022, it is planned to perform payments for the value of EUR 9 500 000 for the implementation of projects in the Bohunice programme. In addition, it is planned to perform payments for the value of EUR 263 079 during 2022.

For the Draft Budget 2023, it is anticipated a total amount of EUR 15 million in payments.

These payments will be performed from the 2014-2020 appropriations until its exhaustion. Decommissioning projects are, in many cases, highly complex from the procurement and implementation point of view and extend on a long period of time. This explains the inherent interval between the commitments and the payments of the programme.

On the overall progress of the programme, the Kozloduy programme has received the necessary equipment and is prepared for the decontamination and dismantling of the reactors main pipes, pumps and valves (also reusing equipment and experience from the Bohunice programme). The programme progressed in dismantling in the auxiliary buildings. The plasma melting facility, a first-of-its-kind facility for the high-performance volume reduction of radioactive waste, is now in industrial operation. In parallel, construction works are underway for the National Disposal Facility, i.e. the low and intermediate level waste surface repository, which will receive large quantities of radioactive waste from 2024. In accordance with the updated performance baseline, the programme completion date remains 2030.

The Bohunice programme has entered the last phase of the decommissioning process. The dismantling of the large components in the reactor building is underway. After the removal of all steam generators, the decommissioning operator initiated the segmentation and packaging of the reactor pressure vessels, i.e. where the nuclear core was enclosed. The decommissioning operator prepared in 2021 a thorough review (“schedule stress test”) of the scheduling of the remaining tasks, which resulted in a modification in the end-date of the programme to 2027, from 2025 previously.

The nuclear Decommissioning and Waste Management Programme of JRC entails a complex set of specific activities and projects with related objectives. Different levels of advancement characterize the situation at the four nuclear sites of the JRC. In Ispra, where most of the nuclear facilities ceased to operate before 1999, the objectives include safe conservation, pre-decommissioning, decommissioning and waste management targets covering a variety of obsolete large installations and waste batches. For the other sites, in which nuclear research facilities are still in operation, the objectives are focused on legacy waste management, dismantling of obsolete equipment and relatively small facilities, and on the definition of plans and teams to implement future decommissioning and waste management activities. In the future (until 2060), significant decommissioning activities will need to be implemented also at the JRC sites in Karlsruhe, Geel and Petten.

During 2021, expenditure in the JRC Decommissioning and Waste Management Programme has been in line with the financial programming, except that expenses in the commissioning of auxiliary facilities for decommissioning and waste management have been significantly lower due to the poor performance in the commissioning of the grouting station to immobilize solid low-level waste, and the expenses in radiation protection have been significantly larger than planned as the relaxation of the pandemic constraints allowed more in-the-field work. The rest of the activities in waste and nuclear material management, decommissioning, safe conservation and utility services, general support and horizontal activities and others have progressed as planned.

Pre-decommissioning activities, characterisation and clean-up have well progressed in many facilities (cyclotron, LCRS) during 2021, and will continue in 2022. The transit safe area for temporary safe storage of irradiated nuclear material in INE has entered operation in May 2021. Work has progressed in the preparation of documentation for both license revocation of those facilities undergoing pre-decommissioning and decommissioning, as well as in the adaptation of currently in-force licenses to the Italian legal framework updated in 2020.

At the JRC sites of Karlsruhe, Petten and Geel, no disused equipment or legacy radioactive waste has been removed, stored or disposed of. Instead, progress has been achieved in desktop and planning activities, as well as in contract preparation.

During the 2023-2027 period, JRC Ispra (IT) will be the main site for the decommissioning and waste management activities of the JRC. The gradual shift from safe conservation and pre-decommissioning to relatively large decommissioning and waste management tasks will continue, enabled by the relevant authorisations and licenses released by the safety authority and by the start of the operation of new supporting facilities. By 2024, all waste treatment facilities in Ispra should be ready for operation. In Karlsruhe (DE), the requalification and removal of legacy low-level waste and glove boxes and the optimisation of spent fuel inventories will continue. In Petten (NL), a multi-year campaign to dispose of the nuclear material/waste batches owned by JRC will be launched. Contacts with Dutch counterparts, aiming at defining an effective frame for the future decommissioning of the High Flux Reactor, will continue. In Geel (BE), an effort to reduce/optimize the inventories of nuclear materials owned by the JRC and to remove waste will be implemented in agreement with the licensing authority.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (EUR million):

	Implementation	Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	518.4	518.4	100%
Payments	313.6		60%

The figures relate only to the past implementation of the Kozloduy and Bohunice programmes. The JRC decommissioning programme was performed under a different financial instrument until 2021 and is not reported here. Including the payments made during the period 2014-2020 on the previous MFF commitments, the total of payments made for the Kozloduy and Bohunice programmes is EUR 858,528 million, which represents 165,8% of the committed amount for the same period (EUR 517,892 million). Therefore, the rhythm of payments has been aligned with the commitments during the period 2014-2020. Decommissioning projects are, in many cases, highly technical from the procurement and implementation point of view and extend on a long period of time. This explains the inherent interval between the commitments and the payments of the programme, and that most of the payments during the 2014-2020 period were related to commitments from the previous period. The figures in the table above are expressed in EUR million.

The cost of the work carried out since 2014 is within budget.

Progress at these two sites was affected by the COVID-19 crisis, which affected the supply chain of equipment and meant limited access by foreign experts and contractors to the sites. Measures to ensure that activities could continue safely significantly reduced the short-term impact on project milestones.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programmes (NDAP) in Bulgaria and Slovakia have progressed in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieved most of the 2014-2020 indicators. During the starting year of the current MFF, the programmes did not progress as planned; in spite of a generally satisfactory and steady progress of works on the ground, preparatory activities of key upcoming projects progressed at a slower rate.

The programmes continued to reduce nuclear and radiation safety risks related to the concerned reactors. Two important achievements in 2021 were:

- The substantial progress of the dismantling of the large components of the reactor coolant system in Bohunice (Slovakia) where the fragmentation of one of the two reactor pressure vessels was completed;
- The completion of the Plasma Melting Facility fourth operational campaign in Kozloduy (Bulgaria), which now will lead the operator to apply for the Operating License and to build a comprehensive analysis of its economic benefits.

Regarding the JRC decommissioning programme, the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other unanticipated circumstances, have impacted the construction of support facilities for the decommissioning project in Ispra, which will delay waste management and, eventually, decommissioning activities. Pre-decommissioning activities and license applications preparations continue progressing as planned in Ispra and in the other sites with operating infrastructure.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In **Kozloduy (Bulgaria)**, the similar designs of the Kozloduy and Bohunice reactors provided an excellent opportunity to share experience, methods and tools, thus reducing risks and cost. Decontamination of the primary circuits in of Kozloduy follows experience from Bohunice by reusing the decontamination equipment transported from the Bohunice site.

After the accumulation of delays in different projects, there is a deviation from the programme baseline. The works at the National Disposal Facility have continued in a safe manner under the highest health and safety measures. The pace of work at this key facility is low. There is a delay of the end-date of this project, which is however not on the critical path for the time being. The decommissioning operator has successfully completed the Plasma Melting Facility (PMF) fourth operational campaign, and will now finalise the report to the nuclear regulator to apply for the Operating License and conclude a comprehensive analysis of the PMF economic benefits.

Dismantling activities inside the reactor building Units 1-2 (Indicator 1 for 2021-2027 period – See Section 4) have started and are progressing according to the schedule of works in the Detailed Decommissioning Plan. Regarding the dismantling and

decontamination (Indicator 2 for 2021-2027 period included in section 4), the dismantling of systems (made of metal among other materials) is also progressing as per the Detailed Decommissioning Plan. The generation of concrete waste is not expected until planned for 2023, when the decontamination and dismantling of buildings and facilities activities will start.

The lower-than-planned rate of implementation and the complex interdependency of the activities on key projects lead to conclude that the risk of delay is increasing significantly and may affect the end-date (2030). A stress-test of the overall schedule is ongoing in order to assess whether the completion date of the programme can be met, what risks to the schedule can be identified and what mitigation measures need to be put into place.

In Bohunice (Slovakia), works continued on dismantling the reactor coolant system and auxiliary systems. The decommissioning operator transported the reactor pressure vessels to cutting workshops for size reduction and packaging. As of 31 December 2021, fragmentation of reactor pressure vessels was at 90% and 60% for each of the 2 reactors. The 12 steam generators, each made of 145 tonnes of steel, were dismantled and transferred to the former turbine hall to be fragmented in a purpose-built dry-cutting workshop.

At the end of 2020 the decommissioning operator signalled a possible delay on the end date of the Bohunice Programme because mitigation measures put in place to catch up the delay of a project on the critical path, were not as effective as initially expected. The decommissioning operator presented several scenarios that were critically reviewed by all stakeholders including the Commission. The scenario eventually proposed by the Programme Coordinator and included by the Commission in the work programme 2021-2022 has a target end-date in 2027 and involves no extra costs. This schedule remains very challenging and will need close monitoring involving all stakeholders to allow early detection of deviations and decide corrective actions timely. With that in place, an end of all dismantling and demolition activities by December 2027 is an achievable target. The finalisation of the mostly administrative process of delicensing may take some more months.

Regarding the Very Low Level radioactive waste (VLLW) indicator (Indicator 1 for 2021-2027 period - see Section 4), due to rescheduling of the completion date of this activity, the removal of concrete from the reactors' shafts is delayed. As a result, the disposal of the VLLW concrete in the national repository at Mochovce was lower in 2021 than planned.

Concerning the Low Level and Intermediate radioactive waste level indicator (Indicator 1 for 2021-2027 period - see Section 4), lower actual volume of LLW arising from decommissioning (compared to the planned volume) is related to higher volume of decontaminated metallic materials (compared to the planned volume) and, as a result, there was a higher amount of released material to the environment than the original planned value.

In respect of the removal of metal and concrete (Indicator 2 for 2021-2027 period – Section 4) the target value for dismantling and removal of concrete was not achieved. This is due to a change that was needed to maintain a high level of occupational Health and Safety during the demolition works removal and processing of concrete. However, this rescheduling has no impact on the critical path of the programme.

In relation to the decommissioning of the sites managed by the **JRC**, in Ispra (Italy), COVID-19 pandemic (which has jeopardised the access to the site, restricted to essential tasks) and the low performance of the contractor has impacted the construction of the grouting station to immobilize solid low level radioactive waste (LLW). The contract will be terminated and a new call for tender launched, covering the remaining parts of design and the construction of the facility. This will cause an estimated delay of 3 to 4 years in the commissioning of this facility and subsequently delay radioactive waste management activities. During the excavation and site preparation for the retrieval facility, unconditioned waste was found at the excavation yard. This waste was not detected despite the extensive characterization campaigns. During 2021, the construction works were halted, and immediate discussion with the competent authorities started, with a view of planning of the remediation activities, retrieval and characterization of the waste, and characterization of the soil. Works will restart in the second quarter of 2022, with the aim of completing the facility one year later. The Interim Storage Facility's license has been modified to store unconditioned low-level waste.

Pre-decommissioning activities are progressing well. In Ispra, donated cyclotron components left the site to the beneficiaries. Clean-up and characterization of the hot-cells laboratory has been completed, and the works will continue with the decontamination of active tanks. In the meantime the application for revoking the license of these two facilities is being prepared. In Petten, a framework contract to dispose of legacy radioactive waste from past experiments has been concluded with NRG. JRC maintains regular contacts with Dutch stakeholders regarding the future decommissioning of the High Flux Reactor.

At JRC Karlsruhe, a feasibility study on the characterisation of backlog drums was commissioned, and a new contract for dismantling gloveboxes was concluded.

As the timeframe envisaged for the JRC Decommissioning and Waste Management Programme covers several decades, the planning of the works is updated regularly to take due account of the progress, delays, unforeseen circumstances, etc. and to reschedule activities as appropriate.

The two new Council Regulations (Euratom) 2021/100 and (EU) 2021/101 adopted in January 2021 are framing the continuation of the EU support to the decommissioning programmes over the period 2021-2027. This is the final contribution to the Kozloduy and Bohunice decommissioning programmes. Finally, each of the NDAP decommissioning operators has created a decommissioning knowledge product, taking a first step towards the new objective of knowledge dissemination.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

The JRC Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Management of Radioactive Waste Programme (D&WMP) was previously managed under another instrument and its performance subject to a different framework. Therefore its past performance is not reported here.

The general objective of the Kozloduy and Bohunice programmes in the period 2014-2020 was to assist the Member States towards the decommissioning end state of Kozloduy units 1 to 4 (Bulgaria) and Bohunice VI units 1 and 2 (Slovakia), whilst maintaining the highest level of safety.

These two programmes have achieved most of the principal objectives for the period 2014-2020. However, important delays occurred during the implementation of key projects, which could impact the end date of the programme. Despite these delays, the NDAP is now more mature in managing complex decommissioning projects, and has demonstrated its adaptability and overall relevance.

For the Kozloduy programme, the situation in 2014 was:

- preparatory works had started for the decontamination and dismantling activities in turbine halls and auxiliary buildings;
- the dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings had not started;
- the facilities for the treatment and conditioning of waste were being put in place.

The first specific objective for the period 2014-2020 (performing dismantling in the turbine halls of units 1 to 4 and in auxiliary buildings) has been achieved with the decontamination and dismantling activities in the turbine halls completed in 2019.

Progress towards the second specific objective (dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of units 1 to 4) was significant. Dismantling activities inside the reactor building Units 1-2 had started in 2015 and a total of 948 systems and equipment were dismantled in the reactor buildings of units 1 to 4, which was 79% of the target at the end of 2020. The activity had started at a slower pace than planned but recovered steadily over the years. However, the COVID-19 pandemic impeded the approval process by the nuclear regulator during the last years.

Activities related to the third specific objective (safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan) have progressed well but some aspects stayed slightly below expectations. At the end of 2020, the quantity of material released from regulatory control (free release) has reached 39 320 tonnes i.e. 90% of the target. The COVID-19 pandemic worsened the production rate. At the same date, the production of final waste packages (i.e. Reinforced-Concrete Containers) for legacy waste and decommissioning waste was about 106% of the target at the end of 2020.

The plasma melting facility (a first-of-its-kind high-temperature incineration facility for volume reduction of radioactive waste) produces a waste form that is particularly stable and safe. The project was launched in 2009 and reached the operational stage in 2019. The first three operational campaigns demonstrated that it could reduce the volume of waste by a factor of 50, and an economic analysis is ongoing after the recent finalisation in 2021 of the fourth campaign.

Construction of the near-surface repository for low- and intermediate-level waste (National Disposal Facility) started in 2017. The large earth works are completed and the foundations have been laid down. The construction works do not imply any radiation or nuclear safety risk, however activities were suspended from December 2019 to June 2020 following a fatal accident on the building site. The works in the affected projects started again with a new enhanced health and safety plan. This project is critical to the progress of decommissioning in the MFF 2021-2027 and to meet the planned end-date in 2030.

For the Bohunice programme, the situation in 2014 was:

- dismantling of V1 turbine hall had started;
- dismantling of external buildings (phase 1) had started;
- preparation of decontamination of V1 primary circuits had started;
- stage 1 decommissioning waste management had started.

The first specific objective for the period 2014-2020 (dismantling in the turbine hall and auxiliary buildings of reactor V1) has been achieved. The dismantling in the turbine halls was completed in 2018. An important landmark was reached in 2018 with the demolition of the four cooling towers. Eventually the dismantling of the auxiliary buildings was completed in 2019.

The progress towards the second specific objective concerning the dismantling of large components and equipment in the V1 reactor buildings deserves attention. Important milestones were achieved with the dismantling of the Auxiliary Building Systems, Spent Fuel Pools and contaminated tanks in 2018; the transfer of the 12 steam generators, each made of 145 tonnes of steel, to the former turbine hall in 2019 and the transportation of the reactor pressure vessel and other activated components to pools reconfigured as underwater cutting workshops. However, previous milestones have been merged with the project 'Nuclear Steam Supply System' (original target date 2020) which has been rescheduled to the end of 2022.

Activities related to the third specific objective (safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan) have progressed well but stayed slightly below expectations. By December 2020 the quantity of material released from regulatory control (free release) has reached 134 124 tonnes, i.e. 90% of the target. The production of hazardous waste and radioactive waste remained slightly under plan. This is the consequence of the lower than planned quantity of material to be removed from the site and also from slower operations due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Although knowledge sharing was not an explicit objective of the NDAP for the 2014-2020 period, several initiatives have been taken in favour of cooperation between the three NDAP Member States (Bulgaria, Slovakia and Lithuania). Decommissioning operators in the three NDAP programmes (Kozloduy in Bulgaria, Bohunice V1 in Slovakia and Ignalina in Lithuania) have engaged several knowledge sharing actions at different levels, in order to both share their experience and gain knowledge from other stakeholders in Europe.

3.2. Key achievements

29 448	134 124	392	1 800
tonnes of metals were originated from the dismantling of the turbine hall in Kozloduy programme by end 2020.	tonnes of conventional recyclable material dismantled by end 2020 in the Bohunice programme.	reinforced-concrete containers of radioactive waste produced in the Kozloduy programme by end 2020.	tonnes of metals were recycled in Bohunice programme in 2021

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme (NDAP)

The Commission, in close cooperation with the Member States, has launched an *ex post* evaluation on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nuclear Decommissioning Assistance Programme for the period 2014 to 2020. The evaluation will rely on existing reports on the progress of the technical and financial implementation of the programme.

The following studies are underway or recently finished:

- study to support the *ex post* evaluation of the nuclear decommissioning assistance programme 2014-2020;
- safety culture maturity of the NDAP operations, supporting the *ex post* evaluation 2014-2020;
- development and try-out of an on-site process for sharing knowledge created in the frame of the NDAP;
- gap analysis of Earned Value Management Systems in use by operators under the NDAP and a follow-up study on baselining policy and monitoring.

The following evaluations, studies and reports have been published in the past years:

- Progress report period 2010-2014 [COM(2015) 78];
- Progress report 2015 and previous years [COM(2016) 405];
- Progress report 2016 and previous years [COM(2017) 328];
- Mid-term evaluation [COM(2018) 468];
- Progress report 2018 and previous years [COM(2019) 215];
- Progress report 2019 and previous years [COM(2020) 82];
- Progress report 2020 and previous years [COM(2021) 235];
- support to the *ex post* evaluation of the NDAP Energy window 2007-2013 [ISBN 978-92-76-08716-8];
- support to the mid-term evaluation of the NDAP [ISBN 978-92-76-08717-5, 978-92-76-08789-2];
- assessment of the robustness of the NDAP financing plans and of the relevance and feasibility of the detailed decommissioning plans [ISBN 978-92-76-08798-4].

The results of the NDAP mid-term evaluation and of the latest report on NDAP from the European Court of Auditors were communicated in the Draft Budget 2020.

Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Management of Radioactive Waste Programme (D&WMP)

The following evaluations, studies and reports are underway or recently finished:

- IAS audit report: IAS.C4-2017-JRC-002 Draft audit report on nuclear decommissioning and waste management programme (D&WMP) implementation in DG JRC;
- The organisational structure for the JRC nuclear decommissioning programme: an *ex-ante* assessment – Final report March 2019;
- Ares(2017)6208486 Budget requirements to implement the JRC Decommissioning & Waste Management Programme (D&WMP) strategy;
- Ares(2017)620848 Manpower needs to implement the JRC Decommissioning & Waste Management Programme (D&WMP) strategy;
- Ares(2017)3518519 Strategy for Decommissioning & Waste Management Programme (D&WMP) of JRC.

The following evaluations, studies and reports have been published in the past years:

- IAS audit report IA – 11 – 03 (206) Decommissioning – risk and project management at the Ispra site;
- Expert group reviews reported in CircaBC;
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Decommissioning of nuclear installations and waste management. Nuclear liabilities arising out of the activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) carried out under the Euratom Treaty (SEC/2004/621).

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To carry out the activities included in the respective decommissioning plans, the dismantling and decontamination of Units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and Units 1 and 2 of the Bohunice V1 Nuclear Power Plant, including associated systems, structures and components and auxiliary buildings, the safe management of radioactive waste in line with the needs identified in the respective decommissioning plans, and human resources support; and to pursue the release of Units 1 to 4 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant and Units 1 and 2 of the Bohunice V1 Nuclear Power Plant from regulatory controls.

Indicator 1: (Kozloduy) Safe management of the decommissioning and radioactive waste and of activated materials and dismantling materials, including their decontamination up to interim storage or to disposal (depending on the waste category), as well as the completion of the waste and material management infrastructure where necessary

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Free release of materials (tonne)										
	Milestones									2030
	3 000	5 000	6 000	7 000	8 000	9 000	10 000	11 000	12 000	13 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	3 585									
Are we on track :	On track									
Radioactive waste stored or disposed (tonne)										
	Milestones									2030
	320	2 170	4 160	6 150	8 140	8 640	9 040	9 440	9 840	10 240
	Actual Progress									Final
	355									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes or m3 (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, implementing bodies, decommissioning operator
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This objective is the continuation of the MFF 2014-2020 objective “Safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan”.
Other methodological comments	The classification of radioactive waste follows the respective national regulations. The timeline extends to the scheduled completion of the decommissioning (2030).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Dismantling activities inside the reactor building Units 1-2 have started and are progressing according to the schedule of works in the Detailed Decommissioning Plan. The activity had started at a slower pace than planned in the period 2014-2020, but is now recovering steadily and is on track to fulfil the objectives of the period 2021-2027.

Indicator 2: (Kozloduy) Dismantling and decontamination: quantity and type of materials removed, with annual objectives by type, meeting the milestones of the Programme.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Metal dismantled (tonne)										
	Milestones									2030
	539	1 239	2 039	3 139	4 428	5 807	7 340	8 962	10 207	10 868
	Actual Progress									Final
	539									
Are we on track :	On track									
Concrete removed (tonne)										

	Milestones									2030
	0	0	60	120	180	240	0	0	0	240
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	This indicator also supports the MFF 2014-2020 objective “Dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of Kozloduy units 1 to 4”.
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This objective is the continuation of the objective “Dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of Kozloduy units 1 to 4”.
Other methodological comments	The timeline extends to the scheduled completion of the decommissioning (2030).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The dismantling of systems (made of metal among other materials) is progressing as per the Detailed Decommissioning Plan. The generation of concrete waste is not expected until planned for 2023, when the decontamination and dismantling of buildings and facilities activities will start.

Indicator 3: (Bohunice) Safe management of the decommissioning and radioactive waste and of activated materials and dismantling materials, including their decontamination up to interim storage or to disposal (depending on the waste category), as well as the completion of the waste and material management infrastructure where necessary

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Very low-level radioactive waste – disposed of										
	Milestones									2027
	387	999	1017	1035	2398	5373	5373			5373
	Actual Progress									Final
	100									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Low-level radioactive waste – disposed of										
	Milestones									2027
	285	552	1002	1498	1759	1943	1943			1943
	Actual Progress									Final
	225									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Intermediate-level radioactive waste - safely stored										
	Milestones									2027
	146	172	172	172	172	172	172	NA	NA	172
	Actual Progress									Final
	220							NA	NA	
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes or m3 (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, implementing bodies, decommissioning operators
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This objective is the continuation of the MFF 2014-2020 objective “Safely managing the decommissioning waste in accordance with a detailed waste management plan”.
Other methodological comments	The classification of radioactive waste follows the respective national regulations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Regarding the Very Low Level radioactive waste (VLLW) indicator: Mainly activated concrete from dismantling/demolition of the two reactors’ shafts was planned for disposal in 2021. Due to rescheduling of the completion date of aforementioned activity (from 04/2022 to 01/2023) the removal of concrete from the reactors’ shafts is delayed (see also the indicator "Concrete removed" below). This change was needed to maintain a high level of occupational Health and Safety during the demolition works removal and processing of concrete. However, this rescheduling has no impact in the critical path of the programme. As a result, the disposal of the VLLW concrete in the national repository at Mochovce was lower in 2021 than planned. Regarding the Low Level and Intermediate radioactive waste level indicator: This type of waste is represented mainly by metallic components. Lower actual volume of LLW arising from decommissioning (compared to the planned volume) is

	related to higher volume of decontaminated metallic materials (compared to the planned volume) and, as a result, there was a higher amount of released material to the environment than the original planned value.
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Indicator 4: (Bohunice) Dismantling and decontamination of the reactors' buildings and components in accordance with the decommissioning plan: quantity and type of materials removed, with annual objectives by type, meeting the milestones of the Programme.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Metal dismantled (tonne)										
	Milestones									2026
	2103	4755	6889	10272	18451	31792				31792
	Actual Progress									Final
	2951									
Are we on track :	On track									
Concrete removed (tonne)										
	Milestones									2026
	490	1296	1296	1296	58200	190974				190974
	Actual Progress									Final
	106									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Tonnes (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, implementing bodies, decommissioning operators
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator also supports the MFF 2014-2020 objective “Dismantling of large components and equipment in the Bohunice V1 reactor buildings”.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Target value for dismantling and removal of concrete was not achieved. Mainly activated concrete from the two reactors’ shafts was planned for removal in 2021. However, due to rescheduling of the completion of this activity (from 04/2022 to 01/2023) the removal of concrete is lagging behind the target value of 490 tonnes. This change was needed to maintain a high level of occupational Health and Safety during the demolition works removal and processing of concrete. However, this rescheduling has no impact in the critical path of the programme.

Specific Objective 2: To support the decommissioning plan and to carry out the activities in accordance with the national law of the host Member State for the dismantling and decontamination of the Commission’s nuclear installations at the JRC sites, to carry out the safe management of associated radioactive waste and, when appropriate, to prepare the optional transfer of the related nuclear liabilities from the JRC to the host Member State

Indicator 1: Radioactive waste management: quantity and type of waste safely stored or disposed of , with annual objectives by type, meeting the milestones of the Programme

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Materials, Materials/waste management and removal in Geel										
	Milestones									2027
	0%	10%		50%			100%			100%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0%									
Are we on track :	On track									
Quantity of legacy low level radioactive waste removed (% of "backlog" inventory) in Karlsruhe										
	Milestones									2027
	0%	15%	30%	45%	60%	75%	80%			80%
	Actual Progress									Final
	0%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Quantity of radioactive waste material removed (% of inventory) in Petten										
	Milestones								2027	
	0%	20%	30%	40%	60%	80%	100%			100%
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0%									
Are we on track :	On track									
Quantity (kg of HM) of nuclear material removed from facilities to be decommissioned in Ispra										
	Milestones								2027	
	0	0	0	0	920	920	920			920
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									
Quantity (metric tons) of processed radioactive waste or material in Ispra										
	Milestones								2027	
	137	305	536.2	893.4	1700.6	2877.8	3725			3725
	Actual Progress								Final	
	198									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	% (cumulative), Kg of Heavy Metal (cumulative), Metric tons (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	JRC Progress Report, Monitoring Report, Monitoring Mission, Annual Work Programme, Detailed Decommissioning Plan, Assembly of Contributors
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100. The indicator "Radioactive waste management: quantity and type of waste safely stored or disposed of" do not apply for the 2021-2027 timeframe.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The JRC decommissioning programme was performed under a different financial instrument and is therefore new to the NDAP.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Decommissioning at JRC-Ispra site has focused on the design and building of several waste handling and interim storage installations for waste sorting, characterisation, decontamination, material clearance from radiological control, as well as condition and temporary storage of radioactive waste until adequate radioactive waste interim long-term storage facilities or waste disposal facilities are available in Italy. Progress in the outcome can be monitored through the amount of radioactive waste processed. The other JRC's nuclear research installations, located in Petten, Geel and Karlsruhe, are still in operation. Decommissioning of the facilities will not start before their shutdown. Waste management and pre-decommissioning activities include the dismantling of out-of-use equipment from past research work and for the removal off-site (including transfer of ownership) of obsolete nuclear spent fuel and nuclear materials, and this is done consistently with the implementation of the research programme.

Indicator 2: Dismantling and decontamination: quantity and type of materials removed, with annual objectives by type, meeting the milestones of the Programme.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Quantity of obsolete equipment removed (number of legacy glove boxes dismantled) in Karlsruhe										
	Milestones								2027	
	0	3	11	19	27	35	45			45
	Actual Progress								Final	
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of legacy glove boxes dismantled (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	JRC Progress Report, Monitoring Report, Monitoring Mission, Annual Work Programme, Detailed Decommissioning Plan, Assembly of Contributors
Link to the objective	Indicator defined in the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The JRC decommissioning programme was performed under a different financial instrument and is therefore new to the NDAP.
Other methodological comments	

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	JRC Karlsruhe is still in operation, and decommissioning activities aim at the progressive dismantling of out-of-use equipment, which is carried out in full compatibility with the implementation of the research programme.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes in Bulgaria and Slovakia

Specific Objective 2: (Kozloduy) Dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of units 1 to 4

Indicator 1: Number and type of systems and equipment dismantled

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2020
0	0	200	400	600	800	1 000	1 200	1 200		1 200
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	147	299	326	525	723	948	1 487		1 487
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of dismantled large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of units 1 to 4 (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, Implementing bodies, decommissioning operator
Narrative	Dismantling of large components and equipment in the reactor buildings of units 1 to 4 is part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan of Kozloduy Programme.
Methodology	Data is based on the Monitoring Report provided by the national authority every six months.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	There is a specific indicator for the period 2021-2027 for the dismantling and decontamination in the reactors' buildings in accordance with the decommissioning plan.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Dismantling activities inside the reactor building Units 1-2 have started. The activity had started at a slower pace than planned but recovered steadily over the years. There was an underestimation of time needed for regulatory approval caused by the implementation of a procedure never used before for authorisation of activities associated to decommissioning and waste management. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has also impeded the approval process by the nuclear regulator.

Specific Objective 5: (Bohunice) Dismantling of large components and equipment in the V1 reactor buildings

Indicator 1: Number and type of systems and equipment dismantled

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2022
Dismantling in reactor building not started			Primary_Circuit_Equipment_Insulation		Auxiliary_Building_Systems/Parts_of_Spent_Fuel_Pools_and_Other_Contaminated_Tanks-PartI			External Pipeline Systems	Nuclear Steam Supply System	Nuclear Steam Supply System
	Actual Progress									
			Primary_Circuit_Equipment_Insulation_dismantled		Auxiliary Building Systems / SFP and contaminated tanks dismantled			Not_completed_as_of_31/12/2021		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Information on achieved milestones in dismantling of large components and equipment in the V1 reactor buildings (Yearly)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	National authorities, Implementing bodies, Decommissioning operator
Narrative	Dismantling of large components and equipment in the V1 reactor buildings is part of the Bohunice Detailed Decommissioning Plan.
Methodology	Data is based on the Monitoring Report provided by the national authority every six months.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	There is a specific indicator for the period 2021-2027 for the dismantling and decontamination in the reactors' buildings in accordance with the decommissioning plan.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Although the majority of the system was dismantled as of December 2021, full dismantling of the system was slightly postponed to 03/2022. COVID-19 pandemic restrictions directly impacted performance of the contractor's (and subcontractor's) activities and caused this small delay. For this indicator, previous milestones have been merged with the project 'Nuclear Steam Supply System' (original target date 2020) which has been rescheduled to the end of 2022. This indicator is linked to the successful dismantling of radiologically contaminated components of the main reactor systems. Dismantling has started in Mid-2020 and major milestones have been achieved with the start of the size reduction of the reactor vessel and the steam generators. The tasks within the project for the dismantling of the Reactor Coolant System Large Components were re-ordered to reflect the actual material logistics, interfaces and prioritisation of specific activities with the overall objective to reduce the programme implementation time.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to gender equality

6.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0: 69

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

DG ENER does consider gender equality perspective in the funding of Council Regulation 2021/100. Nonetheless we determined that nuclear decommissioning is primary and sole objective of our programme and as such has no significant impacts on gender equality even though some minor indirect impacts might manifest.

HEADING 5: Security and Defence**European Defence Fund (EDF)****Lead DG: DEFIS**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The European defence sector is essential for Europe's future. It plays a key role in ensuring the EU's strategic sovereignty and its capacity to act as a security provider. The sector nevertheless faces challenges that put into question the preservation of its competitiveness and its technological edge. These may weaken the technological advantage of the sector and hamper its ability to develop defence systems crucial for the security of the Union and its Member States. More particularly, these challenges are:

- For over more than a decade, defence spending by EU Member States has been subject to significant cuts that have particularly affected defence Research and Development (R&D). Despite increases in defence spending in recent years,

R&D is still lagging behind. Defence Research & Technology (R&T) for instance amounts to only 0.9% of defence expenditures against a target of 2% agreed between EU Member States.¹

- The costs of defence systems are raising and include a high proportion of R&D costs. Combined with limited spending, this increasingly puts the development of new high-end defence systems beyond the capacity of individual EU Member States.
- Cooperation in the defence sector remains very weak. European collaborative equipment expenditures stand at only 17.8% of defence equipment spending against a benchmark of 35%. Only 7.3% of defence research is collaborative, against a target of 20%. EU defence industry and markets remain fragmented along national borders with unnecessary duplications often present despite limited investments.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

These challenges and trends provide strong reasons for intervention at the EU level to foster collaboration, overcome fragmentation and foster the competitiveness and the technological sovereignty of the European defence industry.

1.3. Specific objectives

The European Defence Fund (EDF), launched in May 2021 following the adoption of EU Regulation 2021/697 in April, supports both collaborative defence research and development actions. The Fund aims at providing consistent support throughout the full R&D cycle. It will thus ensure consistency and help to bridge the “valley of death” between research and development that entails important technical and financial risks, often preventing the maturation of promising new defence technologies and their effective integration in the development of new defence systems.

By supporting, through the EU budget, collaborative defence research and development, the EDF will help build an integrated defence industrial base across the EU. It seeks to foster open and dynamic supply-chains that include SMEs and new entrants. The Fund will enhance the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the European defence technological and industrial base, which contributes to the Union strategic autonomy and freedom of action. Furthermore, by requiring common technical requirements, it will improve interoperability of developed products and technologies for the Member States, which are the end-users.

1.4. Public intervention context

The EU's action is based on the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 173(3), Article 182(4), Article 183 and the second paragraph of Article 188 that supports both collaborative defence research and development actions. The EDF was launched as the cornerstone of the European Defence Action Plan and goes hand in hand with the Union's initiatives towards a more integrated European Defence Market, in particular the Directive on transfers of defence-related products within the Union and the Directive on defence and security procurement. By encouraging cooperation, the EU can help maximise the output and quality of Member States' investment in defence. The European Defence Fund will bring EU added value by incentivising joint research on and development of products and technologies in the area of defence to increase the efficiency of public expenditure and contribute to the EU's operational autonomy. The EDF should complement rather than substitute national funding already used for this purpose. It should act as an incentive for Member States to cooperate and invest more in defence.

1.5. Actions

The European Defence Fund provides financial support primarily in the form of grants. In principle, only actions undertaken in cooperation between at least three entities from at least three different Member States are eligible.

Cross-border participation of SMEs and mid-caps is further strengthened by the bonus system and the relevant award criterion with regard to participation of SMEs foreseen by the European Defence Fund Regulation, as well as by the introduction of dedicated call categories in the annual work programmes.

To enhance the innovation capacity of the sector and the emergence of new products and technologies, the EDF also supports disruptive defence technologies taking into account their specificities such as increased risk of project failure and the potential of attracting non-traditional players to the defence sector. In accordance with the EDF Regulation 4-8 % of the EDF's overall budget are to be dedicated to R&D in disruptive technologies.

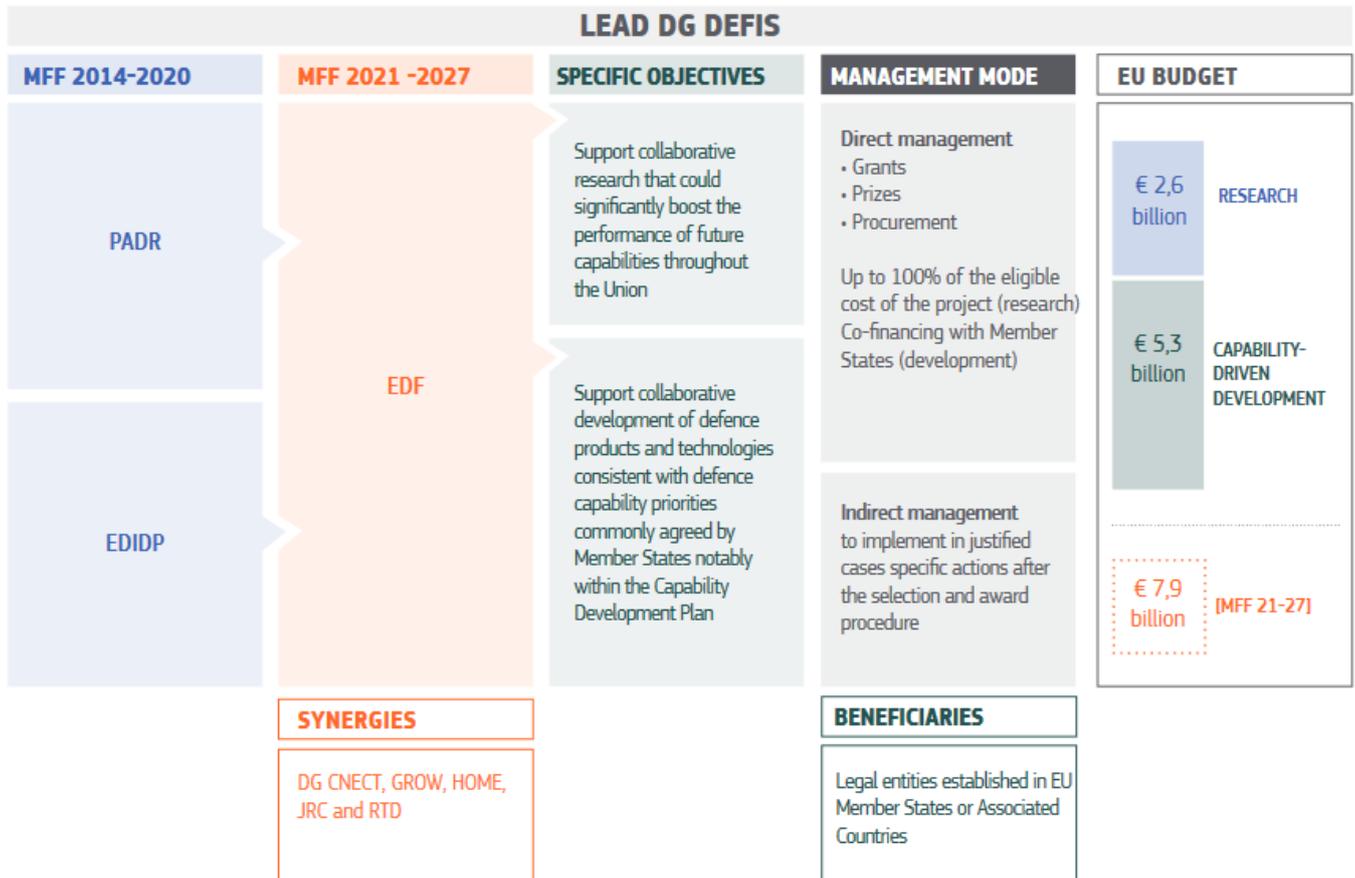
1.6. Delivery mode

The programme is implemented through direct management by the Directorate General for Defence Industry and Space. On an ad-hoc basis and if justified, specific actions may be implemented in indirect management.

¹ Council Recommendation of 15 October 2018 concerning the sequencing of the fulfilment of the more binding commitments undertaken in the framework of the permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) and specifying more precise objectives (2018/C 374/01).

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND (EDF)



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149).	2021 - 2027	7 953.00

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

The European Defence Fund Regulation (EU) 2018/1092, under the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU for 2021 -2027, was adopted by co-legislators on 29 April 2021, published on 12 May 2021 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149–177) and is applicable from 1 January 2021. The Regulation is designed to achieve efficiency in implementation: The creation of a single and coherent European Defence Fund will increase simplification compared to the existing situation where two separate defence industry programmes exist for research and development.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	945.7	945.7	945.7	898.0	1 072.2	1 246.3	1 499.4	7 553.0

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again *)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	23.7	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	23.7
Total	969.4	945.7	945.7	898.0	1 072.2	1 246.3	1 499.4	7 576.7

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The EDF builds and expands on the experience acquired through two small-scale pre-cursor programmes implemented under the 2014-2020 MFF:

- The Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) which supported collaborative defence research projects with an overall budget of EUR 90 million over 2017-2019;
- The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), which supports collaborative defence development actions with an overall budget of EUR 500 million over 2019-2020.

The design of the European Defence Fund (EDF) largely builds on the architecture of these two pre-cursor programmes, the PADR in a research window and the EDIDP in a development window, but it will be implemented as one single Fund. As an example of such integrated approach, EDF harmonises the eligibility and award criteria for funding projects. The EDF will lead to better exploitation of the defence research results, bridging the gap between the research and the development phases, and promoting all forms of innovation, including support to disruptive technologies for defence. The Action Plan on Synergies between civil, defence and space industries also helps to identify and foster the uptake of results generated in the civil programmes in a defence context and vice versa.

Several activities have been tested under the PADR and the EDIDP have been further adapted to the defence sector specificities in order to be used more extensively in the EDF. Examples include the ethics review for both research and development actions or improving the efficiency of the project management (e.g., by testing a more systematic use of lump sums to finance the projects). Together with supporting measures (setting up an information network in the Member States, organising or contributing to information and brokerage events), this should encourage, in particular, SMEs and entities not yet involved in defence-specific R&D to participate even more in the programme. In the EDF, open calls for innovative and future-oriented defence solutions as well as dedicated open calls for SMEs will be organised under the research and the development window.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

[The European Defence Fund \(EDF\) \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	969.4	7 576.7	13%
Payments	1.4		0%

Following the adoption of the European Defence Fund Regulation in 2021, the first annual 2021 EDF work programme was adopted on 30 June setting out the detailed objectives, activities and budget spending plans for 2021. Also, the first part of the 2022 annual work programme was adopted to complement the 2021 budget envelope to kick start ambitious EDF projects related to large-scale and complex defence capabilities. The first EDF calls for proposals were published on 30 June (11 calls targeting

research actions and 12 calls targeting development actions), addressing 37 topics with a total budget of more than EUR 1.2 billion², of which EUR 930.3 million from the 2021 budget and EUR 290 million from the 2022 budget. In this context, it is expected to sign the grant agreements and fully consume the commitment appropriations of the year 2022.

The PADR and EDIDP were fully implemented during the COVID-19 crisis. The crisis affected the evaluations of the 2020 EDIDP calls. Due to pandemic impacts combined with the complexity of processes, several EDIDP administrative processes were prolonged (e.g. informing applicants of the outcome of the evaluation). To support the defence industry during the COVID crisis, DG DEFIS decided to increase the pre-financing level of the proposals awarded under EDIDP 2019 call to up to 90% of the maximum grant, which had an impact on the rate of payment execution of the programme. The preparation of the EDF work programme for 2021 and subsequent publication of the relevant calls were implemented on time. However, the COVID had a substantial impact on the procedures and the working arrangements of the staff involved. The COVID-19 crisis will not impact the timing of the preparation and adoption of the 2022 EDF work programme.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	500.0	500.0	100%
Payments	375.8		75%

During the previous MFF, the EDIDP programme (2019-2020) committed EUR 500 million, thus achieving 100% cumulative implementation rate. In total, 44 grants have received Union funding as a result of EDIDP calls for proposals in 2019 and 2020. The pre-financing payments to these grants account for almost the total payment appropriations used until now, i.e. EUR 376 million, which represents 75% rate of payment execution for the programme.

The high payment rate at this stage of project implementation is due to a decision of DG DEFIS to provide a high pre-financing level to the proposals funded under the programme in order to support the defence industry in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

The EDF fosters the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the European defence technological and industrial base by supporting collaborative research and development actions.

Given that the Programme is in its early days of implementation, no implementation report is available. In the same vein, given that the indicators are set at the level of funded projects and no projects have been selected yet for funding, at this stage of implementation, it is not yet possible to report how the Programme is progressively delivering in addressing the identified problems.

Following the closure of the very first 23 EDF calls for proposals on 9 December 2021, 142 proposals were submitted among which more than 40% in relation with the non-thematic calls dedicated to SMEs and to disruptive technologies for defence. In total, 1 111 different entities, among which around 50% are SMEs, from 26 Member States and Norway are participating in the proposals submitted.

3.1.2. Previous Programme Performance

The Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) has significantly contributed to foster collaborative defence research and technological development in Europe. The core of the PADR is a small-scale research programme with competitive calls for proposals defined in close consultation with the Member States. The main objectives of the PADR programme are: 1.) *Test mechanisms to prepare, organise and deliver EU-funded cooperative defence research;* 2.) *Improve competitiveness and innovation of the European defence industry;* 3.) *Stimulate cooperation amongst research & technological development actors across Europe.*

In the yearly PADR work programmes, the Commission adopts the calls for proposals. The implementation of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) is ongoing, in total 10 calls for proposals were published in 2017, 2018 and 2019. This resulted in the selection for funding of 18 projects. Although, most of the projects are still ongoing, yet we can still draw the following initial conclusions:

² submission deadline 9 December 2021

- Calls attracted applicants previously not active in defence research.
- Funded projects included the participation of SMEs in 15 consortia.
- The PADR brought together stakeholders mainly from the private sector (64%), as well as research centres (23%) and academia (7%), roughly one-fifth of all applicants in the selected proposals are small or medium-size enterprises (22% SMEs).
- In the PADR 2019 call, the Commission launched for the first time an “open” call on “future disruptive technologies for defence” with the objective of cutting-edge and high-risk/high-impact research that could lead to a disruptive impact in a defence context. This resulted in the selection for funding of three promising projects.

Projects funded by the PADR cover a broad range of technological readiness levels, from proof of concept to demonstration in relevant environment. They also addressed different levels of system integration, from research on components to integration of multiple assets, such as the project OCEAN 2020, grouping 43 partners across the supply chain. The number of applications following the PADR 2019 calls on disruptive technologies showed a large interest of stakeholder; e.g. following the open call, three projects were funded out of more than 50 proposals received. In the framework of the preparatory action, reporting about the action’s performance is not included in the working programme statements. Nevertheless, the PADR will contribute to EDF indicators by setting several of the programme’s baselines, together with data from the EDIDP.

The EDIDP Programme is designed to target the defence sectors problems identified in ex-ante evaluation SWD (2017) 228³ and its annexes accompanying the legislative proposal of the EDIDP. The evaluation identified the following EU defence industry problems where the EDIDP creation could support the change: 1.) *low investments in innovative defence programmes*; 2.) *fragmentation of the defence industry and limited cooperation between undertakings*. Both problems can pose in longer terms substantial risks for the competitiveness of the EU defence industry. The EDIDP work programme was designed to foster the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the European defence industry, to support and leverage cooperation and to ensure that results from the research phase are better exploited in the next phases of the development. Progress on reaching these long-term objectives is reflected in the quantitative milestones (see below).

Implementation of the EDIDP is in progress. Following competitive calls for proposals in the years 2019, 16 projects have been selected for funding. After comparison of EDIDP milestones with results of the 2019 EDIDP calls, following initial conclusions can be drawn:

- Due to the substantial oversubscription (only 16 out of 40 received proposals could be retained for funding), the total budget allocated to the 2019 EDIDP calls could be fully committed.
- The EDIDP calls have boosted cooperation between the Member States and their undertakings, which is clear on exceeding of assumed milestones. The calls for proposals were tailored in close cooperation with the Member States to meet their needs in terms of defence systems and technologies needed for their defence capabilities. This approach paid off, leading to larger consortia populated by entities established in more Member States than anticipated. At the same time, 80% of the 2019 EDIDP budget is allocated to EDIDP projects, which have a link to PESCO projects, i.e., joint projects initiated by Member States. The Regulation promoted such links by awarding a “PESCO-bonus” to such projects to increase the EU funding rate.
- The EDIDP Regulation has also focused on supporting the SMEs, i.e. the European defence industry's critical part. The planned number of SMEs involved in projects was surpassed by close to 40% (83 SMEs participated against a proposed milestone of 60). The EDIDP 2019 Work Programme included a call that was open to consortia composed of SMEs only, in which 21 SMEs received funding. However, 3 out of 4 SMEs receiving EDIDP funding, participate in projects resulting from the thematic calls. The Regulation promoted this involvement by awarding an increase in the EU funding rate for projects that invest in cross-border cooperation with SMEs.
- The share of the projects funded that involve prototyping (i.e. specifically sensitive phase of the project development) was surpassed by 6%, indicating that more than half of the funded projects contain activities related to advanced stages in developing defence systems or technologies.

Following the calls for proposals for the year 2020, 63 proposals have been received (an increase of more than 50% compared to 2019 EDIDP calls). As a result of the evaluation of the calls, grant agreements for 26 high-quality projects have been signed before the end of 2021 and will be supported with EUR 158.2 million. These projects are directly managed by the Commission services. In addition, the management of two projects that are strategic enablers for the European defence industry has been entrusted to the Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement (OCCAR) for a total budget of almost EUR 133 million following the signatures of contribution agreements. After comparison with EDIDP milestones and results from the 2019 EDIDP call, the following initial conclusions can be drawn on the results of the 2020 EDIDP calls:

- The research and development entities keep their high interest for support from EDIDP (only 26 out of 63 proposals could be supported from the 2020 EDIDP budget). The total budget allocated to the 2020 EDIDP calls was entirely committed.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SWD:2017:0228:FIN:EN:PDF>

- The Fund maintains its high focus on support of cooperation between the Member States and their undertakings. The trend of larger consortia populated by entities established in more Member States continued (16 entities from 7 Member States). At the same time, the programme contributed to the coherence of the EU defence initiatives and priorities defined at the EU level. 14 out of 26 supported projects have a link to PESCO projects. The projects with the link to PESCO projects are supported by EUR 97.7 million.
- The EDIDP continue to devote substantial support to SMEs. The programme is supporting 144 SMEs (16 of them in a call that was open to consortia composed of SMEs only) following the 2020 calls. 35% of entities in funded projects are SMEs, and 30% of total funding is dedicated to SMEs.
- The share of the projects funded that involve prototyping (i.e. specifically sensitive phase of the project development) was surpassed by 15%, indicating that the EDIDP increasingly aim its support to advanced stages in developing defence systems or technologies.

After the finalisation of the EDIDP calls, the impact evaluation of the initiatives foreseen in the EDIDP Regulation will be part of an implementation report at the end of the Programme. The retrospective evaluation of the EDIDP will be aligned with the interim evaluation of the European Defence Fund 2021-2027 and take place after at least four years of the beginning of the implementation of the latter.

3.2. Key achievements

EDIDP		
EUR 500 million	25 Member States	35%
is the budget allocated to the EDIDP to support - together with the Member States - the development of defence systems and technologies to be integrated in commonly agreed capabilities.	are countries of origin of the companies participating in proposals submitted to EDIDP calls in 2020.	is the rate of SMEs participating in selected proposals in the consortium during 2020 EDIDP calls.
PADR		
EUR 90 million	26 Member States	889 entities
is the budget allocated to support joint defence research projects following calls for proposals published between 2017 and 2019 under the PADR.	and Norway are countries of establishment of entities involved in PADR proposals submitted between 2017 and 2019.	submitted 127 proposals in response to PADR calls between 2017 and 2019, of which 22% applicants were SMEs, 23% research centres and 7% from the academia, while the remainder were large industrial stakeholders.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

- SWD (2018) 345⁴: Final impact assesment accompanying the document Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliamant and of Council establishing the European Defence Fund.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Support collaborative research that could significantly boost the performance of future capabilities throughout the Union

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0345>

Indicator 1: Participants: Legal entities involved

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		200								
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	The number of unique entities involved in collaborative Research and Development (R&D) actions financially supported by the European Defence Fund (EDF)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	European Commission, EDF grant agreements
Link to the objective	Outreach and inclusiveness of the actions financially supported by the EDF, therefore contributing to strengthening and improving the agility of both defence supply and value chains, widening cross-border cooperation between legal entities. This indicator also contributes to the specific objective 2 and the computation takes into account both research and development actions
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	Cumulative count for all the years for which data is available. The breakdown of the number of entities by size, type and country of establishment is also provided. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Indicator 2: Collaborative Research: Funded actions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		30								
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (count) and Value in EUR million of collaborative defence research actions financially supported by the European Defence Fund (EDF)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	European Commission, EDF grant agreements
Link to the objective	The capacity of the EDF to achieve a genuine effect and efficiently deliver in supporting collaborative defence research that can maximise innovation and introduce new defence products and technologies (including disruptive ones) will strongly depend on the uptake of the Fund.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The data is presented as a cumulative value for all research actions funded and cumulative number for all the years for which data is available. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Indicator 3: Collaborative Research: Share of contracts awarded involving collaboration with cross-border SMEs and midcaps

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0										
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage (share of the eligible costs of the actions that is allocated to cross-border SMEs and midcaps in research actions)

Cut-Off Date	31/12/2022
Data source	European Commission, EDF grant agreements
Link to the objective	Supporting collaborative actions and cross-border cooperation between legal entities throughout the Union, in particular SMEs and mid-caps as well as strengthening and improving the agility of both defence supply and value chains, widening cross-border cooperation between legal entities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20 precursor PADR will provide indication on the target.
Other methodological comments	The data is determined on the basis of the information provided by the beneficiaries. The indicator will present the average share for all the years for which data is available. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Indicator 4: Collaborative Research: Share of recipients that did not carry out research activities with defence applications before the entry into force of the Fund

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		0								
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of recipients expressed as percentage.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2023
Data source	European Commission, based on grant agreements and information provided by the beneficiaries on past research activities.
Link to the objective	By attracting and integrating non-traditional players in the defence industrial and technological base, robustness of the supply and expertise base increases. Moreover, synergies between civil and defence research can be exploited with the aim to increase the innovative potential of the defence industry.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20 precursor PADR will provide indication on the target and will be taken into account as previous research activity with defence applications.
Other methodological comments	The share is based on a cumulative count of (unique) recipients for all the years for which data is already available. Data is partially based on information provided by the beneficiaries. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Indicator 5: Innovation products: New patents deriving from projects financially supported by the Fund

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		0	0							
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of patent applications and patents awarded deriving from actions financially supported by the EDF).
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2026
Data source	European Commission, based on reports submitted by the beneficiaries.
Link to the objective	The number of patents deriving from actions supported by the EDF provides an indication of the generation of innovative results. Innovations generated in projects targeting defence applications can have spill-over effects to other sectors of the economy. This indicator also contributes to the specific objective 2 and the computation takes into account both research and development actions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	Data is gathered during the time where the consortia are subject to reporting obligations. Aggregated distribution of patents amongst mid-caps, SMEs and legal entities that are neither mid-caps nor SMEs and aggregated distribution of patents per Member State will also be provided. The data will be reported with a three-year lag. First data may be reported in 2024 but may stay at 0 for several years.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Specific Objective 2: Support collaborative development of defence products and technologies consistent with defence capability priorities commonly agreed by Member States notably within the Capability Development Plan

Indicator 1: Collaborative capability development: Funded actions that address the capability shortfalls identified in the Capability Development Plan

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Collaborative capability development										
	Milestones									2027
0				75						
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Funded actions that address the capability shortfalls identified in the Capability Development Plan										
	Milestones									2027
0				80						
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Share of number (percent): Share of value, computed for all previous years (percent)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2023
Data source	European Commission, EDF grant agreements
Link to the objective	The EDF should support collaborative development actions consistent with the defence capability priorities commonly agreed by Member States within the Framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and particularly in the context of the Capability Development Plan (CDP), whilst regional and international priorities serving the Union’s security and defence interest, may be taken into account.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	N/A
Other methodological comments	The indicator will provide the cumulative number and value (cost of the actions) of funded development actions addressing the capability shortfalls identified in the Capability Development Plan (CDP) and provide a comparison with the overall number and value of the development actions funded. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Indicator 2: Continuous support over the full R&D cycle: Share of projects building on the results of previously EU-supported defence R&D actions.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		0								
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Share of research and development actions fulfilling the condition within the year relative to the total number of actions supported within the year. The same set of IPR can be counted multiple times across different supported actions.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2023
Data source	European Commission, grant agreements and information provided by the beneficiaries.
Link to the objective	Support of collaborative research projects, aiming at introducing new defence products and technologies and to the specific objective to support collaborative development projects contributing to greater efficiency of spending and reducing the risk of unnecessary duplication. This indicator also contributes to the specific objective 1 and the computation takes into account both research and development actions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Projects supported by MFF 14-20 precursors PADR and EDIDP are considered as previously supported projects.
Other methodological comments	‘Previously supported actions’ refer to actions financially supported by the EDF, the PADR or the

	EDIDP for which the grant agreement or contract has been signed before the considered action. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

Indicator 3: Job creation / support: Defence R&D employees supported in funded actions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2027
0		0								
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of Annual Full-time equivalents aggregated over research and development actions, cumulated over years.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2023
Data source	European Commission, EDF grant agreements
Link to the objective	Continuous support of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base R&D capacity and of the highly specialised expertise in defence research and development. The number of supported R&D employees is linked to the undertakings' capacity to provide innovative products. This indicator also contributes to the specific objective 1 and the computation takes into account both research and development actions.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	MFF 14-20 precursors PADR and EDIDP will provide indication on the target.
Other methodological comments	The indicator measures the R&D employees costs directly supported within the consortium and subcontractors for the duration of the supported action. The data will be reported with a two-year lag (i.e. data on 2021 will be reported in 2023).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Defence Industrial Development Programme

Specific Objective 1: To foster the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the EU defence industry, by supporting actions in their development phase

Indicator 1: Total value of funded cooperative projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
						242.95	497.1			497.1
	Actual Progress									Final
						279.1	803.13			803.13
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (count). Value in EUR million.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	EDIDP Grant Agreements and EDIDP Contribution Agreement signed with OCCAR (for direct awards)
Narrative	
Methodology	The milestones are based on the accumulated budget appropriations published in the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the EDIDP and the adoption of the Work Programme for the years 2019 and 2020. The actual progress is the accumulated EU budget of the signed EDIDP grant agreements plus the budget appropriations reserved for the direct awards to be managed by OCCAR. The accumulated total eligible costs of the projects consist of the EU budget of the signed EDIDP grant agreements plus the co-funding received from the Member States. These figures are provided in notes below the table. The progress of this indicator is presented in a cumulative way.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Data on actual progress for 2019: the accumulated EU budget of the signed EDIDP grant agreements is equal to EUR 200.37 million. The accumulated total eligible costs of these projects, including co-

	funding from the Member States, equals to EUR 279.11 million. Data for year 2020: the accumulated EU budget of the signed EDIDP grant agreements is equal to EUR 292.81 million. The accumulated total eligible costs of these projects, including co-funding from the Member States, equals to EUR 803.13 million. The figures reported for 2020 also contain information on programmes managed by OCCAR (Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System - MALE RPAS, European Secure Software Defined Radio - ESSOR). In the case of MALE RPAS, the data refer only to work packages 1 and 2. The data for actual progress in 2019 was changed to respect currently available data and coherent use of methodology (i.e. accumulated total eligible costs of all supported projects).
Other methodological comments	Data on actual progress for 2019: the accumulated EU budget of the signed EDIDP grant agreements is equal to EUR 200.37 million. Data for year 2020: the accumulated EU budget of the signed EDIDP grant agreements is equal to EUR 292, 81 million. The accumulated total eligible costs of these projects, including co-funding from the Member States, equals to EUR 803.13 million. The figures reported for 2020 also contain information on programmes managed by OCCAR (Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System - MALE RPAS, European Secure Software Defined Radio - ESSOR). In the case of MALE RPAS, the data refer only to work packages 1 and 2.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track (the milestones for 2019 and 2020 has been achieved).

Specific Objective 2: To support and leverage the cooperation between undertakings, including small and medium-sized enterprises and midcaps, and collaboration between Member States in the development of defence products or technologies.

Indicator 1: Average number of Member States in which the undertakings participating in a consortium receiving funding are established

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
						5	5			5
	Actual Progress									Final
						7	7			7
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (Rounded)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Signed EDIDP Grant Agreements
Narrative	
Methodology	The calculation includes beneficiaries, linked third parties, and subcontractors involved in the actions. The progress of this indicator is presented through growth over the years (it is not cumulative).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) supports collaborative defence development actions with an overall budget of EUR 497.1 million over 2019-2020.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track (the milestones for 2019 and 2020 has been achieved).

Indicator 2: Average number of companies involved as consortium members in a funded cooperative project

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
						5	5			5
	Actual Progress									Final
						14	16			16
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (Rounded)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Signed EDIDP Grant Agreements
Narrative	
Methodology	The calculation includes beneficiaries, linked third parties, and subcontractors involved in the action. The progress of this indicator is presented through growth over the years (it is not cumulative).

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) supports collaborative defence development actions with an overall budget of EUR 497.1 million over 2019-2020.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track (the milestones for 2019 and 2020 have been achieved).

Indicator 3: Number of SMEs involved in projects funded

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
						60	120			120
	Actual Progress									Final
						83	144			144
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Signed EDIDP Grant Agreements
Narrative	
Methodology	The calculation includes beneficiaries, linked third parties, and subcontractors involved in the actions. The progress of this indicator is presented through growth over the years (it is not cumulative).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) supports collaborative defence development actions with an overall budget of EUR 497.1 million over 2019-2020.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track (the milestones for 2019 and 2020 have been achieved).

Specific Objective 3: To foster better exploitation of the results of defence research and contribute to closing the gaps between research and development.

Indicator 1: Share of the projects funded that involve prototyping

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
						50	50			50
	Actual Progress									Final
						56	65			65
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage (rounded)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Signed EDIDP Grant Agreements
Narrative	
Methodology	The progress of this indicator is presented through growth over the years (it is not cumulative).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) supports collaborative defence development actions with an overall budget of EUR 497.1 million over 2019-2020.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The indicator is on track (the milestones for 2019 and 2020 has been achieved).

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.2. Contribution to gender equality

6.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0: 945.70							
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(*Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

By the end of 2021, DG DEFIS procured a pioneering project (financed under the EU space programme for a total value of 289 400 EUR) to set out a demographic categorisation of the workforce employed in the defence, aeronautics and space sector, with a special focus on Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I). The results are not yet known since the main activities will be rolled out in 2022. The database expected to result from the data collected via anonymous, individual responses will cover the six dimensions of equality will be complemented by a mapping of best-case initiatives on ED&I, at global, international, regional and EU level in these and other related/linked industries. The project contributes to SDG 5 aimed to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and to the Commission’s high-level objective of fostering a Union of Equality, complementing initiatives in place to support all people in all their diversity to pursue any chosen path in life, free from discrimination and other unjust biases.

Under the EU COSME programme, dedicated activities were financed for example for the organisation of an event promoting best practices and to support the consolidation of the European Defence Skills Partnership (value EUR 10 000).

Under the Erasmus+ programme, a dedicated Assets+ project for the defence sector was rolled out (value EUR 200 000 for the period 2021-2023). To be noted, this is a co-funded project receiving EUR 4 million EU-contribution from Erasmus+ whereof 5% for equality.

Finally, under the ‘Aerospace & Defence Pact for Skills’, a contribution to the initiative for a ‘**Pact for skills**’ is made via the European Defence Skills Partnership that will be able to access funding made available under several funds i.e. the REACT-EU fund, the European Social Fund Plus and other new MFF programmes (2021-2027), Recovery and Resilience Facility.

COSME, ERASMUS + and Pact for Skills initiatives do not include the gender dimension in the sense of specific skills related to gender. However, several activities having a gender dimension were conducted in the framework of the European Defence Skills Strategy 2020-2024, delivering on the Industrial Strategy, the Skills Agenda, and the Action Plan on Synergies between Civil, Defence and Space Industries.

First, 20% of 2 contracts financed by COSME are spent on gender:

- 20% of a COSME contract for the organisation of an event promoting best practices (total budget EUR 33.000)
- 20% of EUR 15.000 COSME funding for Consolidating the European Defence Skills Partnership, including the identification and online promotion of best practices on gender equality.

Second, about 5% of EU contribution to the Assets+ project building skills in emerging technologies for defence (2020-2023), receiving EUR 4 million EU-contribution from Erasmus+, is spent in promoting gender equality in the sector, ensuring gender equality principles in all deliverables and activities, gender-neutral dissemination materials, etc.

Third, building on the Assets+ project and upscaling it, a partnership representing the entire aerospace and defence manufacturing ecosystem entered the Pact for Skills initiative in November 2020 to support a fair and resilient recovery and deliver on the ambitions of the green and digital transitions and of the Industrial and SME Strategies. The Pact is the first flagship action of the 2020 Skills Agenda and is firmly anchored in the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Aerospace & Defence Pact committed to address the low attractiveness of the sector to women and ensure a sustainable supply of skills with equality and diversity through upskilling and reskilling of 200.000 employees in the next 5 years, and 300.000 young talents to enter the sector by 2030. This represents a private and public investment of an estimated budget of €1 billion, based on an average cost per individual of EUR 2,000. Pact partners will complement own funding with EU funding available under React-EU, European Social Fund Plus, European Regional Development Fund, Recovery and Resilience Facility, Horizon Europe etc.

The overall voted budget for implementation in 2021 under European Defence Fund (945.70 million EUR) was not directly targeted at gender equality initiatives. Nevertheless, indirect contributions supporting the gradual awareness raising of this horizontal Commission priority are continuously made as opportunities arise and when identified by the DG equality coordinator and other staff of the DG. For instance, special mention of gender equality aspects in communication activities and at events on various matters related to the European Defence Fund.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI - Global Europe)

Lead DG: INTPA

Associated DGs: EAC, ECFIN, FPI, NEAR, REGIO

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Specific Objective 2 :At global level, to protect, promote and advance human rights, including gender equality and the protection of human rights defenders, including in the most difficult circumstances and urgent situations, democracy, and the rule of law, including accountability mechanisms, to support civil society organisations, to further stability and peace, prevent conflict, thereby contributing to the protection of civilians, to address other global challenges such as, climate change, protection of biodiversity and the environment, as well as migration and mobility;.....	1013
Specific Objective 3 :To respond rapidly to: situations of crisis, instability and conflict including those which may result from migratory flows and forced displacement and hybrid threats; resilience challenges, including natural and man-made disasters, and linking of humanitarian aid and development action; as well as the Union’s foreign policy needs and priorities.....	1019
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Previous Program 1 : European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)	1020
General Objective 1 :Establishing an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the Union and the partner countries by developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the Treaty on EU	1020
Specific Objective 1 :Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality and fight against discrimination in all its forms, establishing deep and sustainable democracy, promoting good governance, fight against corruption, strengthening institutional capacity at all levels and developing a thriving civil society including social partners.	1022
Specific Objective 2 :Achieving progressive integration into the Union internal market and enhanced sector and cross-sectoral cooperation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence towards Union and other relevant	

international standards and improved market access including through deep and comprehensive free trade areas, related institution building and investments, notably in interconnections.	1022
Specific Objective 3 :Creating conditions for the better organisation of legal migration and the fostering of well managed mobility of people, for the implementation of existing or future agreements concluded in line with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, and for promotion of people-to-people contacts, in particular in relation to cultural, educational, professional and sporting activities.	1023
Specific Objective 4 :Supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive development in all aspects; poverty reduction, including through private-sector development and reduction of social exclusion; promotion of capacity building in science, education and in particular higher education, technology, research and innovation; promotion of internal economic, social and territorial cohesion; rural development; public health; environmental protection, climate action and disaster resilience.	1024
Specific Objective 5 :Promoting confidence building, good neighbourly relations and other measures contributing to security in all forms and the prevention and settlement of conflicts, including protracted conflicts.	1025
Specific Objective 6 :Enhancing sub-regional, regional and Neighbourhood wide collaboration as well as Cross-Border Cooperation.	1026
Previous Program 2 : European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	1027
General Objective 1 :Enhancing the respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and strengthening their protection, promotion, implementation and monitoring, mainly through support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse.	1027
General Objective 2 :Supporting, developing and consolidating democracy in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, in particular by reinforcing an active role for civil society within this cycle, the rule of law and improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions.	1027
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Specific Objective 3 :To address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability.	1034
Previous Program 4 : Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries (PI)	1035
General Objective 1 :The Partnership Instrument shall support measures that respond in an effective and flexible manner to objectives arising from the Union's bilateral, regional or multilateral relationships with third countries and address challenges of global concern, or ensure an adequate follow-up to decisions taken at multilateral level.	1035
Specific Objective 1 :To support the Union's bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation partnership strategies, by promoting policy dialogues and by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern.	1036
Specific Objective 4 :Enhancing widespread understanding and visibility of the Union and its role on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, people to people contacts, education/academic/think tank cooperation and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests.	1036
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Specific Objective 1 :Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development.	1039
Specific Objective 2 :Consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and the relevant principles of international law.	1041
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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The challenges that need to be tackled by external action have increased over recent years. Rising fragility, instability and conflicts, persistence of authoritarian regimes, poor governance, hostile influence campaigns and disinformation, terrorism, violations of human rights and freedoms, inequalities, including gender inequalities and gender based violence, growing migratory pressures are all part of a complex reality that has been compounded by pandemics, population growth, climate change and environmental degradation. At the same time, the diversity of partners with which the EU cooperates has become much more apparent. Some partners, including some with large populations, are graduating out of the Development Assistance Committee's official development assistance (ODA) eligibility criteria. Other countries have made progress on poverty reduction, only to see it eroded due to economic and environmental shocks, notably in relation to COVID-19. Others are least developed countries that remain locked in fragility and poverty.

The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) provides for a new broad framework through which the EU can address this evolving landscape and meet expectations and international commitments. With a coherent set of principles, the instrument will allow the EU to pursue and achieve its policy objectives and overcome gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies that exist between today's multitude of geographic and thematic instruments. One broad instrument does not mean a single policy. On the contrary, it will be an enabler for EU action around the world, without boundaries and across themes, depending on the needs of the different countries and regions. More flexibility will enable the EU to react swiftly to evolving needs and priorities, and a simplified management structure will reduce the administrative burden for EU institutions, Member States and implementing partners.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The objective of the NDICI is to uphold and promote the Union's values, principles and fundamental interests worldwide in order to pursue the objectives and principles of its external action, as laid down in Article 3(5), Articles 8 and 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). The NDICI thus contributes to the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty, consolidating, supporting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, sustainable development and the fight against climate change and addressing irregular migration and forced displacement, including their root causes.

The NDICI will contribute to the promotion of multilateralism, the achievement of the international commitments and objectives that the Union has agreed to, in particular the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement. It will promote stronger partnerships with third countries, including with the European Neighbourhood based on mutual interests and ownership with a view to fostering stabilisation, good governance and building resilience.

1.3. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the NDICI are:

1. to support and foster dialogue and cooperation with third countries and regions in the Neighbourhood, in Sub-Saharan Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in the Americas and the Caribbean; to develop special strengthened partnerships and enhanced political cooperation with the European Neighbourhood, founded on cooperation, peace and stability and a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, and aiming at deep and sustainable democracy and progressive socio-economic integration as well as people-to-people contacts;

2. at global level, to protect, promote and advance human rights, including gender equality and the protection of human rights defenders, including in the most difficult circumstances and urgent situations, democracy, and the rule of law, including accountability mechanisms, to support civil society organisations, to further stability and peace, prevent conflict, thereby contributing to the protection of civilians, to address other global challenges such as, climate change, protection of biodiversity and the environment, as well as migration and mobility;

3. to respond rapidly to: situations of crisis, instability and conflict including those which may result from migratory flows and forced displacement and hybrid threats; resilience challenges, including natural and man-made disasters, and linking of humanitarian aid and development action; as well as the Union's foreign policy needs and priorities.

Specific Objectives of NDICI are aligned for DG INTPA with the Specific Objectives (SO) defined in its Strategic Plan¹ 2020-2024. First Specific Objective covers all 16 SOs of the Strategic Plan, the second Specific Objective covers SO 3 to 16 of the Strategic Plan, and SO 3 of NDICI corresponds to SO 15 of the Strategic Plan.

Under the NDICI, priorities would be strengthened through horizontal spending targets:

- At least 93% of Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- At least 20% of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending dedicated to human development and social inclusion;
- At least 85% of new actions implemented under this Regulation, should have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective, as defined by the gender equality policy marker of the OECD DAC. At least 5% of these actions should have gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment as a principal objective.
- 30% for climate change objectives; while contributing to the ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the Multiannual Financial Framework to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the Multiannual Financial Framework to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.
- Indicatively 10% to support management and governance of migration and forced displacement, as well as to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement when they directly target specific migration challenges.

1.4. Public intervention context

Part Five, Title III, Chapters 1 and 2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, provides the legal framework for cooperation with partner countries and regions, for which the EU and its Member States have **shared competences**. The NDICI legislative proposal is based on Articles 209, 212 and 322 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It is presented by the Commission in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure laid down in Article 294 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and takes the form of a Regulation, ensuring its uniform application, binding nature in its entirety and direct applicability. In line with the principle of proportionality, the proposed Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve its objectives.

The EU is in a unique position to deliver external assistance for a number of reasons. Its status as a supranational entity brings with it political influence and consequent leverage. The EU has a global presence through its Delegations, which ensures a vast network of information on developments affecting countries worldwide. The EU is also a party to most multilateral processes aiming at addressing global challenges. This allows the EU to be constantly aware of new needs and problems and, therefore, to reallocate resources accordingly. The EU has the opportunity to establish dialogue and cooperation with international and regional organisations, and can provide added value based on the volume of resources channelled through its instruments, its relatively flexible modes of management and the predictability of resources over the period of the Multi-annual Financial Framework.

Coordination between EU action and the actions carried out by the Member States are increasing, taking the form of joint programming and joint implementation, where possible, as part of the Team Europe approach. This also enhances and facilitates dialogue and cooperation with partner countries. The NDICI supports the implementation of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which requires from EU institutions and Member States a mutual duty of cooperation. The EU is also able to complement Member States activities in dealing with crisis or in the event of particularly costly interventions. In some areas where Member States are not active, the EU remains the main, and sometimes the only actor to intervene. This is the case, for instance, in sensitive contexts such as the defence of human rights and electoral observation missions.

1.5. Actions

The NDICI will have three components:

1. a geographic pillar, which will cover cooperation with the European Neighbourhood, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Americas and the Caribbean. This will account for at least 75% of the total funds available under the NDICI;

¹ **SO 1** - A new partnership agreement with the countries of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) is concluded and operationalised; **SO 2** - A new joint AU-EU Partnership agenda is concluded and operationalised; **SO 3** - A Team Europe approach is strengthened by working better together with EU Member States in joint programming and joint implementation; **SO 4** - Sustainable Partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the UN and other multilateral partners around EU Priorities are built; **SO 5** - Partner Countries capacities to adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions are increased; **SO 6** - An ambitious agenda for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and for halting biodiversity loss and wildlife crime is adopted and implemented; **SO 7** - A partnership for a global green energy transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energy is mobilised; **SO 8** - Partner countries capacities in the transition toward green and circular economies are strengthened; **SO 9** - Digital governance, policy and regulatory frameworks are improved and digital infrastructure and affordable and secure broadband connectivity are enhanced; **SO 10** - The digital skills of individuals needed to fully capitalise on the digital transformation are improved; **SO 11** - The provision and quality of public and private digital services in partner countries are improved; **SO 12** - Mobilisation of public and private financing for sustainable development is enhanced contributing to decent jobs creation, and the reduction of inequalities; **SO 13** - Comprehensive and balanced Migration Partnerships with priority partner countries are supported in line with sustainable development and poverty reduction goals; **SO 14** - Human development for all is improved, in particular for youth, women and girls, and the most marginalised and vulnerable populations; **SO 15** - Governance, resilience and peace building is enhanced through all available instruments in fragile countries or affected by/under risk of conflict; **SO 16** - Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; equality, democracy and the rule of law are enhanced and civil society participates in democratic and development processes in an enabling environment

2. a worldwide thematic pillar that will complement the geographic pillar with specific programmes on human rights and democracy; civil society organisations, peace, stability and conflict-prevention as well as global challenges.

3. a worldwide rapid response pillar to contribute to: peace, stability and conflict prevention; strengthening resilience and linking humanitarian aid and development action; and addressing EU foreign policy needs and priorities.

The NDICI will also include an emerging challenges and priorities ‘cushion’, which will provide the opportunity to top-up any of the three pillars with extra resources, as and when necessary, thus enhancing the EU’s capacity to respond effectively.

Under the specific provisions for the Neighbourhood area, the NDICI would support implementation of the performance-based approach through supplementary allocations to the partner countries listed in NDICI Annex I and contribute to cross-border cooperation programmes.

The NDICI will contain an investment framework for external action to raise additional financial resources for sustainable development from the private sector. It will consist of the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), which is part of the External Action Guarantee, with the aim to:

- support micro enterprises and SMEs;
- promote decent job creation;
- strengthen public and private infrastructure;
- foster the green and digital transition;
- foster renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, etc.;

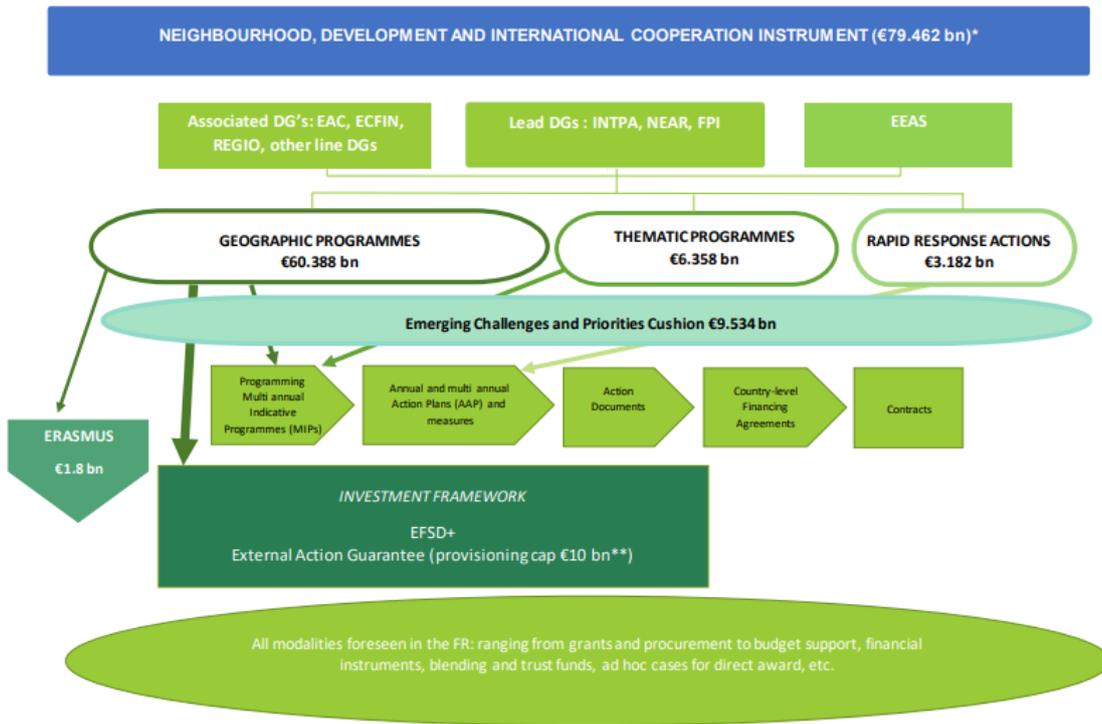
Together with the private sector and thanks to the leverage effect, this may mobilise more than half a trillion euro in investments for 2021-2027. To ensure that the EU supports those countries that need it most, particular attention is given to addressing investment needs in the Neighbourhood, Africa, as well as in countries experiencing fragility or conflict, least-developed countries and highly indebted poor countries, as well as on regions with critical infrastructure and connectivity needs.

1.6. Delivery mode

Direct management by the Commission from Headquarters and/or through the Union Delegations and under indirect management by entities, such as the EU member States agencies or international organisations, that ensure a level of protection of the EU’s financial interests equivalent to that under direct management. Indirect management may also be entrusted to partner countries or the bodies they designate. Innovative financial instruments including in partnership with the European Investment Bank, Member States’ financial institutions and other international financial institutions will be used for blending activities.

The lead services involved in implementing the instrument are DG INTPA, DG NEAR, and FPI, in cooperation with the EEAS and other Commission services, especially on external dimensions of internal policies like climate, environment, education, energy and digital.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



*Min. 93% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility
 ** from NDICI and IPA envelopes

Final structure of external instruments for the 2021-27 period

Total Heading VI: €110.597 bn in current prices

NEIGHBOURHOOD, DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INSTRUMENT (€79.462 bn)*						Acronyms: bn: billion GD: Greenland OCT: Overseas Countries and Territories
GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMMES (€60.388 bn)		THEMATIC PROGRAMMES (€6.358 bn)		RAPID RESPONSE ACTIONS (€3.182 bn)		
European Neighbourhood (at least €19.323 bn)		Human Rights & Democracy (€1.362 bn)		a) Peace, stability and conflict prevention in situations or urgency, emerging crisis, crisis and post-crisis, including those which may result from migratory flows and forced displacement b) Strengthening resilience and linking humanitarian aid and development action and, where relevant, peacebuilding c) Union foreign policy needs and priorities		
Sub-Saharan Africa (at least €29.181 bn)		Civil Society Organisations (€1.362 bn)				
Asia and the Pacific (€8.489 bn)		Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention (€0.908 bn)				
Americas and the Caribbean (€3.395 bn)		Global Challenges (€2.726 bn)				
Emerging Challenges and Priorities Cushion (€9.534 bn)						Pre-Accession (€14.2 bn)
Margin (€ 0.684 bn)	Other (€ 1.242 bn)	European Instrument for Nuclear Safety (€0.3 bn)	CFSP (€2.679 bn)	Humanitarian Aid (€11.569 bn)	European Peace Facility (€5 bn)*	
		OCT + GD (€0.5 bn)	*not included in the budget			

*Min. 93% of Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligibility

NDICI TARGETS 30% of total amount for climate-related actions, at least 20% of ODA-eligible funds for social inclusion and human development (including basic social services), indicatively 10% of total amount for migration-related actions, at least 85% of actions scoring G1 or G2 at the DAC gender equality marker (of which at least 5% for G2).



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
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2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	10 834.0	79 756.3	14%
Payments	1 276.7		2%

The entry into force of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument-Global Europe paved the way for the adoption, in record time, of most of the relevant multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs) and Annual Actions Plans (AAPs) as well as individual and special measures for countries, regions, ERASMUS+ and thematic programmes by the end of 2021. All these programmes will significantly contribute to climate actions, social inclusion and human development, including education, migration and forced displacement and to achieve gender equality and biodiversity targets. The MIPs include the identification of “Team Europe Initiatives” together with Member States, their agencies and European financial institutions, with the aim of achieving a maximum transformative impact in partner countries.

The operationalisation of the new external financing instruments required a timely completion of a number of procedural steps having budgetary, financial and legal implications. The legal and financial framework for the implementation of EU cooperation for the 2021-2027 period, in particular NDICI-Global Europe, was adopted in June 2021 and the complementing delegated act was adopted soon after in July.

In some cases, the policy framework were renewed either at regional and country level, while for the neighbourhood countries negotiations on the Joint Documents progressed at different speeds. In several instances the political relations with some partner countries did not allow for the rapid progress and required to constantly adapt programming to the evolving political situations. As a consequence, EUR 1.6 billion has been carried-over based on the Article 30 of the NDICI – Global Europe regulation and will be implemented in the first half of 2022.

In total, the services of the Commission involved (EEAS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI) managed to complete the adoption of 86 country, 1 multi-country² and 5 regional complemented by ERASMUS+ and 4 thematic MIPs and the subsequent Annual Action Plans (AAPs) and other measures authorising the use of funds. Their adoption has been preceded by thorough consultations with partner countries, Member States and other stakeholders (civil society organisations, including women and youth organisations, local authorities, representatives from the private sector, the UN and other like-minded partners). The total amount of MIPs adopted is EUR 30.6 billion. Here are the details:

MIPs	Country/multi-country	Regional	
Neighbourhood	2	2	4
Sub-Saharan Africa	44	1	45
Asia and the Pacific	24	1	25
Americas and the Caribbean	17	1	18
	87	5	92
MIPs amounts (EUR millions)	Country/multi-country (allocations 2021-2024) ³	Regional (allocations 2021-2024 for Neighbourhood, 2021-2027 for the others)	
Neighbourhood	820	3 284	4 104
Sub-Saharan Africa	9 274	10 242	19 516
Asia and the Pacific	2 320	2 344	4 664
Americas and the Caribbean	1 074	1 280	2 354
	13 488	17 150	30 638

² The multicountry MIP covers 13 Small Islands Developing States of the Pacific: Kiribati (LDC), Marshall islands (UMC), Micronesia (LMC), Nauru (UMC), Palau (UMC), Samoa (UMC), Solomon Islands (LDC), Tonga (UMC), Tuvalu (LDC), Vanuatu (LMC), Fiji (UMC), Cook islands (HIC) and Niue (UMC).

³ Costa Rica, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Seychelles, Thailand and Turkmenistan have a MIP limited to a cooperation facility and an allocation decided for the whole 2021-2027 period. Mauritius has a full country MIP but an allocation decided for the whole 2021-2027 period, given its small size (EUR 9 million).

Ten MIPs under the geographic pillar remain in the pipeline for adoption in the first half of 2022 depending on the progress in negotiations with the partner countries.

Regarding the financial breakdown of the country MIPs per country classification⁴:

	Number of MIPs	Amounts in EUR million
High Income Countries	1	2
Upper Middle-Income Countries	25	1,080
Lower Middle Income Countries	23	3,936
Least Developed Countries	37	8,353
	86	13,371

The adopted country, multi-country and regional MIPs will deliver on the overarching EU policy objectives:

- Green deal features in all MIPs;
- Digital agenda features in over 80% of the MIPs;
- Sustainable growth and decent jobs features in around 70%;
- Migration and forced displacement is covered by more than half;
- Governance, peace and security features in nearly 90%;
- Social inclusion and human development covered in more than 90%; in particular education is addressed in 80%;
- Gender is well mainstreamed in all MIPs.

Four thematic MIPs complement these geographic MIPs: Human Rights and Democracy (EUR 1.5 billion); Civil Society Organisations (EUR 1.5 billion); Peace, Stability and Conflict prevention (EUR 871 million) and Global Challenges (EUR 3.6 billion). In addition, the Erasmus+ MIP was adopted earlier in 2021 and benefits from the financing coming from the non-neighbourhood geographic envelopes with an amount of EUR 1.79 billion, the complementary funding is coming from IPA III.

In addition, the 2021 Annual Action Plans for programmable actions for conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness and for addressing global, transregional and emerging threats were adopted. Furthermore, by the end of year, 42 new crisis response actions and 10 actions responding to global threats were launched under the rapid response pillar of NDICI-Global Europe. The Resilience component of the Rapid response actions was used to finance the individual measure to support inclusive quality education for refugees in Turkey.

In total, by the end of 2021, 14% of the total 2021-2027 envelop has been committed, which corresponds approximately to one seventh of the seven-year MFF.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

2.2.1 Previous programme 1: Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI):

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	19 969.4	19 970.1	100%
Payments	13 221.3		66%

At the end of 2021, the total amount paid under the DCI is EUR 13.2 billion. The amount left to be contracted and/or paid is EUR 6.7 billion, of which EUR 2.0 billion expected to be paid in 2022 (voted budget) and EUR 1.3 billion in 2023 (payment appropriation request). These funds will be spent on the wide range of ongoing projects in all countries in which the DCI is still active. The payments on the DCI are expected to be closed by end 2027; payments should be decreasing in the coming years. The estimated breakdown of the funds to be disbursed by main programmes as from 2022 are as follows:

Asia	45 %
Latin America	13 %
Environment and climate change	8 %
Africa	8 %
Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture	8 %
Civil society and Local authorities in development	8 %
Sustainable energy	5 %
Migration and asylum	3 %
Human development	2 %

⁴ The allocation of EUR 117 million for multi-country covering 13 Pacific States is not included as the countries have different status.

2.2.1.1 DCI Geographic

2.2.1.1.1 DCI Latin America

The payments processed in 2021 under the Completion Budget Line represents the totality of allocations, amounting to EUR 303 million.

The importance of sustainable investments continues to grow. The DCI contribution through the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF) continued during 2021. EUR 62.6 million were committed in 2021 with 9 new actions, 7 under the bilateral envelope (EUR 48.9 M) and 2 under a multi-country approach (EUR 13.7 M). The level of investments leveraged with this contribution amounts to approximately EUR 3 billion. As from 2021, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Paraguay and Peru are benefiting from these new actions.

Budget Support remains an important implementation modality for the EU partnership with Latin America. In 2021, around 20% of all payments were related to Budget Support operations. The support to partners' policy implementation through the national systems continues to be a win-win approach. It caters for the strengthening of the policy dialogue, a focus on key reforms and on the improvement of public financial management systems, domestic revenue mobilisation, transparency and accountability.

The EU Trust Fund for Colombia continued to support the implementation of the peace agreement between the Colombian Government and the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). The Trust Fund has currently 34 projects ongoing for a total amount of EUR 130 million. Main results achieved are in the area of sustainable rural development and socio-economic reintegration of former FARC-EP (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army) combatants.

The payment appropriations for 2023 will be split between the continuation of actions under the 2014-2020 programme and the initial disbursements for the operationalisation of AAPs under the NDICI-Global Europe 2021-2027.

2.2.1.1.2 DCI Asia and Middle East

In 2021, a total amount of EUR 980 million was contracted in order to implement the decisions adopted under the DCI. Important contracts were signed, such as the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility (ACGF) (EUR 51.9 million), providing blended investment funds and technical assistance for origination, structuring and implementation of green infrastructure projects. The overall mission of the ACGF is to accelerate the development of green infrastructure in ASEAN by better utilizing public funds to create bankable projects and catalyse private capital, technologies and management efficiencies. The expected impact of the fund is to support 'ASEAN countries' shift to low-emission, climate-resilient infrastructure development. Another important contract was the support to Afghanistan (EUR 197 million).

Given front-loading of disbursements in 2020 to cope with the first impact of COVID as well as the cancellation of Budget support in Afghanistan and suspension in Myanmar, disbursements of EUR 291 million in 2021 were significantly lower than 2020 (EUR 578 million). Nevertheless, budget support represented 26% of all payments.

As far as support to investments through blending is concerned, there was full absorption of all related to blending available amounts under the MFF 2014 – 2020 by the end of 2020. The EU contribution to investment and blending under the investment facilities for Asia and Central Asia totalled EUR 423 million in the period 2017-2020, compared to EUR 193 million for the period 2014-2016. The amount for 2017-2020 has been fully contracted.

The requested payment appropriations for 2023 on the Completion line will cover the continued implementation of actions under the 2014-2020 programmes.

2.2.1.1.3 DCI South Africa

The DCI South Africa commitment appropriations 2014-2020 were fully used and implemented as planned through a comprehensive programming process. The result of the process has been a set of programming documents that define per bilateral/regional/thematic programme: the priority areas for financing, the specific objectives, expected results, indicators and indicative allocations. There is no need for corrective action at this stage.

In 2021, payment appropriations were used for Budget Support programmes such as: the Education for Employability Programme and the Support Programme to the implementation of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement. Other programmes not using Budget Support include the Dialogue Facility, the Capacity Building for Employment Promotion and the Accountability Programme.

In 2022, payment credits will be used for Budget Support programmes such as the Support Programme to the National System of Innovation, the Education for Employability Programme, the Support Programme to the Wine and Spirits Sector, and the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Programme. Other programmes not using Budget Support include the Technical Assistance Facility to support sustainable infrastructure.

In 2023, payment credits will continue to be used for planned payments via remaining Budget Support programmes, and remaining programmes funded under other aid delivery mechanisms.

2.2.1.2 DCI Thematic

2.2.1.2.1 DCI Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)

Environment and Climate change

For the 2014-2020 period, out of a total EUR 49.9 billion in EU development cooperation managed by DG INTPA (under DCI and EDF), climate change-related aid amounted to EUR 11.8 billion. This corresponds to 23.6% of total commitments.

In 2022, the remaining payment appropriations requested for the Environment and Climate Change DCI completion line, as well as those for Sustainable Energy DCI completion line, will be used to pursue the implementation of the existing projects under the DCI GPGC Environment and Climate Change.

The 2021 and 2022 payment appropriations for the completion budget lines will continue to cover the implementation of projects, such as on international environmental and climate governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes. This will promote a switch to green finance, enable a future with forests, support EU action for sustainable landscape management, develop knowledge-based management of natural ecosystems for sustaining green growth and ensure stability, tackle emerging threats to biodiversity and security in high value ecosystems, as well as ensure support to water for Prosperity, Peace and Planet.

Sustainable Energy

Programme implementation is on track and in line with the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2019-2020 for Sustainable Energy.

Under the 2022 payment appropriations for the completion budget lines, the implementation of projects is on track. Payment appropriations for 2021 under DCI/GPGC have been disbursed. The smooth implementation of projects committed under the previous MFF will continue. The COVID-19 crisis did not have a major impact on the overall implementation, except for some delays in construction and refinancing needs. The payment appropriations requested for 2023 will also cover the implementation of projects committed under the previous MFF. Appropriation on this completion budget line will cover the continuation of the programmes in support of international partnerships in the area of sustainable energy, including for the successful continuation of investment de-risking programmes such as Climate Investor One or Electrification Financing Initiative.

Human Development

In line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the new European Consensus on Development⁵, the programme sought to systematically integrate and balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the implementation of the GPGC. Across its five action areas, it promoted human development, sustainable investments and job creation, strengthen state and societal resilience, and addressing irregular migration and forced displacement, contributing to sustainability and security. As per the recommendations of the Mid-term review⁶, more attention was given to promoting interlinkages and cross-sectoral action at the nexus between different action areas that could contribute to multiple SDGs; and to enhance complementarity, coherence and synergies between thematic and geographic programmes. Building on lessons learned, actions seek to 'enhance the role of the EU as a global actor in the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement to help eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development'.

- Health

Implementation and associated payments continued in 2021. The Commission contributed to the Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) and to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI). The Global Fund has saved 38 million lives since 2002. Only in 2019, 18.9 million people were on life-saving HIV treatment; 5.7 million treated for tuberculosis; and 160 million mosquito nets distributed. Overall, the number of deaths caused by AIDS, TB and malaria went down by 40 % since 2002 in countries where the Global Fund invests. GAVI spends about USD 1.5 billion per year in the 73 poorest countries and helped to immunise 760 million children, preventing more than 13 million possible deaths, with the aim of vaccinating another 300 million children in 2021-2025. Today about half of the world's children receive vaccines supported by GAVI. It will also take on a new role in polio eradication. GAVI is also hosting the COVAX Facility as the leading global purchasing mechanism for COVID vaccines that by January 2022 has delivered more than 1 billion vaccine doses to the poorest countries with the aim to help all countries achieve the target vaccination rate of 70% by mid-2022 in every country.

Support to health systems strengthening including pandemic preparedness has been implemented through the Universal Health Coverage Partnership with the World Health Organisation. The programme has assisted ministries of health in 115 countries to build robust health systems and secure access to equitable health for 2 billion persons in order to respond and recover from the pandemic quickly.

The UNFPA Supplies Partnership delivers a choice of modern contraceptives and life-saving maternal health medicines into the hands of adolescents and women who need them most through strengthening supply chains and reproductive health services. Since 2008, UNFPA Supplies is estimated to have prevented: 89 million unintended pregnancies, 26.8 million unsafe abortions, 254,000 maternal deaths, 1.6 million child deaths.

2022 payment appropriations will cover implementation of ongoing contracts.

⁵ OJ 2006/C 46/01

⁶ COM(2017)720 of 15/12/2017

- Education

Commitments were adopted as planned and payments had to be frontloaded following increased disbursement by global education initiatives due to extraordinary COVID-19 responses. EU involvement in financing and governance of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the Education cannot Wait (EcW) platform made it possible to make progress in addressing the global learning crisis, in particular regarding vulnerable groups in Low Income Countries (LICs) and children in situations of crises. Both initiatives put in place rapid COVID-19 responses during 2020 to help countries mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to ensure continued learning during school closures. GPE allocated additional grants to more than 66 countries, and this led to greater disbursements than planned. The EU's contributions to GPE contributed to achieving a large part of the GPE's milestones, across key dimensions such as education policy, management, access, quality, equity and learning outcomes. EcW has improved access to quality education for up to 3.4 million children and young people affected by crisis in more than 30 countries, of which nearly half are girls. In addition to first emergency responses, multi-year resilience programmes have been launched to address challenges in protracted crises situations.

2022 payments will honour remaining contracts from the previous MFF (such as the Teacher Initiative in Sahel, the Gender at the Centre Initiative and Building Resilience through Education in crises).

- Culture:

Since 2018 the "Investing in Culture and Creativity" programme funds three actions reinforcing cultural and creative sectors to enhance their contribution to sustainable development. The EU-UNESCO Expert Facility is supporting 12 countries to develop appropriate regulatory frameworks for cultural and creative sectors, to boost their revenue potential. The selection process was complex and delays incurred slowing down disbursements, however corrective actions were taken. The 'Investing in Culture and Creativity' programme with UNESCO shows promising results in relation to cultural tourism and community development along the Silk Roads and a top-up was committed as planned in 2020. The project reoriented to budget to adapt its activities due to COVID-19 pandemic. This complements another action with the International Trade Centre that is helping to provide livelihoods to women working in the textile and fashion sectors in African and Asian countries. Intercultural and interfaith dialogue projects support community dialogues and cultural interventions with and for disadvantaged communities, women, youth and refugees and are now reaching their final year of implementation, showing promising results for the promotion.

2022 payment appropriations will cover implementation of ongoing contracts.

- Gender equality (Gender Action Plan) and Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

The challenges to gender equality are as varied as the contexts in which they emerge and call for context specific responses. There is, however, not a single country in the world that is close to achieving by 2030 gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Some progress has been achieved, but deep-rooted inequalities persist aggravated by the current COVID crisis. The EU is a global front-runner in promoting gender equality as a key political objective of its external action and common foreign and security policy. The EU pursues a three-pronged approach, combining gender mainstreaming, targeted actions and political dialogue in its Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) which was adopted on November 25, 2020 and which started implementation in 2021.

In 2020, the number of new external actions that contributed to gender equality and women's empowerment increased up to 68% with gender sensitive commitment amounting to EUR 8.5 billion.

During 2021, EU Delegations have submitted country level implementation plans (CLIPs) with concrete actions to improve gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment and to roll out the Gender Action Plan in their country contexts through political and policy dialogues, outreach and communication activities, consultations and partnerships with the national gender machinery and women's CSOs and funding of specific actions. The CLIPs lead a more strategic EU approach, a better cooperation with EU Member States, strengthened partnership with and increased ownership by local actors.

Programmes that focus on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls continued to be one of the principal objectives. During 2021 the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, launched at the end of 2017 with an investment of nearly 500mio EUR, continued its implementation in 26 countries and 6 regions, a mid-term assessment was finalized in 16 countries and all of these countries started to implement the second phase. The same exercise also started at the end of 2021 for the Caribbean, Pacific and Central Asia and the grounds were prepared for the extension of the current Initiative. The 2020 results showed solid results. Some examples: 84 laws and policies strengthened or signed across 17 countries, 22% increase in number of convictions of perpetrators compared to 2019 and over 650.000 women and girls were provided with support following gender-based violence.

- Child wellbeing

On child wellbeing, the previous years have been mainly dedicated to the implementation of four regional programmes to promote and protect specific children rights, which all ended in 2020 or before. These programmes are: the EU-funded Joint Programmes with UNICEF/UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) to end Child marriage and to abandon Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which have both played a key role in maintaining the momentum to end child marriage and FGM by promoting the global agenda and positioning policy and legislative support, as well as by demonstrating innovative community action. The EU-funded UNICEF programme "Towards Universal Birth Registration in Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Uganda and Zambia" which has recorded tangible results (see section Key achievements) and finally the "EU-funded Global Programme to Prevent Son Preference and Gender-biased Sex Selection: Improving the sex ratio at birth in selected countries in Asia and the Caucasus". A second phase of

this programme for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia has started in September 2020. Details of these four programmes are in section Key achievements, below. Given that these projects ended in 2020 they were not affected by the COVID crisis as such.

In 2020, funding has been secured for four new projects starting in 2020 and 2021. All of them integrate the consequences of the COVID-19 and explore alternative modalities where needed. The four programmes are:

1. The "Access to Justice for Children in the move in West Africa" project with UNICEF (EUR 7.89 million) which aims at improving children's access to child-friendly justice through age and gender-sensitive juvenile justice mechanisms and alternatives to detention of children on the move and vulnerable children in West Africa.
2. The "Addressing Gender-Biased Sex Selection and Related Harmful Practices in the South Caucasus" project with UNFPA (EUR 2 million) is the continuation of the previous Programme on Son Preference and will scale up the successful results and effective practices achieved during Phase I, address gaps, and foster gender-transformative approaches to eliminate discriminatory social norms and harmful practices by scaling up effective, evidence-based interventions.
3. The "Reparations and redress for victims of conflict-related sexual violence" project with the Global Survivors Fund (EUR 2 million) aims to enhance survivors' of conflict-related sexual violence access to reparations and other forms of redress globally, including where the States or other parties responsible for the violence are unwilling or unable to provide reparations.
4. The "Joining Forces for Africa (JOFA) - protecting children during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond" project with Joining Forces (EUR 10 million) which aims at strengthening national and local child protection and response systems during the COVID-19 crisis and recovery phase. This action is implemented in Ethiopia, Mali, Senegal, Kenya and Uganda.

- Employment, decent work, skills, social protection and social inclusion:

Social Protection payment appropriations for 2021 and 2022 will be used to support the ongoing thematic programme "Improving synergies between Social Protection and Public Finance Management".

- Growth, jobs and private sector engagement

Many programmes funded under the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) of the previous Multiannual financial framework (MFF) and under 11th European Development Fund (EDF) are still running into new MFF.

Under the 11th EDF, contributions to global trust funds (Standard and Trade Development Facility, the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the Trade Facilitation Support Programme) and contributions to global flagships with international organisations, namely the contribution to the ITC Programme Market Access Tools, will continue to be implemented during the coming years. Similarly, 11th EDF intra-African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) programmes are being implemented (Investment Climate Reform Facility, Business Friendly, Rapid Response Window (RRW), Informal Economy) with implementing partners such as the World Bank, International Trade Centre, EU Member States development agencies and the UN agencies. In addition, several projects are in the pipeline to be contracted: EUR 7 million CaribeEquity project, EUR 2.8 million Investment Facilitation programme and EUR 20 million trade finance programme which scope and implementation is still to be discussed.

Under the Global Public Goods and Challenges of the previous MFF funds committed in 2020 could still be contracted until the end of 2021, which was the case for the second phase of the Trade, Private Sector Development and Engagement Facility, the implementation of which will cover next three years. Projects contracted under the previous MFF continued running; for example promotion of women's economic empowerment; promotion of benchmarking framework to compare companies' performance and impact towards the achievement of the SDGs; and strengthening the EU's engagement on the transparent, responsible and sustainable management of raw materials, through the support to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM) for the 3TG, and its participation in the multi Donors Trust Funds on the Extractive Global Programmatic Support.

Food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture

The 2021 payment appropriations on the DCI Food security, nutrition and agriculture budget line were fully executed. The 2022 and 2023 payment appropriations will cover actions in the areas of Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries.

Migration and asylum

Migration and forced displacement remained as one of the key policy priorities for the EU and this was also reflected in the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, which includes an indicative 10% spending target on migration. As a result, migration and forced displacement considerations were fully integrated into geographical programming documents, while the allocation for funding on migration under the Global Challenges MIP 2021-2027 was drastically reduced.

While no new migration actions were launched under Global Challenges in 2021, one action on Internal Displacement and in particular Disaster and climate related displacement, will be adopted in 2022.

Civil society in development

Engagement with civil society remained crucial in 2021 in response to the further deterioration of shrinking civil space. During 2021, EUR 153 million were contracted for the programme CSO-LA. The 2020 funds were fully committed at country and global level and the 2021 payments under the CSO budget line reached EUR 252,6 million; an increase compared to 2020 (EUR 221 million).

2021 was mostly dedicated to the preparation, finalisation and adoption of the CSO MIP and MAP of the new instrument NDICI.

At global and regional level, 2021 payment appropriations have been used in the context of existing Framework Partnership Agreements. 2 FPA were subject to new funding through grants. An evaluation of the support to the Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPA) was finalized early 2021. 2 technical assistance facilities were contracted. The Roadmap Facility pursued the assistance to EU Delegations in the renewal of their CSO Roadmaps (nearly 70 roadmaps have been renewed). Finally, the Commission pursued the support to the Policy Forum on Development. INTPA dialogue with civil society organisations and local authorities through the Policy Forum on Development focused on future EU priorities and programming.

At country level, during 2021, EU Delegations implemented the CSO programme with the priorities foreseen by the Multiannual Action Programme. 150 contracts were finalized for a total amount of EUR 86 million.

With regard to Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR), two contracts amounting to EUR 3,1 million were signed in 2021 (one contract with GENE and a presidency contract “Towards an open, fair and sustainable Europe in the world - Third Trio EU Presidency Project – Build up phase”).

Local authorities in development

Under the program Partnerships for Sustainable Cities a call for proposal was launched in February 2021 and successfully concluded in December 2021 with 15 new partnerships set up for a total budget of EUR 39 million and attributed to Delegations for management. With the Support measures of the MIP 2018-2020 and with ATA credits, the Commission established a coordination committee of the 57 partnerships grants, as well as an agreement with the OECD for a homogeneous monitoring of the partnership and their contribution to SDG 11 and SDG 17 implementation and SDGs localization.

In November, the Commission organized together with the Committee of Regions the last edition of the “Cities and Regions for International Partnerships” Forum - focusing on two key themes as “Sustainable & Green Recovery” and “Participatory Citizenship & Good Governance”. The Forum registered a record breaking of 700 registrations, representing local and regional authorities' representatives from more than 80 countries. The Forum was an excellent opportunity to assess the relevance of the support to be given to local and regional authorities and the potential of their peer-to-peer cooperation within the programming and implementation of EU funds under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Specific Grant Agreements concluded with five signatories of the Framework Partnerships Agreements were implemented focusing most of their activities on support to Local Authorities and their associations in facing the COVID crisis and preparing the stakeholders to the new approach of the NDICI-Global Europe regulation with the geographisation of the Local Authorities thematic budget line. In 2022, the 5 Strategic Partnerships with the Regional and Global Associations of Local Authorities (operating and action grants) will be renewed under the Budget 2021-27 for a total amount of EUR 50 million.

2.2.1.2.2 DCI Panaf

The Pan-African Programme is mostly implemented by the African Union Commission or specialised International Organisations in fields where they provide an added-value or have a recognised international mandate. In areas such as higher education, statistics, digitalisation, economic integration, aviation, where the main objective is to share with the African partners our European expertise, technologies and know-how, the contribution to Commission implementing agencies or Member States' development agencies is the favoured modality.

Within the Pan-African Programme, the DCI budget financed programmes contributing to the strategic areas of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes 2018-2020, in line with the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (JAES). Over 2018-2020, actions were particularly focused on higher education, economic integration, migration, digitalisation, statistics, infrastructures and governance.

At the end of 2020 all budget of the Pan-African Programme has been committed. The implementation of related actions will continue at least for the next 5 years.

(The payment appropriations of the year **2022**, for DCI Panaf (on the completion line) will be used for ensuring the implementation of various projects mainly included in the Annual Action Plans for 2019 and 2020, in the areas of infrastructures, higher education, governance, statistics, economic integration and digital connectivity.)

Regarding the year **2023**, the request of payment appropriations for DCI Panaf reflects the need to continue the implementation of programmes in the above mentioned areas.

2.2.2 Previous programme 2: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	1 250.3	1 250.6	100%

Payments	972.0	78%
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The amount left to be contracted and/or paid is EUR 203 million, of which EUR 98 million expected to be paid in 2022 (voted budget) and EUR 30 million in 2023 (payment appropriation request). These funds will be spent on the wide range of ongoing projects in the countries in which the EIDHR is still active. The Commission expect the closure of the EIDHR by end 2027.

In 2021 the programme supported 132 new initiatives led by civil society organisations, in particular local ones, in over 70 partner countries under the 2020 CBSS (Country Based Support System, overall allocation EUR 99.8 million). They joined the portfolio of ongoing projects at country level that will be managed by EU Delegations.

The activities which are still to be done in 2022 and 2023 in relation to the 2014-2020 EIDHR are mostly:

- the implementation of a number of Flagship initiatives on topics such as emergency assistance to human rights defenders worldwide, the human rights crisis facility for the most difficult human rights situations, pilot projects on parliamentary strengthening (INTER PARES) through peer-to-peer support between EU Member States and parliaments from partner countries;
- the implementation of the four contracts awarded in the call for proposals launched in 2020 with the objective of countering the shrinking space for civil society (EUR 10 million);
- the implementation of the CBSS ongoing portfolio of projects managed by EU Delegations (699 projects);
- continue our support to raising the voice of indigenous people through the Navigator;
- Implementation of the actions described above will continue throughout 2023.

With respect to the Elections Observation missions’ component, Implementation depends on the actual deployment of missions. The total number of processes observed and assessed by the EU depends on:

- the political agenda, as defined by the High Representative/Vice President;
- any changes (postponements/cancellations) in the relevant electoral calendars/processes;
- the annual budget available;
- the EU’s capacity to deploy electoral missions in view of the operational and security (including health) conditions in the countries concerned.

Unstable security situations or changes in the electoral calendar may cause cancellations of the missions and thus lead to lower implementation rates.

The COVID-19 crisis has kept deteriorating the situation of Human Rights and Democracy worldwide in 2021. A number of emergency initiatives launched in 2020 after the start of the worldwide health crisis were implemented throughout 2021, such as the support to journalists in Africa and Latin-America and to child protection systems in Africa. The programme also contributed to greater democratic accountability of public institution through a pilot project (SANCUS).

In addition, in 2021 support was continued to the "Global Monitor of COVID-19’s Impact on Democracy and Human Rights", a “one-stop” online global monitoring platform (a "tracker of trackers"), implemented by International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), with data and brief analysis by country, for 162 countries around the world.

The COVID-19 crisis has, however, inevitably affected project implementation and a number extension riders and budget reallocations had to be signed. Despite the ongoing pandemic, mitigation measures for security and safety enabled to support 12 electoral processes and to deploy 21 missions under the EIDHR. Several Election Follow-up missions were postponed to 2022.

2.2.3 Previous programme 3: European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	17 566.3	17 568.3	100%
Payments	11 534.9		66%

As of 31 December 2021, the total ENI envelope was committed, and 66% were paid. It is explained by the fact that the ENI is an investment tool and finances projects that run over a long period of time. The financing agreements with the beneficiary countries must be signed by the end of the year following the year in which the budgetary commitment was made, while contracts implementing these agreements must be signed within the following three years with varying implementation periods. In addition, contracts are implemented in on average 3 years, while those with International Financial Institutions, such as blending and guarantees, have longer implementation periods (6-9 years).

Moreover, for Neighbourhood partner countries, priority areas for Union financing are selected mainly from those included in the association, partnership and cooperation agreements, jointly agreed association agendas and partnership priorities or other relevant, existing and future, jointly agreed documents between the Union and the partner countries in bilateral and multilateral formats, including, as relevant, within the Eastern Partnership and the southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

On average, 3.3 years were needed to pay the total costs of legal commitments, much less than the target of 4 years. In recent years, the Commission accelerated the implementation in the Neighbourhood.

However, following the record year of 2020 when EUR 2.6 billion was paid including also payment linked to implementation of actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the payment implementation decreased to EUR 1.9 billion in 2021.

While in 2021, ENI payments (EUR 1.7 billion) represented almost all executed payments, EUR 191 million was paid, in line with the planning, to cover for new commitments arising under the NDICI-Global Europe regulation adopted only on 9 June 2021 (for more information on the NDICI-Global Europe implementation please see section 2.1 “Programme 2021-2027”).

More than half (54%) of the ENI payments were dedicated in 2021 to actions in social infrastructure and services (included more than half for governments and civil society), 26% in multisector actions, 10% in economic infrastructure and services, and 7% in production sectors. Moreover, 66% of payment appropriations were implemented through direct management, while 33.3% through indirect management. 24% were implemented by trust funds, 20% through budget support, 17% by international organisations, 14% through grants and implementing agencies, 8% through procurements and 2% through indirect management with beneficiary countries.

The implementation of ENI payment appropriations will decrease to EUR 1.2 billion in 2022 and stabilise at EUR 1.1 billion in 2023. This should bring the implementation of ENI payment appropriations up to 73% of the total 2014-2020 envelope at the end of 2022 and 79% at the end of 2023.

2.2.4 Previous programme 4: Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	2 366.9	2 367.1	100%
Payments	1 901.2		80%

The implementation of financial programming 2014-2020 was fully in line with the expectations. By end 2021, 100% of the envelope was committed and 80% paid.

The 100% execution of commitment appropriations reflects the full implementation of the allocated envelope for IcSP actions

The 81% execution of payment appropriations is explained by IcSP actions responding to conflict situations or situations at risk of conflict, with a high risk of unforeseen events impacting implementation and resulting in actions being consequently amended. Sometimes not all foreseen activities could be implemented, thus explaining underspending and the need to de-commit.

In 2021, an amount of EUR 19 Million was de-committed⁷.

The Reste à Liquider (RAL) at 01/01/2022 amounts to EUR 400 Million and is planned to go down to EUR 230 Million by end-2022. The estimated RAL is EUR133 Million by end-2023 and EUR 77 Million by end-2024.

Under IcSP, during the 2014-2020 period, more than 600 interventions were launched worldwide on crisis response, conflict prevention and peacebuilding with a further 300 covering global and trans-regional threats.

COVID-19 related restrictions continued to cause delays in implementation during 2021, but the vast majority of actions could adapt allowing activities to proceed to the extent possible. No-cost extensions were granted for many actions in 2021.

While IcSP ended on 31 December 2020, numerous interventions were launched and implementation continued under IcSP in parallel with those under the new NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme for peace, stability and conflict prevention. Throughout 2021, IcSP actions continued to display a high degree of flexibility and timeliness in order to respond to urgent needs across Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

⁷ Future de-commitments will be done at the closure of projects and can therefore not be estimated at this stage.

The payment appropriations requests for 2022 and 2023 will allow to continue the implementation of IcSP actions committed. For example, the implementation of important actions focusing on challenges linked to counterterrorism, organised crime and disinformation, and making digital solutions, including social media, work for peace and stability, will continue in 2022 and 2023.

2.2.5 Previous programme 6: Partnership Instrument (PI)

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	961.3	961.7	100%
Payments	653.1		68%

At the end of 2021, 100% of the total envelope of the instrument was committed and 68% paid. The instrument was on high demand. The 100% execution of commitment appropriations reflects the full implementation of the allocated envelope for PI actions.

The 68% execution of payment appropriations reflects the way the PI is implemented through Annual Action Programmes and multi-year contracts (on average 4 years). Consequently, implementation of interventions will continue over the coming years, with the last contracts ending around 2025-2026.

The COVID-19 crisis continued to impact on financial implementation in terms of capacity to implement in-person activities and monitoring. Measures taken in 2020 (reallocation of funds and new virtual modalities of work) allowed interventions to continue implementation with a good rate of execution in 2021.

In 2021, the Partnership Instrument continued to contribute to the EU external action by supporting its foreign policy, articulating and implementing the external dimension of internal policies, leveraging the EU's influence, interconnecting different policy areas. Actions cover challenges of global concern like climate change and environmental protection; the international dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive jobs and growth; improving access to markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for EU companies (with particular emphasis on SMEs); and public diplomacy.

The payment appropriations requests for the Partnership Instrument in 2022 and 2023 will allow to continue the implementation of PI actions committed until the adoption of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation. For example, the implementation of important actions in the domain of digital cooperation and public diplomacy will continue in 2022 and 2023.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The initial performance of the NDICI – Global Europe was marked by very important steps – adoption of most of its Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs). Adoption of the country and regional MIPs will significantly contribute to climate actions, social inclusion and human development and migration and forced displacement and to achieve gender and biodiversity targets. The programming contributes to implementing the external dimension of the Commission priorities, as embedded for example in the Communication "Towards a Comprehensive Strategy with Africa issued in March 2020: green transition; digital transformation; sustainable growth and jobs; Governance, peace & stability and human development; and migration and mobility". Moreover, together with the EU Member States, programmes will support, through the 'Team Europe' approach, a sustainable recovery from the sanitary, social, and economic shocks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021 the COVID-19 crisis has been less disrupting compared to 2020, but gatherings and missions were still limited and had to be adapted to the special health context. That influenced greatly the process of the new MIPs design. In most of the countries targeted by the NDICI – Global Europe, the measures taken by governments to limit the spread of COVID-19 led to lower food productivity, drove inflation, and further constrained humanitarian assistance, exacerbating people's vulnerability.

Due to the delayed adoption of the NDICI-Global Europe, only limited actions made a difference on the ground, namely rapid response actions; the discussion on the guarantees also advanced much and their dedicated windows are close to their final scope.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Regarding crisis response actions, the main results in 2021 have been the ability of the EU to put policy statements into action and deliver conflict prevention and crisis response to address needs such as the additional pressure on local communities and public services in eastern Sudan to respond to the needs of refugees from Tigray; support to civil society actors and to international accountability mechanisms in response to the military coup in Myanmar; support to the management of Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan and concrete support to host communities in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as they welcome migrants and refugees from Venezuela; as well as a so far peaceful transition in Chad and an international monitoring mission on the contact line in Eastern

Ukraine (end of 2021 situation), despite of COVID-19 restrictions and a tense geopolitical context. The developments in Mali did not allow for the support to a peaceful and inclusive transition to take place.

Following the successful implementation of EFSD, which targeted investments in Sub-Saharan Africa and the EU Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood countries, a new European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) is being set up under Global Europe and given a wider scope. This integrated financial package will supply financing capacity in the form of grants, technical assistance, financial instruments, budgetary guarantees and blending operations across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas and the Caribbean.

As regards the guarantees under the EFSD+, they are covered by the broader External Action Guarantee (EAG), for a maximum amount of EUR 53.4 billion, which supports mainly the EFSD+ guarantees, as well as MFA and Euratom.



Part of the EFSD+ Guarantee will finance private-sector oriented operations in our partner country through an ‘open architecture’ – a level playing field where our partner financial institutions will apply for the Guarantee coverage. In order to identify strategic areas for investment, the Commission combined the analysis of investment needs and the priorities with the programming process at country level, as conducted by the EU Delegations. The market intelligence gathered through the extensive network of our Brussels offices, EU Delegations, with the support of European DFIs, has resulted in the identification of six strategic areas for the EFSD+ Guarantee. These ‘Investment windows’ are (i) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (ii) Connectivity: Energy, Transport and Digital (iii) Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity, Forests and Water (iv) Sustainable Cities (incl. WASH) (v) Sustainable Finance and Impact Investing and (vi) Human Development. These six windows will contribute to three overarching priorities of the Global Europe Agenda: Green Deal; Global Gateways; and Jobs and sustainable and inclusive Growth.

Commission services are also working with the EIB to prepare new Guarantee Agreements within the framework of the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus, including EUR 26.7bn of EIB-dedicated guarantee cover provisioned from the EU budget and an additional ACP window that will draw on reflows from the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Investment Facility.

At the end of 2021, under the EFSD+, the Commission signed a contract with the EIB and GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance to renew support for enabling COVID-19 vaccine to low and middle income countries through another EUR 500 million backing for COVAX Advance Market Commitment (following the EUR 500 million package of December 2020). It means EUR 3000 million grant in support from the NDICI-Global Europe and EUR 200 million loan from the EIB.

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

3.1.3.1 Performance of corresponding 2014-2020 programme Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

The specific, diverse and rapidly changing context of EU external action requires the use of all the existing implementation modalities and delivery methods to pursue the policy objectives and operational priorities. With a budget of approximately EUR 20 billion, the DCI has been a key financing instrument to support EU development policy. Many initiatives that were successful started under the DCI and they will provide a solid basis for future interventions planned under the NDICI. The main sources of information about the performance of the DCI are the annual reports on the implementation of the European Union’s instruments for financing external actions.

As shown in the section 2.2.1, and its performance over the years, DCI has effectively supported the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, globally and directly with partner countries.

Accompanying the general objective to ‘Eradicate poverty’ were the following specific objectives: ‘Fostering sustainable development’ and ‘Consolidating and supporting democracy’. To achieve these, the DCI provided funding for: (1) geographical programmes covering mostly developing countries (approximately 60 % of the DCI budget); (2) thematic programmes (approximately 36 %); (3) the Pan-African programme which supports the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership (approximately 4 %).

The EU’s financial support via the DCI has helped to improve the lives of millions of people worldwide, enable youth to fulfil their potential, fight inequality and support equitable and sustainable growth.

As shown in the annual reports on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions, the key successes of DCI, where the fund interventions had a clear direct and positive impact, is the one related to the SDGs for girls' access to education and reducing the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years old.

As per the recommendations of the Mid-term review, more attention was given to promoting interlinkages and cross-sectoral action at the nexus between different action areas that could contribute to multiple SDGs; and to enhance complementarity, coherence and synergies between thematic and geographic programmes. COVID-19 pandemic did not hamper working toward achievements of the DCI objectives: on the contrary, it showed that DCI was a sufficiently flexible and fast reaction tool to respond to non-foreseeable needs.

Also, the mid-term evaluation conducted in 2017 considered the DCI generally efficient when looking at indicators measuring organisational performance.

It should be noted that it remains difficult to measure the direct impact of the DCI 2014-2020 on development outcomes such as poverty reduction because there are so many other actors and factors which have also contributed to achieving these results, consequently they cannot be directly attributable to the DCI.

By using the DCI, the EU financed actions aimed at supporting geographic and thematic cooperation with developing countries included in the list of aid recipients compiled by the OECD DAC.

Unlike other External Financing Instruments, the actions under the DCI geographic instruments had to be designed with the purpose to fulfil the eligibility criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) as published by the OECD DAC. These criteria are both geographic (list of eligible recipients) and related to the design of the project eligibility. Only a few exceptions existed in the case of the thematic Global Public Goods and Challenges programme and the Pan-African programmes, where a limited percentage (5 and 10 % respectively) could be used for non-ODA eligible activities.

Specific Objective 1: Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

State of play: as of end 2021, without the possibility to establish a direct link with the actions of the fund, most of the population residing in DCI partner countries has experienced progress in poverty reduction and human and economic development over the last ten years. Indeed, the proportion of the world population below the international poverty line has dropped every single year since 2014, reaching 8.7 % in 2019 and staying there in 2021. Similarly, the under-five mortality rate, and the prevalence of stunting have also decreased every single year over the 2014-2021 period. Despite these positive trends, the rates of change have slowed over time as numbers have approached (but not reached) their ambitious targets. Prevalence of stunting is the exception for which targets have consistently been met.

Specific Objective 2: Consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and the relevant principles of international law.

State of play: The international indicators monitoring the situation are not telling an encouraging story. For the World Bank's Rule of Law score, the situation deteriorated between 2014 and 2016 and has not significantly improved since. For the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, the progress has been so slow that if the current pace of change were to continue in the future, the 2020 target would be only met in 2035.

This is why the Commission has insisted and financed a number of projects to promote democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights significantly above the initial target of 100 projects per year on average over the 2014-21 period.

Note on the DCI performance framework:

Annual results reporting exercises have been conducted since 2015 and monitoring of indicators have been constantly upgraded to ensure better and wider coverage of result achieved. Collected information feeds the External Assistance Annual Reports, DG INTPA's Annual Activity Reports, assessments of a particular implementation modality e.g. 'Budget Support - trends and results 2020' or assessments of thematic objectives achievement e.g. 'Action plan on nutrition: Fifth progress report April 2019 - March 2020' or '2019 Implementation Report on Gender Action Plan II Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020'. Selected results have been also aggregated through the EU Results Framework (set up 2015, then revised in 2018).

To improve the consistency of performance monitoring of actions under the NDICI-Global Europe and make it aligned with the DGs Strategic Plans 2020-2024, the EU Results Framework was recently revised (to respond to the current EU policy priorities and taking into account the recommendations from various evaluations and audits). The framework is now called Global Europe Results Framework that constitutes part of the broader Global Europe Performance Monitoring System⁸.

Contribution of DCI to the Green Transition:

Good progress has been noted. In 2020, about 25% of DCI budget went towards climate-related actions, with a fairly equal distribution between mitigation and adaptation. This brought the overall contribution towards climate action to approximately 23.6% for the period 2014-2020 (against a target of 20%).

⁸ Staff Working Document of 25 January 2022, SWD(2022)22

In order to deliver on the contribution expected from the external dimension of the EU Green Deal in the area of climate change and the environment, more remains to be done to systematically integrate these themes across all areas of cooperation covered by the NDICI-Global Europe Global Challenges.

Within the EUR 100 million action on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approved in 2020, DCI continued to support activities related to risk assessment and response to enhance the structural capacity of ACP countries to react and recover from disaster events – being climate related or pandemics like COVID-19. The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) joined forces together with the Development-smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) initiative to support actions that jointly address climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable agriculture and food security issues

In the environment sector, the implementation of the NaturAfrica initiative started in 2021 in six regional landscapes and in several countries (Togo, Benin, Cameroon, DRC, Burundi, Congo). NaturAfrica aims to improve the livelihood of 65 million people, sequestering up to 21 billion tons of carbon, stabilising 3 million km² of land and ensuring water security. The Landscape Approach complemented the continuous EU support to land restoration and alternative livelihoods development under the Great Green Wall initiative. In total, more than 250,000 hectares of land were restored in 2021 under the Regreening Africa initiative, notably through agroforestry, in several Sahelian countries. Forest Partnerships were developed to support sustainable forest management in partner countries and progress was made on Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) in the framework of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.

The Africa-EU Green Energy initiative (AEGEI) was developed in 2020 and 2021 and will be proposed as part of the multi-sectoral African Investment Package at the AU-EU Summit in February 2022. AEGEI will be a main component of the African Investment Package and in support of African Single Electricity Market and it will contribute to bridge the energy access gap in Africa while protecting the people, the climate and the environment and creating added value and opportunities for African and EU businesses. Additionally, the programme on Demand side management, Social Infrastructures, Renewables and Energy Efficiency (DESIREE), signed in 2020 and implemented with the EIB, started its implementation phase in 2021.

In the field of sustainable agriculture and food systems, COVID-19 has led to a deterioration of food security in many partner countries. The impact on malnutrition especially threatens to affect women and girls, who already represent 60% of the world's food insecure. DG INTPA has reacted to this challenge in the framework of the Team Europe global response to COVID-19, which channelled EUR 60 million fighting the pandemic and building resilience. The EU sustainable cocoa initiative launched in 2020 was further developed in cooperation with many partners, including notably the Governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, to provide a Living Income Differential to smallholder farmers. DG INTPA continued to address climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture through the DeSIRA (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) initiative.

At the margins of the fifth meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly in February 2021, the EU launched the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) in collaboration with UNEP and UNIDO. The initiative aims at boosting initiatives related to the circular economy transition, resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, building on efforts deployed internationally.

Contribution of DCI to the Digital transition

Digitalisation became a key priority for the Commission and it significantly boosted its engagement in the digital transformation via DCI support.

3.1.3.2 Performance of corresponding 2014-2020 programme European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

The EIDHR was implemented against the backdrop of an overall slowdown or recess in the consolidation of democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights globally. For the World Bank's Rule of Law score, the situation deteriorated between 2014 and 2016 and has not significantly improved since.

2021 has been the last year in which funds from the 2018-2020 Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIP)⁹ could be contracted, completing the portfolio of the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2014-2020. For the full period of the EIDHR instrument (2014-2020) implementation was done through action plans for 2014 (special measure), 2015, 2016-2017, a special measure in 2018 and the multi-annual action plan covering 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Over the whole period, the EIDHR has been successful in delivering on its 5 objectives: i) support to human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk; ii) support to other EU human rights priorities; iii) support to democracy; iv) EU election observation; and v) support to targeted key actors and processes, including international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms.

It has been an enabling, flexible and responsive instrument that demonstrated its added value as a "niche" instrument to promote human rights and democracy, as highlighted in the Instrument's Mid-Term Review¹⁰.

Given the nature of the targeted activities, some confidential, the implementation of a small number of projects was delayed or could not fully address all its objectives. Actions had to be adapted in case of particularly difficult country situations.

⁹ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018) 6409 final of 5.10.2018.

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/swd-mid-term-review-eidhr_en.pdf

Implementation rates in term of commitments and payments have been overall very satisfactory. An important part of the EIDHR (65% - excluding the election observation mission's allocations and administrative costs) is implemented by our EU Delegations worldwide to address country-specific issues.

The EIDHR key-added value has been the independence of action and worldwide coverage, allowing for interventions in the most-difficult-country situations and without the consent of the host governments, and acting where other instruments and donors cannot or do not act. It has been able to address human rights and democracy challenges, even in the most difficult and challenging environments – confirming that EIDHR and the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programmes under the NDICI-Global Europe remain more relevant than ever to the political priorities of the EU.

The mid-term review conducted in 2017 also considered the EIDHR generally efficient thanks to a relatively low level of administrative expenditure and its essential in-built flexible tools (e.g. direct support to human rights defenders, direct small grants, working with informal partners, financial support to third parties).

As far as **the COVID response in 2021 is concerned, please refer to the narrative above** (section 2.2)

Main results over the whole period and some examples of "flagships" along the five axes of work, corresponding to the specific objectives of the EIDHR instrument:

- **Support to Human Rights Defenders at risk and other human rights**

The EIDHR support to human rights defenders (HRD) at risk (individuals, organisations and groups) is the basis for the EU world leadership in HRD support. The EIDHR provides emergency grants, physical/digital protection, legal and medical support, urgent relocation/sheltering, training or permanent (24h/7) helpline, psychosocial assistance for and support to family members of human rights defenders at risk so that they can continue their important work. This support has been and still is provided through two flagship programmes: Protect Defenders and the EU Emergency response, both projects were renewed in 2019 and will be running until 2022. Between 2014 and 2021 over 54,400 HRDs at risk have been supported mainly by these two programmes. In 2021 alone, more than 4 445 HRDs and family members have been supported.

The EIDHR Human Rights Crises Facility (EUR 3.5 million per year) was set up in 2014, in order to provide a flexible funding modality to respond to situations where there is a serious lack of fundamental freedoms, where human security is most at risk, where human rights organisations and defenders work in exceptionally difficult conditions and/or where the publication of a call for proposals would be inappropriate. In 2016-2020 period, a total of 24 projects have been supported in the Enlargement region, the Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood, Central Asia, Middle East, Sub-Saharan and East of Africa, and Asia (details of grants and countries of operation are confidential). In 2021, Crises Facility projects also addressed the human rights crises caused by the COVID pandemic, globally, regionally and at country levels, as well as reacting to sudden-onset crises.

From 2015 to 2020, six global calls were launched that provided for continued support to civil society working on a broad range of sensitive, innovative or priority issues, including human rights in most restrictive environments, human dignity, discrimination, economic, social and cultural rights, and democracy-related issues. Examples of these issues include: LGBTI human rights defenders, fight against the death penalty, support for civic activism and participation by leveraging digital technologies, business and human rights, combatting torture and increasing democratic accountability.

The EU has a longstanding engagement to further promote indigenous peoples' rights at bilateral and multilateral levels. During the period 2014-2020, the EU has supported through its European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights:

- i. Docip, the Centre for Documentation, Research and Information for indigenous people that enables indigenous communities and leaders leading advocacy work in international fora in Brussels, Geneva and New-York (EUR 4 million);
- ii. The Indigenous Navigator, a framework where community-based data covering 216 000 people from 11 countries is used in advocacy and communication activities at the UN fora and to empower indigenous peoples through small development projects (EUR 2.2 million);
- iii. Global Call 2017- Lot 1 (EUR 5 million), Supporting HRDs in the area of land-related rights, indigenous peoples, in the context of inter alia 'land grabbing' and climate change.

An important part of the EIDHR instrument is implemented at country level. Implementation is done through calls for proposals or direct awards. Between 2014 and 2021, more than 1 800 contracts were concluded by EU Delegations. The priorities most worked on over all these years are, amongst others: women and children rights, democracy (election observation, freedom of expression) and anti-discrimination. During the last 3 years, the Commission strived to primarily focus its effort on the most pressing and sensitive human right needs in countries.

The delivery of the awareness raising and training for the operationalization of the rights based approach and gender mainstreaming started in 2017 and also continued throughout 2021 albeit through an adapted virtual approach. In 2021 14 trainings took place to support colleagues during the programming, 6 on the new toolbox adopted in June and 8 for specific countries¹¹, all of them virtual.

- **Support to Democracy**

¹¹ Turkey / Burkina Faso / Guyana-Surinam / Afghanistan / Algeria / Bolivia-Ecuador-Peru / Jamaica-Barbados / Eswatini-Lesotho

From 2015-2019 the “Supporting Democracy” project provided assistance to EU Delegations in improving their work with civil society, promoting democratic development and how to best counter the shrinking space that occurred in a number of countries through exchanges of best practises and networking. As an example, in 2019, its last year, "Supporting Democracy" has organised two regional events in Malaysia and Lebanon that brought together CSO representatives to discuss how to use new technologies to tackle shrinking space in their regions.

Other achievements include the Citizen Observers Forum in 2016, bringing together 250 domestic observer organisations from all over the world, facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges and promoting the Declaration of Global Principles for Electoral Observers, training domestic observers in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Madagascar, Maldives, and the launch of an annual worldwide 'EU4Democracy' campaign, promoting EU support to democracy in partner countries. In 2018, the "EU4Democracy" focused on civic activists, which use new technologies to promote democracy and six "CivicTech" prizes were awarded to projects selected from over 100 applications.

Another Facility which was put in place in 2017 was “Media4Democracy” to support EU Delegations to develop actions to promote the freedom of expression and media. Through this support the interest for the subject increased as well as the number of projects funded in this area. In 2020 the Media4Democracy comprehensive Handbook: Protecting the Safety of Journalists, Protecting Freedom of Expression was successfully launched. In 2021, Media4Democracy continued fellowships for journalists in the Maldives and supported EU Delegations in Congo Brazzaville, Djibouti, Mongolia and Columbia with legal analysis and expertise.

The EIDHR also funds 'V-DEM', one of the largest democracy indicators-related data collection efforts with a database containing over 18 million data points. In 2016, V-DEM received the most prestigious award for comparative datasets in political science: the Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Best Dataset Award presented by the American Political Science Association. In 2020 and 2021, V-DEM produced reports on data relating to political risks in the countries receiving EU Budget Support, and country briefings for EU Delegations. Through the Case for Democracy project, V-DEM produced a new concept: providing positive narratives about Democracy. The project was quoted by high level officials, including US officials, in the framework of the Summit for Democracy 2021.

2018 and 2019, V-DEM produced two reports: one on shrinking space in Southern-Eastern Africa and South-Eastern Asia, and one on the topic of women political empowerment EU’s democracy support around the world and one on data relating to political risks in the countries receiving EU Budget Support.

Under the pilot programme to strengthen the capacity of political parties, a call for proposals was launched in 2017 and five grants were awarded for projects implemented in ten countries (Malawi, Bolivia, Morocco, Benin, Paraguay, Mongolia, Moldova, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia). These projects have contributed to strengthening the role of women in political party life and supporting multi-party systems, including inter-party dialogues on the legal, financial and/or policy framework for political parties and political party financing. They have also revealed the need to continue supporting this crucial aspect of democracy, often left behind. This need was taken on board in the NDICI-Global Europe by promoting a comprehensive approach for democracy report at country level, regional level and global level.

In 2019, the flagship project "INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership - EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments" on parliamentary strengthening through a peer-to-peer approach was launched. In 2020 and 2021, the project, like many other ones, had to adapt its delivery methods to continue facilitating peer-to-peer exchanges between EU Member States parliament and partner parliaments around the world. It has also contributed to collecting and sharing best practices on parliaments’ responses to the pandemic and has become a hub for across-the-broad cooperation on parliamentary development.

Finally, the Commission also refers to the action funded through global calls for proposals and country allocations mentioned in the previous point on human rights support.

- **Support to targeted key actors and processes**

Despite increasing attacks against the international human rights system and the international justice system, the EIDHR has continued to staunchly support the key institutions, including the International Criminal Court (ICC) (EUR 1 million per year) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (approx. EUR 4.5 million per year).

The 'Global Campus for Human Rights and Democracy' (approx. contribution of EUR 5 million a year) is a unique global network of more than 100 universities teaching and promoting human rights and democracy. Supported by the EU from its beginnings, the Global Campus confers master’s degrees in human rights and democracy to more than 250 students a year. It covers seven regions in the world and represents a beacon of excellence in human rights and democracy education. A 7th region (Arab region) was included in 2017.

Continued support to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and its four regional networks (Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin-America) of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) (EU contribution EUR 3.75 million 2019-21). The three-year targeted programme is managed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights as mandated by GANHRI builds on the results of the previous programme, which ran from 2015-2019. It provides much needed trainings and capacity building opportunities, exchange and communication platforms, institutional development and rapid support for NHRIs in distress through re-granting.

Finally, the Commission successfully organised on a regular basis the EU-NGO Human Rights Forum event. In 2021 this was done through a virtual platform, the [23rd edition of the EU-NGO Human Rights Forum](#), which focused on Rebuilding Better – a human rights based recovery from the pandemic.

- **Election Observation Missions**

In 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, mitigation measures for security and safety enabled to support 12 electoral processes and to deploy 21 missions under EIDHR. In addition, six missions financed from NDICI-Global Europe were deployed.

Two fully-fledged Election Observation Missions (EOMs) were deployed to observe elections in Zambia and Honduras. Deployed on average for 3 months, these missions included assessments of the campaign, the legal framework, the political environment and the overall electoral process.

Five Electoral Expert Missions (EEMs) were deployed in Kosovo (early parliamentary elections), Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador and Somalia.

Five Follow-up missions to assess to what extent the recommendations from previous missions were implemented were deployed in El Salvador, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Lebanon and Nigeria.

The mid-term review conducted in 2017 found evidence that election observation was effective in improving the reliability of electoral processes.

3.1.3.3 Performance of corresponding 2014-2020 programme European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI):

The European Neighbourhood Instrument has proved to be a flexible and responsive instrument addressing the priorities established under the European neighbourhood policy framework and reacting to needs and challenges in the region, including protracted crises.

One of the essential elements of the ENI regulation is the incentive-based approach, also referred to as “more for more”. EUR 1.4 billion has been disbursed under the incentive-based approach 2014-2020. Indeed, the share of available resources offered to partner countries is adapted primarily to their progress in building and consolidating deep and sustainable democracy and in implementing agreed political, economic and social reform objectives. In cases of non-achievement or backsliding then “less for less” is applied to the available resources offered to partner countries, or resources are recalibrated towards civil society. A good example is Belarus where the EU has stepped up its support for the people of Belarus, while moving assistance away from the authorities.

On the other hand, the mid-term review of external action instruments, published in December 2017, has highlighted the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence between various external action instruments. This issue is addressed in the NDICI, which has been designed to reinforce a policy-driven approach to EU cooperation.

The mid-term review also noted that the efficiency of ENI delivery is positive in terms of procedures, processes and the ratio of administrative costs. EU Budget Financial Regulations, the Common Implementing Regulation (CIR) and DG NEAR’s administrative procedures and practices prevail over simplification, leaving the regulatory burden (formal and inherited from past practices) unchanged. In-house expertise was strengthened by the creation of Centres of Thematic Expertise (CoTE) and even if all of them do not yet possess the full set of resources needed to fulfil their tasks, progress in terms of coherence between sectoral and cross-cutting assistance and in terms of quality is taking place. A number of special measures are contributing to ENI’s timely delivery so that programming and allocation timelines are accelerated and sufficient flexibility is built into the EU response. The control systems are in place and are running at all levels; monitoring and evaluation systems provide the required feedback for adjusting implementation and targeting programming, though the culture of drawing lessons and experience from evaluations is still uneven.

Cooperation with EU neighbours will also gain from being financed by the NDICI by providing even more means and flexibility in support of the special relationship between the EU and its Neighbours. It will be better equipped to address challenges that span across regions covered currently by different instruments.

Some features currently reserved to the EDF would also be extended to the Neighbourhood, including the ability to carry over unused funds from one year to the following one or to re-use decommitted funds. This is particularly appropriate for the management of actions in the Neighbourhood, which is characterised by a highly volatile environment requiring continuous adaptation.

Specific Objective 1: Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality and the fight against discrimination in all its forms.

One key indicator helping to assess the general trend toward this objective, is a weighted score based on eight publically available external sources, grouped under three components:

- Corruption Index (Transparency International) and Control of Corruption (World Bank);
- Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) and Freedom of Press (Freedom House);

- Government Effectiveness (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Regulatory Quality (World Bank) and Voice and Accountability (World Bank).

These indicators are actually based mostly on perceptions and do not reflect the impacts made by the EU assistance and policy in these areas, but the improvement observed does reflect the sense of direction sought.

Overall, the trend in the Neighbourhood has been fluctuating, but last year the target was exceeded for the first time since the reporting period and the latest update sees this trend continuing.

For some countries in the Southern Neighbourhood, political instability and the security situation are hampering the progress. Notwithstanding moderate progress in countries like Egypt (where the State of Emergency has been lifted, although some of its provisions are introduced elsewhere) and Jordan (even if some concerns persist), political instability in Lebanon and Tunisia, and the continuation of the dire human rights situation in Syria, show that the challenges in the Region remain high.

In the East, the Lukashenka regime continued its wide-spread human rights violations and its brutal repression against all segments of the Belarusian society. Since summer 2021, and in response to the EU's united support for the democratic aspirations of the people of Belarus, the Lukashenka regime also engaged in the state-sponsored instrumentalisation of migrants, in a hybrid attack on the European Union. The human rights and democracy situation in Azerbaijan continues to be very poor, as reflected in the limited number of sectors and beneficiaries with which ENI engages. In the other partners, the security and political stability did not vary, and this in Armenia despite the Autumn-2020 war with Azerbaijan. To note that this comes before the Russian war of aggression that began on February 24 2022.

In the field of combating discrimination and hate speech/crime, the basic legal framework on combating discrimination is in place in most of the Eastern Neighbourhood partner countries. However, more efforts are needed to ensure that all vulnerable groups are protected, to align the legal framework to European standards, and to implement the relevant judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, the monitoring recommendations and prosecuting cases of violence.

What the instrument has as leverage is to promote the values of human rights and fundamental opinions of CSOs (interested and affected groups) for a policy initiative, freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality and the anti-discrimination through its interventions notably by supporting the civil society. Over the period 2014-2020 some 2.2 billion was committed to human rights, good governance and mobility. Over the period 2013-2021, the EU supported 63 government policies with civil society throughout east and south neighbourhood. This means supporting public participation whereby the government actively seeks the opinions of interested and affected groups in the civil society for a policy initiative. Also more than 65 000 people benefited from legal aid interventions supported by the EU.

Specific Objective 2: Achieving progressive integration into the EU's internal market and enhanced sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation.

Progressive integration into the EU's internal market and enhanced sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation is being achieved in various domains.

First, the instrument is supporting almost all neighbourhood countries in strengthening their revenue mobilisation (how to collect taxes more and better), their public financial management and their budget transparency. During the period 2014-2021, the total support for public financial management is estimated at EUR 268 million. The results of this support are for example, more than 74 000 firms and more than 41 000 individuals with access to financial services with EU support.

The instrument is also supporting, notably via the EU4business initiative¹², the implementation of trade agreements with our partners. It notably helps to support studies and technical assistance for regulatory approximation in the areas of public procurement, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, customs and services. Despite the difficulties and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic that have slowed down this positive trend, the progressive strengthening of the business environment and facilitation of trade and investment is supported while ensuring a level playing field and increasing trade between EU and partner countries.

As a result of this support, economic operators in Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Tunisia and Palestine obtained 158 conformity schemes-related certifications, accreditations, approvals or recognitions for their products, services or systems. Certification and accreditation are key to facilitate trade between Neighbourhood countries and the EU. In the Eastern Neighbourhood, this type of support has allowed an increase in the number of companies from DCFTA countries to export to the EU. Between 2014 and 2021, the number of companies exporting to the EU has increased by 65% in Georgia, 70% in Moldova and 42% in Ukraine.

Almost 200 000 people have benefited from institution- or workplace-based VET/skills development interventions supported by the EU in the neighbourhood countries. These interventions typically include areas such as job search assistance, job placement schemes, mentorship, support to entrepreneurship, etc. The objectives of such programmes are manifold, including economic, by increasing participant's employment chances and earnings, and social, by enhancing inclusion and participation associated with productive employment.

¹² <https://eu4business.eu/>

In the Neighbourhood South, although a number of deep and comprehensive free trade agreement (DCFTA) negotiation rounds took place over the period - especially with Morocco and Tunisia – no agreement on a DCFTA could be finalised.

Also, in 2021, a number of gap and impact analyses were carried out and trainings were performed on the most important legal aspects of DCFTA agreements (competition policy, public procurement, intellectual property protection, investment protection, etc.) thus laying the groundwork for future trade engagement (e.g. Investment Promotion Agreements as suggested in the most recent EU trade policy review).

Specific Objective 3: Creating conditions for the better organisation of legal migration and the well-managed mobility of people.

ENI contributes greatly to the achievement of this objective and will continue to do so as part of NDICI. The objective is formulated in an active form and it is in that sense still ongoing. Most of the work done on migration and forced displacement since 2015 in the Southern Neighbourhood was financed by approximately EUR 2 billion of ENI funds through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (North of Africa window), and the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian crisis. In the Eastern Partnership, at least EUR 230 million were spent focusing mainly on legal migration, including mobility, circular migration, diaspora cooperation, as well as on border management.

One of the sources to assess whether the activities of ENI are effective is the monitoring of the evolution of the number of mobility partnerships in place. Indeed, Mobility Partnerships declarations are the instrument through which the EU and its partners in the Neighbourhood intend to set a framework to manage migration flows with commonly agreed objectives and programmes. Mobility Partnerships follow the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility guidelines. With 6 mobility partnerships in place in the East and 3 in the South, the targets have been either met (Neighbourhood East) or almost (Neighbourhood South).

Moreover, more than 30 strategies and policies for migration management or forced displacement were developed/revised or are under implementation with EU support in the neighbourhood countries at the end of 2021. Examples of migration management/forced displacement strategy/policy areas include border management, labour and facilitated migration, assisted voluntary return, assistance for vulnerable migrants/displaced persons, socio-economic inclusion of migrants/forced displaced person, etc. Developed/revised strategies or policies are those endorsed by the authorities relevant to the local context.

During the period 2013-2021 almost 4.5 million migrants, forcibly displaced people or individuals from host communities have been protected or assisted with EU support in the neighbourhood regions.

However, the support has limits that can be illustrated by the number of readmission and visa facilitation agreements and Visa Liberalisation Action Plans (VLAP) in place between the EU and the partner countries, which does not show good results, in particular in the South.

Indeed, based on visa facilitation/liberalisation agreements, both the EU and the non-EU citizens benefit from facilitated procedures for issuing visas and, in return, procedures are established for the return of persons in irregular situation (own or third country nationals or stateless persons) to the EU or to the partner non-EU country.

Sensitive and complex negotiations in an uncertain political environment led to the fact that in the Southern Neighbourhood, no readmission and visa facilitation agreements have been concluded

Specific Objective 4: Supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive development in all respects.

In order to have an impact towards the achievement of this objective, ENI supported 14 countries in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhood to strengthen their investment environment by supporting reforms aiming to reduce business costs, risks and create a more conducive environment for competitiveness, sustainable and inclusive growth, and decent job creation during the period 2014-2021.

Additionally, more than 78 000 jobs were directly supported or sustained by ENI and, in that way, contributed to development and economic growth in the region. Despite difficult conditions linked to COVID-19, ENI, through various support mechanisms has been delivering help to SMEs in partner countries during the ongoing pandemic. In 2020, EU4Business projects supported 72 000 SMEs across the Eastern Partnership region, allowing these SMEs to maintain incomes and sustain more than 500 000 jobs. While data for 2021 are not yet available, it is expected that support to SMEs will be higher, due to the fact that in 2021 COVID-19 restrictions were partially lifted and more support activities have been deployed.

ENI has also continued to provide support to the green transition in Eastern partner countries in line with the external dimension of the European Green Deal and to ensure a sustainable and green economic recovery. Within this context, the regional programme EU4Climate which is financed from both the regional and bilateral budgets assisted Armenia, Belarus, Moldova and Azerbaijan in preparing their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In Georgia and Ukraine, EU4Climate assisted with awareness-raising and communicating the revised NDC targets. As a result of this EUR 1.2 million support, all Eastern Partnership countries increased their ambition in reducing GHG emissions by 2030, compared to the previous NDC cycle.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting confidence building, good neighbourly relations and other measures contributing to security in all its forms and the prevention and settlement of conflicts.

In order to have an impact towards the achievement of this objective, ENI supported over 1000 state institutions and non-state actors on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and

human rights during the 2014-2021 period for more than EUR 2.5 billion under the budget line for confidence building, security and the prevention and settlement of conflicts for ENI during the 2014-2020 period. Additionally, more than 245000 individuals directly benefited from EU-supported interventions that specifically aimed to support civilian post-conflict peacebuilding and/or conflict prevention.

As regards the East specifically, extensive ENI support was provided on building capacity to combat organised crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats, security sector reform, energy security and nuclear safety. Support was underpinning bilateral dialogues, based on each country's needs, complemented by initiatives at regional level. For the period 2014-2021, the amounts spent in the area are estimated at around EUR 295 million.

The results achieved include increased cooperation with EU Agencies that has led to the arrest of members of organised crime groups from Eastern Partnership countries, specialised cybercrime units have been set up in all six Eastern Partnership countries, capacity building and expert support has supported the security sector reform efforts in 4 of the Eastern Partnership countries. The EU has been a steadfast supporter not only of the territorial integrity of Ukraine in face of Russia's aggression, but also of building up resilience. Since 2014, the EU has provided almost one billion euro in conflict-related assistance to Ukraine: EUR 442.5 million in humanitarian and early recovery assistance and support to the reform processes in the conflict-affected regions, and EUR 540 million through European Investment Bank loans for investments in critical municipal infrastructure.

With regards to human rights, following the falsified 2020 presidential election in Belarus, the European Union has recalibrated its bilateral financial assistance to the greatest possible extent away from the central authorities and towards the people of Belarus. Cooperation is instead focused on non-state actors – particularly civil society, independent media, youth, SMEs, and cultural actors.

The Neighbourhood South continued to face serious challenges related to organised crime but above all terrorism and violent extremism. ENI support therefore focused on judicial and police cooperation, in particular at regional level and in cooperation with EU Justice and Home affairs Agencies and specialised international organisations such as INTERPOL, supporting national policies to counter violent extremism and capacity building to prevent and address financing of terrorism and anti-money laundering.

In the area of civil protection, specific dialogues have helped identify priority areas of cooperation. Disaster risk reduction and, climate resilience, as well as enhancing local authorities' capacities remained the main themes for cooperation and ENI assistance. For the period 2014-2021, the amounts spent in the area for regional programmes are estimated at more than EUR 10 million. The results achieved include the organisation of a large-scale regional disaster simulation exercise in Moldova, closer cooperation among all six Eastern partner countries as well as with the EU and UCPM; exercises, exchanges of experts, guidelines and tools have been developed in all EaP partner countries to further mainstreaming EU standards and practices in their national legislation.

Specific Objective 6: Enhancing sub-regional, regional and European neighbourhood-wide collaboration and cross-border cooperation.

ENI support towards cross-border cooperation amounts at EUR 482 million for the overall 2014-2020 period.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, there has been positive progress on increasing credibility of the Union for the Mediterranean through regular ministerial meetings and conferences (indicator 4). The UfM has proceeded according to the 2021 UfM Work Programme, organizing a number of events and three Ministerial meetings (Energy, Blue Economy, Environment and Climate Action). Due to the pandemic, there was a predominance of online and hybrid formats, which had an impact on the budget, as in 2020. On 29 November 2021, the Sixth Regional Forum of the UfM took place in Barcelona, back-to-back with the EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting. In addition, four SOMs took place from February to December, the last one having approved the 2022 UfM Work Programme and the UfM Operating Grant to support the functioning of the UfM in 2022. Notwithstanding the pandemic situation, which made travelling and planning difficult, the UfM was able to continue its engagement on progress through projects.

Regarding indicator 2 "Number of ministerial, platform and panel meetings under the Eastern Partnership" there had been a substantial increase of the number of events up to 2019 (mainly due to requests coming from high-level decision-makers). However, in 2020 and 2021 the numbers dropped due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Last year, the implementation of the Eastern Partnership policy reached a new milestone. 2021 was primarily focused on the conceptualisation and political endorsement of the next stage of the EU's cooperation with the region, including setting new targets and adopting the Multiannual Action Programmes. A Joint Staff Working Document was adopted on 2 July 2021, laying out the post-2020 Eastern Partnership priorities (SWD 2021/186). Leaders of the EU and Eastern Partners endorsed this new agenda at the Sixth Eastern Partnership Summit in December 2021. The post-2020 Eastern Partnership agenda is built on the five policy priorities set out in the Joint Communication, and is structured around two equal pillars: Governance and Investment. The latter includes a EUR 2.3 billion Economic and Investment Plan for the Eastern Partnership region, which will leverage up to EUR 17 billion in private and public investments. Flagship projects have been identified under the EIP for each partner country, in order to kick-start implementation. Cooperation within the region also progressed, as the three associated partners formalised and intensified their joint work on their European path. Partners also undertook intense preparations and negotiations for launching regional roaming and spectrum agreements – both of which are expected to be finalised in 2022.

Conclusions

The Common Implementing Regulation (in Article 17) requires a mid-term review report of the EU's external financing instruments ('the instruments') to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring the effective

implementation of the EU's assistance. The mid-term review COM(2017) 720 final and the related staff working documents were published on 15 December 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments were still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling. The main findings of the evaluation point to a need to adapt the way the instruments are implemented, notably through a more strategic and overarching programming and ensuring coherent interactions at operational level in the renewed international context.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments including the DCI, ENI, EIDHR, IcSP, PI and IPA II. The mid-term review final reports SWD (2017) 600, 602, 604, 607, 608 and 463 respectively, were presented by the Commission on 15 December 2017. The SWD (2019) 418 final, presented the findings of the evaluation of the EU's support to economic governance in enlargement and neighbourhood countries, finalised in August 2017. In addition, COM(2020) 224 final reported on the implementation of the European Fund for Sustainable Development that provides its initial assessment of the main evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and value added.

At the mid-term of their implementation (2014-2020), the instruments overall shown themselves to be fit for purpose. The DCI was found to be largely on track to deliver on its objectives and commitments. The ENI was found overall relevant and an instrument that allowed the EU to implement the reviewed Neighbourhood policy. The EIDHR with its wide and comprehensive scope, it was and has remained an enabling, flexible and responsive instrument to protect and promote human rights and democracy worldwide, at international, regional and local levels. The IcSP was found on track to achieve the objectives for which it was designed and it was considered to perform a unique function of crisis response and conflict prevention, triggered by EU political priorities, contextual needs and opportunities in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The PI proved its continued relevance to long standing EU priorities and demonstrated its flexibility through responses to new and changed policy priorities that have arisen since its adoption.

As requested by the EU Regulation No 236/2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action, in its Art. 17, a final evaluation report on the period from 2014 to 2020 shall be established by the Commission within the interim review of the successor instruments in the next financial period. This evaluation is expected to be launched in 2023.

During 2021 one strategic evaluation in the neighbourhood region was completed. The Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of migration assessed EU's external action contribution in the policy area of migration in the period 2008-2018, in particular in the areas of labour legal migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, in Enlargement, Neighbourhood, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (Central and South) regions. DG NEAR was in the lead, in close collaboration with DG INTPA. The evaluation concluded that over the period reviewed, the EU developed an increasingly comprehensive approach to migration. The EU's Development and Enlargement policies, which themselves evolved over the reference period, offered a solid foundation for implementing the EU's external policy agenda. The range of financing instruments, modalities, and channels available is impressive (if sometimes confusing to outsiders). Yet, despite progress, the EU has found it challenging to deliver results in the three areas here covered – legal (labour) migration, trafficking in human beings, and smuggling of migrants – that are in line with its aspirations.

Seven strategic evaluations were under implementation during the reporting period (namely evaluations on Environment and climate change, TAIEX Instrument and EU cooperation with the United Nations and five country evaluations of Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia, Georgia). In addition, three new evaluations in neighbourhood region were launched in 2021 (evaluation of DG NEAR Blending Instruments, and country evaluations of Ukraine and Palestine).

3.1.3.4 Performance of corresponding 2014-2020 programme Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

Between 2014 and 2020, the IcSP funded activities in the areas of (1) crisis response, (2) conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness, and (3) response to global, trans-regional and emerging threats. While IcSP ended on 31 December 2020, numerous launched activities will continue to be implemented in parallel with those under the new NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme for peace, stability and conflict prevention.

The instrument's activities are implemented in partner countries around the world, in conflict zones, in post-conflict environments and in emerging crisis settings.

With a view to allowing the EU to respond quickly to crises, 70% of IcSP funds (total IcSP funds of EUR 2.4 billion) was allocated to the non-programmable crisis response component (Article 3). Longer-term programmable actions to strengthen capacity for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness (Article 4), as well as responses to global, trans-regional and emerging threats (Article 5) represented 9% and 21% of the overall budget respectively. This amount included EUR 100 million specifically for capacity building of military actors in support of development and security for development (CBSD) following the adaptation of the IcSP Regulation in 2016 to enable funding of such assistance.

The IcSP was a key element in EU's diplomatic efforts to respond to crises, promote peace-building and support conflict prevention efforts. Funding of actions was determined by EU's political priorities. Overall, in the period 2014-2020 EUR, 1.73 billion was committed under the crisis-response and peacebuilding components (IcSP Article 3 and Article 4), with over 300 financing decisions adopted and about 1 000 interventions implemented. For the responses to global, trans-regional and emerging threats, EUR 494 million was committed through 7 financing decisions.

The mid-term review conducted in 2017 noted that IcSP administrative costs were lower than other external financing instruments, that budget execution was satisfactory overall and that contractual procedures and direct selection of implementing partners promoted efficiency.

SO1 In a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, to swiftly contribute to stability by providing an effective response designed to help preserve, establish or re-establish the conditions essential to the proper implementation of the EU's external policies and actions in accordance with Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union

During the period 2014-2020, 364 IcSP crisis response actions (exceptional assistance measures (EAM) and interim response programmes (IRP)) were presented to EU Member States in the Political and Security Committee (PSC) via 43 IcSP Information Notes. These actions were guided by the EU policy priorities and objectives responding to developments in crisis and conflict affected countries and regions.

The IcSP delivered timely responses but on occasion, the percentage of actions adopted within 3 months of a crisis context (i.e. the period from date of presentation to PSC to date of adoption of the financing decision) dipped. The variations of results was mainly due to human resource limitations. For example, during the establishment of the FPI Regional Teams 13 (RTs) in 2017, a large number of staff moved to new workplaces which caused disruptions in workflows (from 61% in 2016 to 47% in 2017). However, in the longer term, the establishment of Regional Teams allowed a significant increase in performance. The establishment of the RTs allowed FPI staff to support all Delegations in a world region equally. Furthermore, the distribution of tasks between Headquarters and RTs staff was organised in order to improve work organisation. Where the KPIs before the establishment of the RTs were 68% (2014), 64% (2015) and 61% (2016), they improved to 82% (2018), 91.3% (2019) and 86% (2020) after their establishment.

Furthermore, the adaptations both in terms of actions and of working modalities in connection with the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 combined with the highest net amount of new crisis response actions, delayed the adoption of actions, while still remaining well above the objective of 75% of adoptions within three months of presentation to PSC.

In terms of emerging crises, the IcSP has been instrumental in the development of the EU Early Warning System, which subsequently allowed for mobilisation of timely and targeted IcSP actions in analysed countries.

In 2021, timely interventions under the Rapid Response Pillar of NDICI-Global Europe continued to be adopted, for example in the countries of the Sahel, Libya, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Belarus, Moldova and Colombia. These actions contributed to conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue, confidence building and post-conflict peace building, and the promotion of effective global governance and multilateralism.

SO2: To contribute to preventing conflicts and to ensuring the capacity and preparedness to address pre- and post-crisis situations and build peace.

Actions contributed to strengthening dialogue and cooperation with civil society on issues pertaining to conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and to empowering local civil-society actors to play an active role in conflict-affected contexts, contributing to more resilient societies and to building long-term peace as shown by Financing decisions, annual action programmes and contracts. One example is the Recovery and Peace Building Assessment framework developed with the UN and the World Bank.

Actions also supported the EU commitment to multilateralism, including a successful strategic cooperation on peace-building and mediation with the United Nations and other international organisations. Through 75 action grants to civil society organisations from 2014-2020, IcSP has supported locally-driven-conflict-prevention actions in more than 30 countries, which strengthened the role of women and youth in confidence building activities and peace processes.

In 2021, work to coordinate international efforts in conflict prevention, peace building and post-conflict settings continued with the United Nations (UN), other international organisations as well as international and local civil society actors. The same applies regarding efforts to address global and trans-regional threats to security and peace, e.g. through support to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, an independent private-public partnership to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas, which continued in 2021.

SO 3: To address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability

Actions contributed to the establishment and expansion of sustainable cooperation frameworks and networks to address the most salient global and trans-regional threats to peace and security, in a rapidly evolving global security landscape. Ongoing complex conflicts and insecurity in and around the EU neighbourhood, compound-risks linked to climate change and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with an increasingly agile, and often state-embedded transnational organised crime landscape put unprecedented pressure on the traditional concept and implementation of external policy.

Engagement in areas such as counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, the fight against organised crime, the protection of critical infrastructure and the mitigation of risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk

13 The FPI Regional Teams were set up in 2017 to group FPI staff in regional teams rather than in individual Delegations. This has opened up the use of actions to those Delegations that had not previously benefitted from FPI staff and it has added value by creating regional approaches in FPI's area of work.

mitigation and protecting critical infrastructure reinforced the EU’s role a credible and responsive external cooperation partner and a global security actor.

Certain IcSP actions also played a pioneering role, testing out approaches in different countries and regions that were subsequently scaled-up under the European Development Fund and are now integrated in the new NDICI-Global Europe instrument. Examples include actions in support of police cooperation and counter-terrorism in the Sahel, preventing and countering the financing of terrorism in the Horn of Africa, and police cooperation in Latin America. Pilot Actions also successfully responded to growing concerns about the role of climate change as a threat to peace and security and enabled EU to swiftly support partner countries in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, notably via the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative.

Recognising that internal and external security are ever more intertwined, IcSP actions also supported the external dimension and orientations of EU strategies and action plans on counter-terrorism, organised crime and trafficking in human beings, supporting partner countries in building and enhancing their prevention and response capacities.

3.1.3.5 Performance of corresponding 2014-2020 programme Partnership Instrument (PI)

During the period 2014-2020, the Partnership Instrument (PI) strengthened EU policy promoting its interests, values and visibility externally. It operated under the framework defined by the EU Global Strategy and other EU policies (Commission’s priorities, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals) and in wider support of EU foreign policy objectives. Programming centred on themes rather than country-focused considerations. For example, PI actions underpinned bilateral and regional dialogues in multiple areas of strategic EU interest and bilateral and multilateral negotiations by providing support for concrete policy deliverables, thereby strengthening the EU position as a credible partner. Other actions aimed at developing common approaches with key partners to influence international processes and agendas, thereby underpinning multilateralism, fostering the building of partnerships and alliances in a global context and contributing to the rules-based global order. In the area of trade policy, the PI provided unprecedented support to the EU’s trade agenda, focusing on countries/regions where trade and investment agreements exist or are being negotiated. Further actions enabled the EU to promote its standards abroad, help develop a level playing field and create opportunities for its companies. Public and cultural diplomacy actions enabled the EU to promote its image and understanding abroad, engaging with key decision-makers and target groups in strategic partner countries thereby fostering itself as an influential and reliable global partner.

The mid-term review conducted in 2017 considered that the programming and implementation arrangements set up for the PI reflect the instrument’s need for flexibility. The review also noted that administrative costs were proportionate and reasonable.

In 2021, the Partnership Instrument maintained a high level of operations with 25 stand-alone actions adopted with a budget of EUR 81.9 million covering the following areas: Sustainable development and the environment; Climate, energy action and urbanisation; Digitalisation; Trade agreements and market access; Raising the profile of the EU through Public and Cultural Diplomacy; Health; Promoting and upholding EU values.

These actions enabled and facilitated numerous strategic policy dialogues and information exchange activities with partner countries, thereby extending the reach and depth of EU foreign policy. Besides stand-alone actions which have a medium- to long-term nature, there are two tools for short-term actions under the Partnership Instrument (Policy Support Facility and TAIEX), where respectively 32 and 14 actions were contracted in 2021.

Activities under the Partnership Instrument contributing to addressing the COVID-19 under the Team Europe initiative continued by leveraging the EU’s role as policy maker and standard-setter to address and contain the negative impact of the pandemic on global health and in socio-economic terms.

3.2. Key achievements

3.2.1 Corresponding 2014-2020 programme: Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

158	772 930 km ²	23.3 million	39 ¹⁴	3.4 million	20.1 million	At least 66	At least 35
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¹⁴ *List of countries:

- Bilateral programmes (BS) – 12: Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Cambodia, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru, Barbados, Haiti, Jordan
 - Countries supported by the global thematic programme on “Improving synergies between SP and PFM” - additional 13: (Cambodia), Nepal, Uganda, Ethiopia, Angola, (Senegal), Burkina Faso, (Paraguay), (Bangladesh), Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, (Peru), Sri Lanka, and Togo
 - Bilateral programmes (programme approach) – additional 14: (Angola), (Ethiopia), Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, (Malawi), (Nigeria), Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, China, Tajikistan, Yemen, Iraq, Honduras, Lebanon, Palestine.

Countries and cities supported to develop or implement strategies for climate change or disaster risk reduction from 2013-2021	of areas protected (biodiversity/forest) with the support of EU development projects (aggregated results with EU support between 2013 and 2020)	women, adolescent girls and children reached by the 2013-2020 EU interventions (e.g. for improved diets and breastfeeding, household resilience, food security, health care and stunting reduction)	partner countries receiving support for making their national social protection system more inclusive, financially sustainable and responsive to shocks (i.e. COVID-19) in 2020	children living in crises and conflict receiving education through Education Cannot Wait since its inception (2018-2020)	people on anti-retroviral treatment for HIV in countries supported through contributions to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, Malaria in the year 2020	countries received additional grants in 2020 from the Global Partnership for Education to help continue learning through the COVID-19 pandemic through high and low-tech means	Countries supported under the GPGC to improve migration governance and management
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57	Nearly 90
new partnerships of decentralized cooperation were established in 2021 among more than 100 local authorities of the EU Member States and those of partner countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and neighbourhood to contribute to SDG 11 and SDG 17 achievements with a peer to peer approach	CSO Roadmaps have been renewed in 2021 with the assistance to the EU Delegations of the dedicated Roadmap Facility

Under the program Partnerships for Sustainable Cities, a call for proposal was launched in February 2021 and successfully concluded in December 2021 with 15 new partnerships set up for a total budget of EUR 39M million and attributed to Delegations for management. With the Support measures of the MIP 2018-2020 and with ATA credits, DG INTPA established a coordination committee of the 57 partnerships grants, as well as an agreement with the OECD for a homogeneous monitoring of the partnership and their contribution to SDG 11 and SDG 17 implementation and SDGs localization.

In November, the Commission organized together with the Committee of Regions the last edition of the “Cities and Regions for International Partnerships” Forum - focusing on two key themes as “Sustainable & Green Recovery” and “Participatory Citizenship & Good Governance”. The Forum registered a record breaking of 700 registrations, representing local and regional authorities' representatives from more than 80 countries. The Forum was an excellent opportunity to assess the relevance of the support to be given to local and regional authorities and the potential of their peer-to-peer cooperation within the programming and implementation of EU funds under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Specific Grant Agreements concluded with five signatories of the Framework Partnerships Agreements were implemented focusing most of their activities on support to Local Authorities and their associations in facing the COVID crisis and preparing the stakeholders to the new approach of the NDICI-Global Europe regulation with the geographisation of the Local Authorities thematic budget line. In 2022, the 5 Strategic Partnerships with the Regional and Global Associations of Local Authorities (operating and action grants) will be renewed under the Budget 2021-27 for a total amount of EUR 50 million.

3.2.2. Corresponding 2014-2020 programme: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

over 54 400	165	12	115
human rights defenders (HRDs) at risk supported during the	countries covered by the Global Monitor of COVID-	Electoral processes and democratic cycles	Number of election observers deployed in 2021

period 2014-2021	19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights created in 2021	supported, observed, and followed by means of Election Observation Missions (fully-fledged Electoral Observation Missions, Election Experts Missions, Election Follow-up Missions, complementary activities) in 2021	
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3.2.3 Corresponding 2014-2020 programme: European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD)

17	7	
EFSD guarantee agreements signed	Loan portfolio guarantees signed by the end of 2021 and 20 million Euros already committed within 100 million Euro FMO NASIRA programme, enabling financing of underserved youth, migrant and female and COVID-19 entrepreneurs from South Africa, Kenya, Jordan, Armenia and Nigeria.	

3.2.4 Corresponding 2014-2020 programme European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

8 400 000	307 937	88 000	177 851	11 000 000
beneficiaries were supported in 2014-2020 by the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian	self-entrepreneurs were supported in 2014-2020 by the Competitiveness & Green Growth Program contributing to efforts to reduce informal employment in Morocco	students and academic staff from the Neighbourhood countries enabled by the Erasmus+ to study or teach in the EU in 2014-2020	Small and Medium Enterprises were supported by the EU4Buisness initiative in 2016-2020 by improving access to finance, business development services and enabling environment	items of personal protective equipment and other medical supplies were delivered in 2020 to the Eastern Partnership partner countries together with the World Health Organisation

10 000
prosecutors were helped to conduct integrity vetting under the Support to Rule of Law Reforms in Ukraine (PRAVO) in 2020-2021, which expanded its innovative Model Courts initiative from 6 local courts to 76 courts countrywide helping these courts to perform more effectively and provide more user-friendly services to citizens in line with

the best EU practices

3.2.5 Corresponding 2014-2020 programme Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

47	6	7	9	1	88
Number of crisis response actions adopted during 2021	Number of mediation expert assignments undertaken under the IcSP Mediation Facility (European Resources for Mediation Support - ERMES) during 2021 to support peacebuilding and conflict resolution.	Number of expert assignments undertaken under the IcSP Security Sector Governance Facility during 2021 to support security sector reform initiatives	Number of expert assignments undertaken under the IcSP Transitional Justice Facility during 2021	Number of new capacity building in support of security and development (CBSD) actions adopted during 2021	Number of partner countries with improved capabilities to tackle transnational organised crime in 2021

3.2.6 Corresponding 2014-2020 programme Partnership Instrument (PI)

33	50
Number of actions requested under the EU-Latin America Policy Dialogue Support Facility in 2021	Number of guidelines drafted by the Cross Border Access to Electronic Evidence – SIRIUS project.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The Common Implementing Regulation (in Article 17) requires a mid-term review report of the EU’s external financing instruments (‘the instruments’) to assess whether these instruments remain fit for purpose, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the EU’s assistance. The mid-term review COM(2017) 720 final and the related staff working documents were published on 15 December 2017, concluding that the current set of instruments were still relevant and has proved to be sufficiently enabling. The main findings of the evaluation point to a need to adapt the way the instruments are implemented, notably through a more strategic and overarching programming and ensuring coherent interactions at operational level in the renewed international context.

A series of external evaluations took place in 2016-2017 on all the instruments including the DCI, ENI, EIDHR, IcSP, PI and IPA II. The mid-term review final reports SWD (2017) 600, 602, 604, 607, 608 and 463 respectively, were presented by the Commission on 15 December 2017. The SWD (2019) 418 final, presented the findings of the evaluation of the EU’s support to economic governance in enlargement and neighbourhood countries, finalised in August 2017. In addition, COM(2020) 224 final reported on the implementation of the European Fund for Sustainable Development that provides its initial assessment of the main evaluation criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence and value added.

At the mid-term of their implementation (2014-2020), the instruments overall shown themselves to be fit for purpose. The DCI was found to be largely on track to deliver on its objectives and commitments. The ENI was found overall relevant and an instrument that allowed the EU to implement the reviewed Neighbourhood policy. The EIDHR with its wide and comprehensive scope, it was and has remained an enabling, flexible and responsive instrument to protect and promote human rights and democracy worldwide, at international, regional and local levels. The IcSP was found on track to achieve the objectives for which it was designed and it was considered to perform a unique function of crisis response and conflict prevention, triggered by EU political priorities, contextual needs and opportunities in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The PI proved its continued relevance to long standing EU priorities and demonstrated its flexibility through responses to new and changed policy priorities that have arisen since its adoption.

During 2021 one strategic evaluation in the neighbourhood region was completed. The Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of migration assessed EU's external action contribution in the policy area of migration in the period 2008-2018, in particular in the areas of labour legal migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, in Enlargement, Neighbourhood, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (Central and South) regions. DG NEAR was in the lead, in close collaboration with DG INTPA.

Where ENI is concerned, sever strategic evaluations were under implementation during the reporting period (namely evaluations on Environment and climate change, TAIEX Instrument and EU cooperation with the United Nations and five country evaluations of Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia, Georgia). In addition, three new evaluations in neighbourhood region were launched in 2021 (evaluation of DG NEAR Blending Instruments, and country evaluations of Ukraine and Palestine).

As requested by the EU Regulation No 236/2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action, in its Art. 17, a final evaluation report on the period from 2014 to 2020 shall be established by the Commission within the interim review of the successor instruments in the next financial period. This evaluation

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To support and foster dialogue and cooperation with third countries and regions in the Neighbourhood, in Sub-Saharan Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in the Americas and the Caribbean; to develop special strengthened partnerships and enhanced political cooperation with the European Neighbourhood, founded on cooperation, peace and stability and a shared commitment to the universal values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, and aiming at deep and sustainable democracy and progressive socio-economic integration as well as people-to-people contacts

Indicator 1: Rule of Law score in relation to countries benefiting from EU assistance

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
Actual Progress										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	percentile rank
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the percentile rank for rule of law which is the expected impact of the cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was already used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF, using the same name and methodology.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The Rule of Law score is expressed as a percentile rank and not an absolute measure of rule of law, thereby severely limiting its use in monitoring rule of law. Indeed the score for one set of countries depends upon the evolution of rule of law in the rest of the countries. For example, an improvement for one set of countries could be entirely due to a drop in the rule of law for the remaining countries. Moreover, when tracking the performance of a single country, statistically significant variations take about a decade to materialise. For more info, see: http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Documents Consequently, this indicator will not be reported upon.

Indicator 2: Proportion of population below the international poverty line

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2017	Milestones									2030
9,3%	7,4%	6,9%	6,4%	6,0%	5,6%	5,2%	4,9%	4,5%	4,2%	3,9%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2017
Data source	https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
Link to the objective	This indicator measures poverty which is the expected impact of the cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF, using the same name and methodology.
Other methodological comments	Even though this data is only available with a long lag, poverty eradication remains the overarching objective of development cooperation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The baseline is the value for 2017 because that is the most recent value available for the world. No more recent data is available.

Specific Objective 2: At global level, to protect, promote and advance human rights, including gender equality and the protection of human rights defenders, including in the most difficult circumstances and urgent situations, democracy, and the rule of law, including accountability mechanisms, to support civil society organisations, to further stability and peace, prevent conflict, thereby contributing to the protection of civilians, to address other global challenges such as, climate change, protection of biodiversity and the environment, as well as migration and mobility;

Indicator 1: Number of victims of human right violations directly benefitting from assistance funded by the EU

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	6 000	18 000	43 000	83 000	126 000	161 000	176 000	184 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of victims)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to the protection of human rights.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 2: Number of women of reproductive age, adolescent girls, and children under 5 reached by nutrition programmes with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	255 000	1 311 000	5 913 000	11 531 000	17 444 000	22 301 000	24 455 000	25 511 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of people)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to basic nutrition, which is a component of one of the 30 human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2014-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2014 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 3: Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	121 000	623 000	2 808 000	5 475 000	8 238 000	10 590 000	11 613 000	12 114 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of smallholders)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to subsistence production, which is a component of one of the 30 human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2014-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2014 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 4: Number of 1-year olds fully immunised with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	10 700 000	21 400 000	32 100 000	32 100 000	42 800 000	53 500 000	64 200 000	74 900 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of 1-year olds)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to basic health services, which is a component of one of the 30 human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2014-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2014 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations.

Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 5: Number of individuals with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facilitation with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
	0	0	101 000	519 000	2 340 000	4 563 000	6 903 000	8 825 000	9 677 000	10 095 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of individuals)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to access to clean water, which is a component of one of the 30 human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 6: Number of students enrolled in education: a) primary education b) secondary education and number of people who have benefitted from institution or workplace-based VET/skills development interventions, supported by the EU

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
a) primary education										
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	869 000	4 463 000	20 131 000	39 256 000	59 388 000	75 924 000	83 258 000	86 853 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									
b) secondary education										
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	277 000	1 423 000	6 420 000	12 519 000	18 939 000	24 213 000	26 552 000	27 698 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									
number of people who have benefitted from institution or workplace-based VET/skills development interventions										
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	21 000	108 000	487 000	1 000 000	1 500 000	1 900 000	2 000 000	2 100 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of students)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to access to clean water, which is one of the 30 human rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2014-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2014 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 7: Proportion of EU funded cooperation promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2014-20	Milestones									2030
58,8%	Actual Progress									85%
										Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's internal financial information management system
Link to the objective	This indicator measures EU support to gender equality.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No interventions with NDICI financing have entered implementation, so this indicator cannot yet be calculated. This indicator reports the number of interventions promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment achieved with NDICI financing divided by the total number of interventions financed by the NDICI. Since financing has not yet begun, both the numerator and denominator are zero, which thereby generates a value of N/A which is not allowed in this field.

Indicator 8: Number of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	251 000	1 287 000	5 807 000	11 324 000	17 131 000	21 901 000	24 016 000	25 053 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of people)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to address the global challenge of migration.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 9: Number of micro, small and medium sized enterprises applying sustainable consumption and production practices with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
	0	0	500	2 600	12 000	23 000	34 000	44 000	48 000	50 000

	Actual Progress								Final
	0								
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of enterprises)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to encouraging practices which will limit climate change and the associated natural disasters.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2014-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2014 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 10: Number of countries and cities with climate change and/or disaster risk reduction strategies with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	50	130	230	330	430	530	630	730
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of strategies)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to developing strategies which will limit climate change and the associated natural disasters.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 11: Greenhouse gas emissions avoided (Ktons CO2eq) with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	628 000	3 227 000	14 556 000	28 383 000	42 939 000	54 895 000	60 198 000	62 797 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	ktons CO2 equivalent
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to developing infrastructure which will limit climate change and the associated natural disasters.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that

	setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 12: Area of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems protected and/or sustainably managed with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	10 000	51 000	232 000	452 000	684 000	874 000	959 000	1 000 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	km2
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to encouraging practices which will protect biodiversity and the environment.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 13: Renewable energy generation capacity installed (MW) with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	200	1 000	5 000	9 000	14 000	17 000	19 000	20 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	MW
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to developing infrastructure which will limit climate change and the associated natural disasters.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2018-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2018 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations. Moreover, it is clear that setting milestones and target for an entire MFF with data for only 3 years imposes further limitations on the validity of these values.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 14: Leverage of investments and multiplier effect achieved

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2017-2020	Milestones									2030
11.68		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
	Actual Progress									Final

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Ratio
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's internal financial information management system
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the financial impact of EU support provided by financial institutions to promote human development in the broadest sense possible.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Leverage will vary from one blending/guarantee to another. With this indicator we just want to monitor the leverage of the portfolio as a whole. The point is to ensure that a minimum level of leverage is being achieved on average. Therefore, at the beginning of the period when the portfolio is composed of few blendings/guarantees, it is entirely possible that important deviations from the milestones are observed. As time goes by and the portfolio grows there should be a convergence to a value that is at least 10.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	This indicator reports leverage achieved with NDICI financing. Since financing has not yet begun, we cannot measure the leverage yet. So, the target and value for 2021 is "N/A", which is not the same as zero.

Specific Objective 3: To respond rapidly to: situations of crisis, instability and conflict including those which may result from migratory flows and forced displacement and hybrid threats; resilience challenges, including natural and man-made disasters, and linking of humanitarian aid and development action; as well as the Union’s foreign policy needs and priorities.

Indicator 1: Number of individuals directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict, peace building or conflict prevention

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020: 0	Milestones									2030
	0	0	38 000	194 000	875 000	1 707 000	2 582 000	3 301 000	3 620 000	3 776 000
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of individuals)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the EU support provided to the people living in situations of crisis, instability and conflict.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Milestones and target have been calculated using the partial data that was collected over 2014-20. Results data collection for this indicator only started in 2014 and improvements were made every subsequent year, but the total value for the period has significant limitations.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 2: Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2030
0	0	0	1	4	8	13	18	24	27	30
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
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Unit of measurement	Number (of processes)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the effort to promote EU foreign policy needs and priorities with the EU support provided to partner countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	This indicator is the same as KPI 11 identified in NDICI regulation (annex 6) as one of the overall indicators of NDICI. It is the only indicator on the NDICI KPI list which matches funding of actions channeled through FPI.4 (be these from FPN rapid response or geographical pillars). This means all FPI.4 actions contribute to this absolutely highest level of indicator for our FPI.4 actions. As it is an impact level indicator, results can be measured only after the actions have ended.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

Indicator 3: Number of EU funded initiatives supporting the implementation of political, economic and social reforms and joint agreements in partner countries

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									
0	0									
	Actual Progress									Final
	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of initiatives)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DG INTPA's intervention monitoring and reporting systems
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the effort to promote EU foreign policy needs and priorities with the EU support provided to partner countries.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	It was not possible to set milestones and target as this is a new indicator without any historical data.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

General Objective 1: Establishing an area of shared prosperity and good neighbourliness involving the Union and the partner countries by developing a special relationship founded on cooperation, peace and security, mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with the Treaty on EU.

Indicator 1: Number of comprehensive agreements and individual ENP Action Plans in place with interested neighbouring countries

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Neighbourhood East										
2012	Milestones									2023
5 AA & 5 AP				The negotiations and conclusions of agreements and ENP action plans show a						5 Association or similarly comprehensive Agreements in force and 5 Action Plans

				positive trend.						
	Actual Progress									Final
	3 & 3	3 & 3	3 & 3	4 & 4	5 & 5	5 & 5	5&5			
Are we on track :	On track									
Neighbourhood South										
2012	Milestones									2023
8 AA				The negotiations and conclusions of agreements and ENP action plans show a positive trend.						4 Partnership Priorities signed
	Actual Progress									Final
	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8 & 8	8			
Are we on track :	On track									
CBC										
2012	Milestones									2020
2 ENPI CBC Programmes										900 projects implemented by ENI CBC progr.
	Actual Progress									Final
	CBC: adoption of ENI CBC implementing rules and of one ENI CBC support progr.	13 ENI CBC joint operational programmes (JOPs) adopted	2 more ENI CBC JOPs adopted (15 overall) and 16 Financing Agreements (FAs) signed	7 more FAs signed (23 overall)	Partnership	All FAs in force; 411 projects contracted, including 47 LIPs (484 overall)	768 projects contracted, including 49 large infrastructure projects	936 including 49 large infrastructure projects		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Agreements (AA) or Partnership Priorities (PP) & Action plans (AP) in force
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	South: Baseline 2021: Association Agreements in force with 8 of the 10 southern partners (excluding Libya and Syria). Previous Partnership priorities valid until 2021 were extended for all countries, and new ones are being negotiated. Negotiations are concluded with Jordan and an agreement could be close with Egypt. An EU agreed text was concluded on Lebanon, but no agreement yet to transmit text to Lebanese authorities, given the political situation. Work is still ongoing for Algeria. PPs for Tunisia and Morocco are on hold due to the political context, although tensions with Morocco are easing. For Palestine and Israel there are valid Action Plans until end of 2021, and their extension until 2024 is waiting for formal agreement. For Syria and Libya no Joint Documents are under consideration, and programming is done under EU Special Measures. East: Three Association Agreements in force with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, a CEPA in force with Armenia, and PP with Azerbaijan.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued for the next MFF
Other methodological comments	13 of 15 ongoing ENI CBC directly impacted by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. 9 FAs with Russia and Belarus suspended, 4 programmes with Ukraine under review to assess possible increased support/additional measures for Ukraine.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	East:2014-2020: three Association Agreements entered in force with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, a Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) enter into force with Armenia, and Partnership Priorities (PP) concluded with Azerbaijan (with whom the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in force since 1999 is still the basis for relations, while a new Agreement is being concluded). All the five countries count with equivalent documents to Action Plans (Association Agendas for Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; a CEPA Roadmap for Armenia, and the PP for

	Azerbaijan. South: 2014-2018: 8 AA. 8 AP or similar documents (Partnership Priorities).No AA with Syria and Libya due to crisis situations in these countries. 2022: 8 AA still in force for the southern countries. 6 Partnership priorities validity extended until new ones are agreed upon and 2 action plans valid until end 2021 (IL, PS). Political instability in the Region, and some delay on the EU side led to slow progress in 2020/2021, but 2022 should allow for faster progress from both sides, and agreements are close with JO and EG, and could progress with DZ ad MO. TN and LB need for further political clarity on their domestic situation before further progress.
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Specific Objective 1: Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, principles of equality and fight against discrimination in all its forms, establishing deep and sustainable democracy, promoting good governance, fight against corruption, strengthening institutional capacity at all levels and developing a thriving civil society including social partners.

Indicator 2: Weighted score based on eight external sources (Corruption Perception (Transparency International), Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders), Freedom of Press (Freedom House), Government Effectiveness (World Bank), Control of Corruption (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Voice and Accountability (World Bank) and Regulatory Quality (World Bank))

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2010	Milestones									2023
38	42									50
	Actual Progress									Final
	40.7	40.06	39.65	39.8	39.98	47.26	50.66			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Values: 1 (Worst) - 100 (Best);
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Source: Eight external sources:Corruption Index (Transparency International) - http://www.transparency.org/countryControl of Corruption (World Bank) - http://web.worldbank.orgPress Freedom (Reporters without Borders) - https://rsf.org/index2014Freedom of Press (Freedom House) - http://www.freedomhouse.org/Government Effectiveness (World Bank) - http://web.worldbank.orgRule of Law (World Bank) - http://web.worldbank.orgRegulatory Quality (World Bank) - http://web.worldbank.orgVoice and Accountability (World Bank) - http://web.worldbank.org
Narrative	
Methodology	The indicator is a weighted score based on 8 external sources taken in three groups, each weighted one third after normalisation:1. Corruption Index (Transparency International) and Control of Corruption (World Bank);2. Press Freedom (Reporters without Borders) and Freedom of Press (Freedom House);3. Government Effectiveness (World Bank), Rule of Law (World Bank), Regulatory Quality (World Bank) and Voice and Accountability (World Bank).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued for the next MFF
Other methodological comments	It should be noted that the indicators are based mostly on perceptions and do not necessarily reflect the impacts made by the EU assistance and policy in these areas. There are also many external factors, such as political instability and security situation, which might influence overall scores. Therefore, these indicators only indirectly influenced by EU actions.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Overall, the trend in the neighbourhood has been fluctuating, but the most recent development has seen a leap in the score and the target was exceeded for the first time since the reporting period.

Specific Objective 2: Achieving progressive integration into the Union internal market and enhanced sector and cross-sectoral cooperation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence towards Union and other relevant international standards and improved market access including through deep and comprehensive free trade areas, related institution building and investments, notably in interconnections.

Indicator 2: Number of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) and Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAA)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Neighbourhood East										

	Milestones									2023
0 signed (DCFTA), 0 (ACAA), 4 DCFTA and 0 ACAA under negotiation			3 DCFTA in place							3 DCFTA in place
	Actual Progress									Final
	3 AA/DCFTA	3AA/DCFTA	3AA/DCFTA							
Are we on track :	On track									
Neighbourhood South										
	Milestones									2023
0 DCFTA, 1 ACAA, 0 Agree			2 DCFTA in place and 2 in negotiations;							4 DCFTA in place;
	Actual Progress									Final
	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport, 2 MoU on Energy	1 ACAA and 3 agreements on air transport, 2 MoU on Energy	
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) and Agreements on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAA)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued in next MFF
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Negotiations are ongoing with several Southern Partners, but notwithstanding EU's efforts and flexibility, progress is difficult, due to political tensions with MA, strong popular resistance and political uncertainty in TN. Ongoing trade disputes with DZ could be smoothed in 2022, and the conclusion of political agreements with JO and EG could lead to better trade and investment relations. East: Three AA/DCFTA in force with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Specific Objective 3: Creating conditions for the better organisation of legal migration and the fostering of well managed mobility of people, for the implementation of existing or future agreements concluded in line with the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, and for promotion of people-to-people contacts, in particular in relation to cultural, educational, professional and sporting activities.

Indicator 1: Number of Mobility Partnerships in place

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Neighbourhood East										
2012	Milestones									2023
3										4
	Actual Progress									Final
	4	4	4	5	5	6	6	6		
Are we on track :	On track									
Neighbourhood South										
2012	Milestones									2023
1										4
	Actual Progress									Final
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Mobility Partnerships
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Information from Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).
Narrative	South: Baseline 2012: Mobility Partnership signed with one country in 2013. Preparatory discussions launched with two countries. East: De facto suspension of the EU-BY Mobility Partnership: currently no cooperation/contacts are maintained under the EU-BY Mobility Partnership, in line with the October 2020 Council Conclusions. This applies also to the technical level.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued for the next MFF
Other methodological comments	Mobility Partnerships declarations are the instrument through which the EU and its partners in the Neighbourhood intend to set a framework to manage migration flows with commonly agreed objectives and programmes. Mobility Partnerships follow the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility guidelines. Thus, they are a good measure of the achievements in this field.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The first indicator (number of mobility partnerships in place) is an example of good performance where the targets have been either met (Neighbourhood East) or almost (Neighbourhood South).

Indicator 2: Number of readmission/visa facilitation agreements and Visa Liberalisation Action Plans (VLAP) in place

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Neighbourhood East										
2008	Milestones									2020
1										4
	Actual Progress									Final
	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6		
Are we on track :										
Neighbourhood South										
	Milestones									2020
0										5
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of readmission/visa facilitation agreements and Visa Liberalisation Action Plans (VLAP) in place
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Information from Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME).
Narrative	East: Visa liberalisation continues to be in place with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements in place with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. There has been a partial suspension of the Visa Facilitation Agreement (VFA) with Belarus: in November 2021, the Council adopted the Commission proposal on the partial suspension of the EU-BY VFA [the suspension concerns government officials of Belarus (members of Belarus official delegations; members of Belarus national and regional Governments and Parliaments, Belarus Constitutional Court and Belarus Supreme Court)].
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	Based on visa facilitation/ liberalisation agreements, both the EU and the non-EU citizens benefit from facilitated procedures for issuing visas. Visa facilitation/liberalisation agreements are linked to readmission agreements which establish the procedures for the return of persons in irregular situation (own or third country nationals or stateless persons) to the EU or to the partner non-EU country. Readmission and visa facilitation/liberalisation agreements are key elements to assess progress regarding mobility and the promotion of people to people contacts.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	the target attained for the Eastern Neighbourhood. In the Southern Neighbourhood, no readmission and visa facilitation agreements have been concluded due to sensitive and complex negotiations in an uncertain political environment.

Specific Objective 4: Supporting smart, sustainable and inclusive development in all aspects; poverty reduction, including through private-sector development and reduction of social exclusion; promotion of capacity building in science, education and in particular higher education, technology, research and

innovation; promotion of internal economic, social and territorial cohesion; rural development; public health; environmental protection, climate action and disaster resilience.

Indicator 1: Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Neighbourhood East										
2011	Milestones									2023
4			6							5
	Actual Progress									Final
	5	6	5	7	6	6				
Are we on track :	No data									
Neighbourhood South										
2011	Milestones									2023
3			8							8
	Actual Progress									Final
	6	8	5	8	8	8				
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of countries
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2019
Data source	UNDP - http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/download-data
Narrative	There was no update of the report since 2020.
Methodology	Number of countries with indicator ≥ 0.7 (between high and very high human development).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued for the next MFF
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The trend for this indicator, which is based on UNDP's human development index, has been stable and going towards the target.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting confidence building, good neighbourly relations and other measures contributing to security in all forms and the prevention and settlement of conflicts, including protracted conflicts.

Indicator 1: Political stability and absence of violence: number of countries in a percentile rank above 0-30 (lowest rank)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Neighbourhood East										
2011	Milestones									2023
4	6			5						3
	Actual Progress									Final
	4	4	3	3	4	2	2			
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									
Neighbourhood South										
2011	Milestones									2023
7			8							7
	Actual Progress									Final
	4	5	4	5	6	6	6			
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of countries
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	The WB Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)
Narrative	This indicator measures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilised or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically-motivated violence and terrorism.
Methodology	Baseline: Countries in a percentile rank above 0-30 (Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine) and Countries in a percentile rank above 0-10 (Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel) respectively. Milestone 2016 South: 6 and Algeria, Lebanon Target South: 8 countries + Syria

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued for the next MFF
Other methodological comments	This indicator measures perceptions of the likelihood that the government will be destabilized or overthrown by unconstitutional or violent means, including politically - motivated violence and terrorism. Higher values in percentile rank indicate better governance ratings. Source: Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) project (WB group).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In comparison with the previous PS the value has been updated. 2020 is the latest value available on the WB WGI database. The most recent results under this indicator show stability in southern neighbourhood. However, in eastern neighbourhood Belarus score dropped below the threshold, while the score of Georgia increased just above the threshold.

Specific Objective 6: Enhancing sub-regional, regional and Neighbourhood wide collaboration as well as Cross-Border Cooperation.

Indicator 2: Number of ministerial, platform and panel meetings under the Eastern Partnership

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
75				85						90
	Actual Progress									Final
					87	110	85	48		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Policy dialogue events that were organised.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	There has been a substantial increase of the number of events over the last years. This is mainly due to the increased number of the requests coming from high-level decision-makers. However, in 2020 the number dropped again due to the Covid crisis.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued in the next MFF
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	There has been a substantial increase of the number of events in 2018 and 2019. This is mainly due to the increased number of the requests coming from high-level decision-makers. However, in 2020 and 2021 the number dropped again due to the continued effects of the Covid crisis.

Indicator 4: Increased credibility of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) through a high number of ministerial meetings establishing regional sector priorities and through the engagement of regional cooperation, finance and planning ministers via the holding of UFM ministerial conferences on regional cooperation and planning

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2014	Milestones									2023
3		3	6	9	12	15				24
	Actual Progress									Final
	3		6	9	10	11	12	16		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Ministerial meetings establishing regional sector priorities.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	Meetings chronologically: 2014 (Baseline): Three ministerial meetings establishing regional sector priorities Ministries of Finance, Planning and International Cooperation relatively un-engaged in regional cooperation. No cooperation ministerial ever held. 2016: Three new: UfM ministerial meetings organised in the field of cooperation and planning; energy; labour and employment took place in 2016. 2017: Three new: Youth; Water; Sustainable urban development; Women's Empowerment. 2018: One new: Trade 2019: One new: Ministerial Conference in the field of Employment and Labour. 2020: One new: trade ministerial. 2021 Four Ministerial meetings took place: Sustainable Blue Economy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and the Regional Forum (Foreign Affairs).
Methodology	Cumulative measurement of meetings.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Discontinued for the next MFF

Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Notwithstanding the pandemic situation, which made travelling and planning difficult, the UfM was able to gather Ministers both in the EU and Cairo, or numerous activities took place also virtually, continuing UfM's engagement on progress through projects.

Previous Program 2: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

General Objective 1: Enhancing the respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and strengthening their protection, promotion, implementation and monitoring, mainly through support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse.

Indicator 1: Level of implementation of United Nations Universal Periodic Review* recommendations which have been accepted by states in percentage

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
0.337	0.338	0.339	0.342	0.345	0.348	0.35	0.353			0.353
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage (recommendations accepted/total UPR recommendations)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2017
Data source	The data has not been available since 2017. These data are monitored by the UN OHCHR and the UNHRC. Reports can be found through UN OHCHR web site. Data from all developing countries; source: http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/-david_frazier_paper_upr_implementation_2011-2.pdf . at mid-term review of the 1st UPR cycle, data from UPR-info : http://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/2014_beyond_promises.pdf . Data retrieved from https://www.upr-info.org/database/ ; Of accepted recommendations of the first UPR cycle were either partly or fully implemented, data from UPR-info: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/2016_the_butterfly_effect.pdf
Narrative	
Methodology	Yearly
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The data has not been available since 2017.

General Objective 2: Supporting, developing and consolidating democracy in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, in particular by reinforcing an active role for civil society within this cycle, the rule of law and improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions.

Indicator 1: Number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed, and followed

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2021
20	45	70	95	120	145	170	195	220		220
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Cumulative number (of electoral processes)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The list of projects resulting from a search in CRIS using DAC code 15151

Narrative	This indicator informs us on how many different electoral cycles the EU has been supporting, including through election missions.
Methodology	Electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed and followed include: 1. EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs): fully-fledged election observation missions 2. EU Election exploratory missions.3. EU Election Expert Missions (EEMs): small-scale missions composed of electoral experts of assessment of the election process 4. Complementary activities (studies) which started in 2017: In addition to the electoral missions, preparation of a study or conducting a desk review on an electoral issue and any other activities linked to electoral missions 5. Election Follow up missions 6. Electoral assistance (eg technical assistance, provision of voting material & equipment, support to the registration of political parties and/or of voters, support to civil society organisations in areas such as voter & civic education or training of local observers, media monitoring, etc.) which is provided through a wide array of domain: EIDHR, CSO-LA, FED, ICSP, LA, and the ETF for Africa.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	This indicator builds on the number of electoral process at national level that have been established by partner countries' own constitutional calendars. In 2021 electoral assistance or election observation projects were provided through EU external aid in Armenia Benin Bolivia Burkina Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gaza, Ghana, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo*, Liban, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Perù, RCA, RCI, San Salvador, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan The Gambia Tanzania Uganda Venezuela Zambia Zimbabwe.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The ability to have maintained the support to 35 election cycles, in spite of the pandemic, must be recognized as an unexpected success.

Specific Objective 1: Support to Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk.

Indicator 1: Number of Human Rights Defender individuals who have received EU support (being protected politically, legally and/or physically and pulled out of their position of abuses)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2021
230	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200	1 200
	Actual Progress									Final
	421	258	1 181	1 231	1 394	1 520	1 711	4 445		4 445
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Fondation Internationale pour les Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme (FIDDH) and Protect Defenders consortium (implementing partners of the EU Human Rights Defenders mechanism: EU Emergency Fund for human rights defenders at risk and ProtectDefenders.eu)
Narrative	
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The numbers under ProtectDefenders.eu and the Emergency Fund include individual human rights defenders (HRDs) and their family members, as well as organisations and groups, who received direct support. Training, capacity-building, outreach and advocacy activities conducted in the framework of ProtectDefenders.eu were not included. HRDs benefiting from projects under the human rights crisis facility were not included. HRDs supported by projects financed via global / local calls for proposals or via direct awards were not included.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The number of human rights defenders at risk who receive EU support under the EU Emergency Fund for human rights defenders at risk and ProtectDefenders.eu steadily increases. This is due to increasing restrictions and clampdown on human rights defenders and their working environment.

Indicator 2: Number of crisis response projects implemented under the EIDHR

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2021
10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15		15
	Actual Progress									Final
	15	8	17	27	20	33	40	5		5
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Number (of crisis response projects)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DEVCO B1 EIDHR project database
Narrative	
Methodology	In 2021: five crises facility projects in four different world regions. In 2020: 5 crisis facilities, 2 global projects and 40 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme in 28 countries. In 2019: 4 country-specific projects under the EIDHR Crisis Facility, 2 global projects (EIDHR Emergency Fund and the grant to the EU Comprehensive HRDs mechanism Protectdefenders.eu), and an estimated number of 27 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme (Honduras, Guatemala (2), Venezuela (2), Nigeria, Niger, Ukraine (2), Russia (2), Sudan, Syria, Serbia (3), Peru, Mexico, Iraq, Kenya (2), Colombia (2), Salvador (2), Bolivia, Myanmar). In 2018: five country-specific projects under the EIDHR Crises Facility and an estimated number of 15 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme (e.g. Syria, Congo, Philippines, Ethiopia, Yemen).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	In 2017: four country-specific projects under the EIDHR Crises Facility, one global project and 22 projects under the Country Based Support Scheme (e.g. Syria, Turkey, Philippines, Ethiopia, Yemen). In 2016: at least six projects, four in countries and two regional, under the EIDHR Crises Facility and eleven projects under the Country Based Support Scheme. In 2015: at least 6 in-country projects under the EIDHR Crises Facility and 2 global projects (EIDHR Emergency Fund and the grant to the EU Comprehensive HRDs mechanism Protectdefenders.eu). In 2014 : 9 in country projects (most difficult situations as Belarus, Syria, Ukraine) and 6 global projects were deployed offering a global coverage and compiling a mix of in-country and multi-country projects (most difficult type of HR violation and/or categories of defenders at risk) activities.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	An increase in polarisation and populist politics worldwide and a dearth of geopolitical actors criticising authoritarianism have brought rise to numerous human rights crises, at the same time making it even more difficult for CSOs to work in many countries. Restrictions on freedoms of assembly, association and expression as part of the COVID-19 response have exacerbated these trends.

Specific Objective 2: Support to other priorities of the Union in the fields of human rights

Indicator 1: Number of EIDHR projects in line with EU Guidelines

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2021
150	250	250	250	250	180	180	250	250		250
	Actual Progress									Final
	271	332	132	186	140	204	408	163		163
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Input
Unit of measurement	Number (of projects)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DEVCO G1 EIDHR project database
Narrative	
Methodology	EU guidelines are not legally binding, but because they have been adopted at ministerial level, they represent a strong political signal that they are priorities for the Union. Guidelines are pragmatic instruments of EU Human Rights policy and practical tools to help EU representations in the field better advance our Human Rights policy. They also serve as priorities for defining activities in order to put into practice the political orientation. There are 13 Human Rights Guidelines the EIDHR is delivering on: 1. Violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them (2008, reviewed in 2021) 2. Human Rights dialogues with third countries (2008) 3. Children and armed conflict (2008) see below for more
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	continued from above: 4. Human Rights defenders (2008) 5. International Humanitarian Law (2009) 6. Promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief (2013) 7. Enjoyment of all Human Rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons (2013) 8. Death penalty (2013) 9. Freedom of Expression Online and Offline (2014) 10. Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child (2017) 11. Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2019) 12. EU Guidelines on Non-Discrimination in External Action (2019). 13. EU Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (2019)
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Even though the target was not met in the final year, when considered over the entire period, the

	results obtained greatly exceed the targets set over the same period.
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Indicator 2: Number of Human Rights victims benefitting from EIDHR projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
3 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	4 000			4 000
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of human rights victims)
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Data not available as there is no data collection tool available.
Narrative	
Methodology	Yearly
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Data not available as there is no data collection tool available.

Specific Objective 3: Support to Democracy.

Indicator 1: Percentage of countries belonging to the Democracy Pilot Countries which have improved their V-DEM Electoral Democracy Index

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2021
0	0.15	0.3	0.5	0.65	0.75	0.9	1	1		1
	Actual Progress									Final
		0.416	0.429	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.31	0.27		0.27
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage (number of countries which have improved their VDEM index/total number of Democracy Pilot Countries)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The V-DEM Electoral Democracy Index can be found at V-DEM net (https://v-dem.net/about). This percentage includes both the 1st and 2nd generation of Pilot Countries, in total 13 countries.
Narrative	
Methodology	This indicator measures the Democratic progress in the following countries: Benin, Bolivia, Georgia, Ghana, Lebanon, Malawi, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Timor Leste and Tunisia; based on data from the V-DEM index (electoral democracy indicator).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	The V-DEM Electoral Democracy Index can be found at V-DEM net (https://v-dem.net/about). This percentage includes both the 1st and 2nd generation of Pilot Countries, in total 13 countries.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Decline of democracy in the world unrelated to our projects.

Indicator 2: Percentage of actions of the democracy support action plans implemented

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2021
0	0	0	0.15	0.25	0.45	0.6	1	1		1
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	0	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.4	0.4		0.4
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage (number of actions implemented/total number of actions in democracy support action

	plans)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Data on implementation of Democracy Action Plans, Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies and EOM recommendations follow-up plans
Narrative	
Methodology	Percentage of actions planned by Delegations in the framework of their Democracy Action Plans as reported in the Human Rights and Democracy country strategies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Stable situation in the last years.

Specific Objective 4: EU Election Observation Missions

Indicator 1: Number of electoral processes and democratic cycles supported, observed, and followed by means of Election Observation Missions, Election Assessment Teams and Election Experts Missions proposing recommendations to the host country

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
	Milestones									2020
17	19	21	22	23	18	18	23	7		23
	Actual Progress									Final
	17	16	16	19	21	16	14	5		14
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of electoral processes)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI
Narrative	The actual deployment of missions actually deployed contributes to the Specific Objective 4: EU Election Observation Missions
Methodology	Yearly indicator. The 2021 result reflect the missions delivered under the EIDHR. The electoral missions under NDICI-Global Europe are excluded from the result.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Under the MFF 21/27, the indicator will be merged with Indicator 2 for further alignment with the Annual Activity Report.
Other methodological comments	The indicator includes the:- EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs): fully-fledged election observation missions;- EU Election Assessment Team missions (EATs): limited observation or assessment missions in countries with particularly difficult security situations;Since 2015, no EATs have been deployed. It has been decided either to deploy a fully-fledged EOM or an EEM;- EU Election Expert Missions (EEMs): small scale missions composed of electoral experts of assessment of the election process;- The studies or desk reviews on an electoral issue and any other activities linked to electoral missions that started in 2017.The indicator, however, does not take into account the Exploratory Missions, which aim at preparing EOMs and assess the usefulness, advisability and feasibility of the fully-fledged EOM.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions, security and sanitary situation in the countries, many of the missions could not be deployed in 2020. While FPI put the necessary measures, the activities in 2021 were still influenced by travel restrictions due to the pandemic. Results in 2021 do not include the missions under NDICI-Global Europe.

Indicator 2: Number of Election Follow-up Missions (post-election expert missions) deployed in countries after an Election Observation Mission to assess the implementation of recommendations.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
2	2	3	4	4	5	5	8			8
	Actual Progress									Final
	2	3	3	4	4	7	0	5		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of electoral missions)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI

Narrative	The deployment of follow-up missions deployed contributes to the Specific Objective 4: EU Election Observation Missions. The aim of Election Follow-up Missions is to take stock of the state of implementation of the EOM/EAT recommendations. EFMs are conducted within a period of 2 to 3 years into the electoral cycle (which starts with the initial EOM/EAT mission). They serve to deepen the dialogue with partner countries on the recommendations, but also open up space for wider political dialogue on the governance and rule of law in partner countries. EFMs have been implemented since 2013.
Methodology	Yearly
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Under the MFF 21/27, the indicator will be merged with Indicator 1 for further alignment with the Annual Activity Report.
Other methodological comments	The aim of Election Follow-up Missions is to take stock of the state of implementation of the EOM/EAT recommendations. EFMs are conducted within a period of 2 to 3 years into the electoral cycle (which starts with the initial EOM/EAT mission). They serve to deepen the dialogue with partner countries on the recommendations, but also open up space for wider political dialogue on the governance and rule of law in partner countries. EFMs have been implemented since 2013. The target for 2020 will be difficult to reach since there will be many important elections that will absorb the Human Resources capacities and budget.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	After the slowdown of 2020 activities, FPI has set the necessary Covid mitigation measures and the deployment of the missions has increased with lifting of travel restrictions. In 2021, FPI set the necessary Covid mitigation measures and 5 follow-up missions were deployed, however the activities of 2021 were influenced by movements of travel restrictions due to the pandemic. The 2021 results do not reflect the missions under NDICI-Global Europe.

Specific Objective 5: Support to targeted key actors and processes, including international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms.

Indicator 1: Number of States that have signed and ratified international & regional Conventions and related optional Protocols

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2021
5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10		10
	Actual Progress									Final
	34	53	49	27	24	24	12	15		15
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of states)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	OHCHR website: http://indicators.ohchr.org/ and https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/SitePages/MonthlyReport.aspx
Narrative	
Methodology	This indicator will be based on the information in: https://indicators.ohchr.org/ and https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be not used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	COVID-19 crisis has made the ratification processes more difficult.

Indicator 2: Number of key actors supported, in particular international, regional and national organisations

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
10	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15		15
	Actual Progress									Final
	15	11	10	15	15	15	19	20		20
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of key actors)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	DEVCO G1 implementation data
Narrative	

Methodology	In 2021, 20 key actors: Global Campus of Human Rights (7 stakeholders), ILO-International Labour Organization, IMO-International Organisation for Migration, OHCHR-Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, ICC-International Criminal Court, IACHR-Inter-American Human Rights Court and Commission, Council of Europe, International IDEA, GANHRI-Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and four regional NHRI secretariats (5 stakeholders). Support has also been given to the participation of civil society in key processes, e.g. in human rights negotiations, dialogues, etc. In 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 19 key actors: Global Campus of Human Rights/Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (7 stakeholders), ILO, OHCHR, ICC, IACHR, Council of Europe, International IDEA, GANHRI, four regional NHRI secretariats (5 stakeholders). Support has also been given to the participation of civil society in key processes, e.g. in human rights negotiations, dialogues,...
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF
Other methodological comments	In 2014, 15 key actors: OHCHR-Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, EIUC-European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, National Human Rights Institutes, ICC - International Criminal Court, International Organization for Migration. In 2015, 11 key actors: European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation-EIUC (7 stakeholders), IOM-International Organization for Migration, OHCHR-Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and indirectly the African Union. In 2016, 10 key actors: EIUC (7 stakeholders), ILO-International Labour Organization, OHCHR, UNHCR-UN Refugees Agency.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Support to strategic stakeholders.

Previous Program 3: Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace

Specific Objective 1: In a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, to swiftly contribute to stability by providing an effective response designed to help preserve, establish or re-establish the conditions essential to the proper implementation of the Union's external policies and actions in accordance with Article 21 TEU.

Indicator 1: Percentage of projects adopted within 3 months of a crisis context (date of presentation to PSC).

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
69%	70%									75%
Actual Progress										Final
	68%	64%	61%	47%	82%	91,3%	86%	57%		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI
Narrative	The adoption of decisions on projects (actions) within a limited time contributes directly to the objective to swiftly contribute to stability.
Methodology	Yearly values
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be followed under the MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Since the margin of progress between the baseline (of 69%) and the target (of 75%), it was considered relevant to set only one milestone of 70% in 2018.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	While there was no active financing instrument adopted for the first five and a half months of 2021, the service continued to deliver timely EU responses to high-priority crises on the EU political agenda by relying on the possibilities for retroactive funding confirmed by DG BUDG. The absence of an active financing instrument, meant that actions presented in the three first of the year's six information notes needed to await the adoption of the Regulation before the process for adoption of financing decisions could be launched. The performance for the period during which there was an active financing instrument remains well beyond the target of 75%. In 2021, out of the 43 crisis response financing decisions adopted under the Rapid Response Pillar of NDICI-GE 42 exceptional assistance measures are considered for this indicator (the support measure is not considered). Of those 42 decisions, 24 were adopted (Commission Decision) within 3 months of a crisis context (presentation to PSC), a percentage rate of 57.14%. Of the 42 decisions 24 were presented to PSC after the adoption of the NDICI-GE Regulation on 14 June 2021. Of these 24, 21 were adopted (COM Decision) within 3 months of a crisis context (presentation to PSC), a percentage rate of 87.5%.

Specific Objective 3: To address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability.

Indicator 1: EU contribution towards tackling global and transregional threats, measured as

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Risk Mitigation: Number of former weapon scientists talents redirected to peaceful activities (Astana and Kiev):										
2012	Milestones									2020
17 844							18 600			18 600
	Actual Progress									
	18 150	18 300	18 500	18 700	19 425	19 730	20 000	20 215		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) and the Science and Technology Center Ukraine (STCU), project data and request of adhesion received and officially accepted
Narrative	The indicator measures the strengthened capacity beneficiaries of EU assistance to address global and trans-regional threats, more specifically the containment of sensitive (WMD or dual use), scientific and technical knowledge and know how. The figures are reported directly by the executive directors ISTC and STCU every year. This figure includes not only the scientists involved in Commission-funded activities but also activities funded by both governmental and non-governmental actors from the EU, while the Center’s share of the administrative costs are entirely funded by the Commission. In parallel the United States and Japan are also involved in similar redirection activities and they are accounted for separately.
Methodology	Yearly values
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be followed under the MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Including TACIS period (from1994). Target and milestones could not be set because it was not possible to estimate possible results for this indicator. Milestones could not be defined because it was difficult to estimate the number of weapon scientists from former soviet countries to be redirected in a specific year. Projects had a typical lifespan of 3 years, and in any given moment there we several projects implemented in simultaneously, in different phases, including also projects funded by other government or private donors from the EU, r from United States and Japan.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The target was surpassed, with development of strong partnerships also with EU Member States public or private entities (governmental agencies, academia, industry), and also international actors.

Indicator 2: Number of partner countries in the EU Partner to Partner Export Control Programme adopting strategic trade controls over nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target	
2012	Milestones									2020	
10							18	18	18		18
	Actual Progress										Final
						16	16	16		16	
Are we on track :	On track										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EU P2P Export Control Programme for Dual-Use Goods
Narrative	The indicator measures the enhancement of capacities on strategic trade controls of dual-use goods mainly through the number of partner countries using the EU Dual-use list as a reference after support received from the EU P2P Export Control Programme for Dual-Use Goods.
Methodology	Yearly values
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be followed under the MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	Milestones were set only as of 2019 because it was difficult to estimate how many counties would carry out the necessary regulatory revisions at the beginning of the reporting period.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In 2020 and 2021 a dramatic decrease of missions to partner countries impacted the amount of technical assistance that EU provided to reinforce legal capacities in partner countries to enable them to enhance strategic trade controls legal and regulatory frameworks. Morocco was expected to adopt its control list in 2021 (as requested by its Law, enacted in 2020). Lao PDR was expected to adopt a sub-decree on setting up a strategic trade control system since 2019, the decree being submitted to the

	prime minister's approval since that date. The pandemic, political willingness and political changes delayed the adoption of the legal and regulatory frameworks. Progress is expected in the course of 2022.
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Indicator 3: Number of national CBRN action plans elaborated by partners in the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
0										20
	Actual Progress									30
	4	9	13	17	23	27	28	30		28
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Joint Research Center
Narrative	The indicator measures the increase of an effective CBRN risk mitigation and security governance mainly through the development of CBRN national action plans developed with the technical and scientific support provided by the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence initiative.
Methodology	Yearly indicator
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be followed under the MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	The number of partner countries increased from zero in 2010 to 62 in 2020. It was therefore difficult to estimate the number of action plans to be elaborated, also considering that some of the partner countries which already had an action plan in place did not need to adopt one. For these reasons, only one milestone was set for 2018.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	In 2020 and 2021 the decrease of missions to partner countries has impacted the amount of technical assistance that EU was able to provide to support the elaboration of the plans. Nevertheless, through hybrid meetings and remote assistance some progress was still made and a few countries were able to finalise their plans. It is worth noting that some countries are in the process of updating or renewing their National Action Plans, which is not reflected in this indicator (it refers only to new partner countries developing National Action Plans for the first time).

Previous Program 4: Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries (PI)

General Objective 1: The Partnership Instrument shall support measures that respond in an effective and flexible manner to objectives arising from the Union's bilateral, regional or multilateral relationships with third countries and address challenges of global concern, or ensure an adequate follow-up to decisions taken at multilateral level.

Indicator 1: Number of new relevant instruments and / or negotiation processes launched / on-going with EU's strategic partners, regional organisations and at multilateral level

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2020
0	0	2	4	8	9	23	3			3
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	2	4	9	9	25	2	3		3
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Project Implementation Monitoring System (PIMS) reporting
Narrative	This indicator measures progress towards supporting the Union's bilateral, regional or multilateral relationships with non-EU countries and addressing challenges of global concern and adequate follow-up to decisions taken at multilateral level.
Methodology	Partnership Instrument Monitoring System reporting
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be followed under the MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	None
Full metadata available at this address	

Justification of the trend	As of 2020, the methodology for the use of indicators was changed. Instead of ‘customised’ project-level indicators, which cannot easily be aggregated at programme/instrument level, there was a move to core indicators which are identical for the entire PI and can hence be easily aggregated. The target (2020) was adapted to the new methodology.
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Specific Objective 1: To support the Union's bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation partnership strategies, by promoting policy dialogues and by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern.

Indicator 1: Progress made by key partner countries in the fight against climate change or in promoting the environmental standards of the Union, as measured by the following sub-indicators

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Number of local and regional authorities signing the Covenant of Mayors										
2014	Milestones									2020
6270	0	0	7000	7600	8100	9000	10270			10270
	Actual Progress									Final
	6270	6750	7193	7747	7755	11069	11577	11752		11577
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Numbers and percentages
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	https://icapcarbonaction.com – International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP); http://energyatlas.iea.org . Latest data available 2018. https://www.covenantofmayors.eu/en/ .
Narrative	The data collected demonstrate that the PI is effective in influencing partner country approaches that are beneficial to the achievement of the Europe 2020 strategy and its uptake by partner countries.
Methodology	This indicator measures progress towards supporting the EU’s bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation partnership strategies, by promoting policy dialogues and developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern, in particular climate change and environment.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be followed under the MFF 21/27
Other methodological comments	The data is provided each year by the Covenant of Mayors Office.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Results exceeded the target as of 2020.

Specific Objective 4: Enhancing widespread understanding and visibility of the Union and its role on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, people to people contacts, education/academic/think tank cooperation and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests.

Indicator 1: EU visibility

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Brazil										
2015	Milestones									2020
93%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		93%						95%		
Are we on track :	On track									
Canada										
2015	Milestones									2020
87%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		87%						82%		
Are we on track :	On track									
China										

2015	Milestones									2020
95%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		95%							93%	
Are we on track :	On track									
India										
2015	Milestones									2020
93%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		93%							97.5%	
Are we on track :	On track									
Japan										
2015	Milestones									2020
76%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		76%							89%	
Are we on track :	On track									
Mexico										
2015	Milestones									2020
97%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		97%							98.5%	
Are we on track :	On track									
Russia										
2015	Milestones									2020
93%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		93%							93%	
Are we on track :	On track									
South Africa										
2015	Milestones									2020
85%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		85%							98.3%	
Are we on track :	On track									
Republic of Korea										
2015	Milestones									2020
92%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			Maintain high visibility
	Actual Progress									Final
		92%							95%	
Are we on track :	On track									
USA										
2015	Milestones									2020
88%					Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility	Maintain high visibility			

	Actual Progress								Final
		88%						89%	
Are we on track :	On track								

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	The study was carried out by a consortium composed of PPMI (Public Policy Management Institute), NRCE (National Research Centre for Europe) and NFG-Asian Perception of the EU in partnership with TNS Global.
Narrative	This indicator measures progress towards enhancing understanding and visibility of the EU and its role on the world scene by means of public diplomacy
Methodology	The indicator is based on an academic study on the perception of the EU in 13 key partner countries updated in 2021. A similar study was conducted in 2015 with the same methodology to ensure comparability and evolution of the data. The Update Study 2021 is an in-depth, multi-method analysis of the perceptions of the EU and Europe in 13 of the EU's key partners – 10 Strategic Partner countries that were included in the 2015 Baseline Study: Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Republic of Korea and the US – as well as three additional countries: Colombia, Indonesia and Nigeria. The Update Study aims to contribute in a number of ways to EU public diplomacy: 1) it undertakes a systematic listening exercise; 2) it analyses the reception of the EU's messages and thematic projections factoring local conditions and evolving realities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator will not be pursued under the 21/27 MFF.
Other methodological comments	None
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/stories/analysis-perception-eu-and-eus-policies-abroad_en
Justification of the trend	The general knowledge and impression of the EU was assessed through capturing public perceptions of the role of the EU in the international system. The question used for visibility was "Have you read or heard about the EU?" The visibility of the EU has increased over time in almost all countries that participated in the 2015 Baseline Study, except for Canada and China, where it decreased.

Previous Program 5: Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

General Objective 1: Fostering the sustainable and inclusive development in partner countries and regions and the promotion of democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights, as foreseen in the TEU, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty.

Indicator 1: SDG 1.1.1 Proportion of population below international poverty line

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
With graduated countries										
1990	Milestones									2030
0.477										0
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.116	0.098	0.095	0.09	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.086		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Without graduated countries										
1990	Milestones									2030
0.477										0
	Actual Progress									Final
	0.115	0.11	0.112	0.1	0.092	0.091	0.087	0.082		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	World Bank (poverty rate); UN population division (population's weights)
Narrative	The indicator Proportion of population below the international poverty line is defined as the percentage of the population living on less than USD 1.90 a day at 2011 international prices. The 'international poverty line' is currently set at USD 1.90 a day at 2011 international prices. Monitoring poverty is important on the global development agenda as well as on the national development agenda of many countries.
Methodology	Indicator calculated on the basis of DCI eligible countries. The 2014 value was computed on country level data from 2012 or before, the 2015 value considers country level data from 2013 or before, the 2016 value considers data from 2014 before the 2017 value considers data from 2016 or before, the

	2018 value considers data from 2017 or before, the 2019 value considers data from 2018 or before, and the 2020 value considers data from 2018 or before. The 2021 value considers data from 2019 or before (data extracted in January 2022).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF, using the same name.
Other methodological comments	2030 is the target date set by world leaders for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (UN). Baseline taken from the previous MDG 1.1 Proportion of population below USD 1.25 (PPP) per day. All DCI budget contributes to this SDG. Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty has dropped by more than half – from 1.9 billion in 1990, to 836 million in 2015 – too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs. Globally, more than 800 million people are still living on less than USD 1.25 a day; many lacking access to adequate food, clean drinking water and sanitation. Rapid economic growth in countries like China and India has lifted millions out of poverty, but progress has also been uneven. Women are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty than men due to unequal access to paid work, education and property.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	2030 is the target date set by world leaders for achieving SDGs (UN). Baseline taken from the previous MDG 1.1 Proportion of population below USD 1.25 (PPP) per day. All DCI budget contributes to this SDG. Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. The poverty rates for DCI countries both with and without graduated countries have dropped steadily over the years. It could be expected that the rate with graduated countries would be lower than the rate without graduated countries, and in most years this proves indeed to be the case. However, in the most recent year, the rate with graduated countries is higher than the rate without graduated countries. This is most probably due to the fact that the value for India is 22% and has not been updated since 2011. Since the population of India is very big, this number has a strong influence on the weighted average.

Specific Objective 1: Poverty reduction and fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

Indicator 1: MDG 3.1 Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary, tertiary education

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Primary level										
2012	Milestones									2020
0.97	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99	1	1			1
	Actual Progress									Final
		1	1.01	1	0.98	0.98				
Are we on track :	On track									
Secondary education										
2012	Milestones									2020
0.97	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.99	1			1
	Actual Progress									Final
		0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99				
Are we on track :	On track									
Tertiary education										
2012	Milestones									2020
0.99							1			1
	Actual Progress									Final
		1.01	1.12	1.12	1.14					
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	ratio
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2019
Data source	MDG Report Statistical Annex 2014: Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators, 2015: http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2015/Statannex.pdf . Updated results for this MDG indicator will not be published anymore in this place, so the data source has been redirected: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/publications/statistical-yearbook/files/syb63/T05_GPI_EDU.pdf
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	The data is always published with a two year lag. For the first two subindicators: In 2022, the most

	recent report was published in 2021 containing data from 2019. For the third subindicator: In the 2021 report, the indicator changed. Instead of measuring the ratio of girls to boys for tertiary education, this ratio was measured for upper secondary. So the last date for which data was published on this indicator is 2018.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	As is often the case with international statistics, the more recent historical values are updated annually to reflect data that is reported with a delay and related corrections. Consequently, the entire time series has been updated in order to preserve any trend present in the data. It is important to note that corrections to past values have been as big as 0.02, thereby suggesting a possible magnitude for the precision of the values reported. Given this rough estimate of the margin of error, the series of values reported remains compatible with performance that is on track.

Indicator 3: SDG 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2013	Milestones									2030
0.455	Actual Progress									Final
	0.44	0.426	0.413	0.4	0.388	0.377				
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Per 1 000 live births
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2019
Data source	http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main.CM1300R or https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/
Narrative	This indicator is aligned to SDG 3.2 which calls for an end to preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age by 2030, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1 000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1 000 live births. The under-five mortality rate measures child survival. It also reflects more broadly the social, economic and environmental conditions in which children (and community) live.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	In 2022, the most recent data available was from 2019.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	As is often the case with international statistics, the more recent historical values are updated annually to reflect data that is reported with a delay and related corrections. Consequently, the entire time series has been updated in order to preserve any trend present in the data.

Indicator 5: SDG 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 SD from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under five years of age

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2020
24.8%	Actual Progress									Final
	24,9%	24,4%	23,8%	23,4%	22,9%	22,4%	22,0%			22,0%
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Figures are reported in the annual report « Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates » by UNICEF, WHO and World Bank and can be accessed using the following link: https://data.unicef.org/resources/dataset/malnutrition-data/ .
Narrative	WHO maintains the WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition (www.who.int/nutgrowthdb), a repository of standardized anthropometric child data which has existed for 20 years. The methods have remained unchanged since 2012, except for some minor refinements: 1. Year assigned to each survey. When data collection is split between two calendar years the year where most of the data collection is done is the year that is reported. 2. Final reports only. Since 2014 only final reports are presented (rather than preliminary reports) 3. Updated data sources. Data has been reanalysed to ensure consistency of reporting. Some results in the JME database may differ from the reported results. 4. Since 2014 population coverage has been calculated to alert the user to where the data should be interpreted with caution due to low population coverage. 5. Prevalence thresholds for stunting (and wasting and overweight in children under 5 years have been redefined since 2018 by the WHO-Unicef TEAM.

Methodology	The joint global and regional estimates that make up the UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates have been generated using a country-level dataset which is mainly comprised of estimates from nationally representative household surveys (e.g. DHS, MICS, SMART). These data are collected infrequently (every 3 to 5 years in most countries) and measure malnutrition at one point in time (e.g. during one or several months of field work), giving an estimate of prevalence. These data are received and reviewed by UNICEF and WHO and checked for validity and consistency. The resulting raw data sets are analysed following a standard procedure to obtain comparable results.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	In 2022, the most recent data available was for 2020. The values reported for this indicator are accompanied by lower and upper bounds for the 95% confidence interval. In 2020, these bounds were 21.3% and 22.7%, respectively. This means that the 2020 target of 20.0% has been technically missed, but only by a very small margin.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	As is often the case with international statistics, the more recent historical values are updated annually to reflect data that is reported with a delay and related corrections. Consequently, the entire time series has been updated to reflect the latest data available. Target for 2025: The EU committed to meet at least 10 % of the World Health Assembly’s global target to reduce stunting of 70 million children by 2025, pledging to reduce this number by at least 7 million. The updates in global stunting rates come from the March 2020 JME Edition. The WHO updates stunting data on a regular basis. They do this to produce standardised estimates over time and to ensure comparability between countries. This has included reanalysis of data from previous years for all countries as well as the removal of some surveys, due to quality issues, alongside new surveys being identified and added. These updates have led to slight changes to in global data for these estimates each year. The new data represents the March 2020 updates. The next update for which global data will be available will be March 2021, even though a further update was made in July 2020 – for which global estimates were not made (only country estimates). The global progress on reducing the prevalence of child stunting obscures the disparities in countries that are performing well and those that are making negligible progress. For example, considerably more progress has been made in Asia compared to Africa.

Specific Objective 2: Consolidating and supporting democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and the relevant principles of international law.

Indicator 1: Average score in the Rule of law as measured by the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicator (DCI countries eligible for geographic cooperation)

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2008	Milestones									2021
-0.88		-0.82	-0.81	-0.8	-0.79	-0.78	-0.77	-0.77	-0.77	-0.77
	Actual Progress									Final
	-0.74	-0.75	-0.77	-0.77	-0.78	-0.77	-0.77	-0.77	-0.77	-0.77
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of standard deviations relative to mean for standard normal distribution
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/
Narrative	The Rule of Law indicator is one of the six aggregate indicators of the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI). It captures perceptions of the extent to which agents (i.e. firms, individuals and public officials) have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police, the courts, as well as the likelihood of crime and violence. Consolidated figure for the 29 DCI countries. The 2020 value was computed with data from 2020 (data extracted in January 2022). World Bank’s Worldwide Governance Indicator currently covers the period 1996-2017. The dedicated webpages of the World Bank provide information about the methodology used for the World Bank WGIs (http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#doc) and updated annually Country Data Reports (http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#countryReports).
Methodology	https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Documents https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sites/default/files/4_final_rol_feb_2015.doc
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will continue to be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF, using the following name: Rule of Law score in relation to countries benefiting from EU assistance.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	DG DEVCO monitors information for the countries available for DCI geographic funding under the Multi Financial Framework 2014-2020 (29 countries). The data shows the average index score for these countries. The index ranges from -2.5 (worst possible score) to +2.5 (best possible score) where

'0' means average score (across all the countries where the index is measured).

Indicator 2: Number of projects funded from the DCI to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights in the DCI beneficiary countries

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2011	Milestones									2021
70	70	75	80	85	90	100	100	100		100
	Actual Progress									Final
	84	310	391	76	352	102	106	64		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of contracts
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CRIS Data Warehouse
Narrative	
Methodology	In 2021, the same DAC sectors as in previous years were applied: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under ‘democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights’: 64 contracts.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	In 2017, we used the same methodology of 2016, using the following DAC sectors: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under ‘democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights’: 391 contracts. In 2016, using the following DAC sectors: 15110, 15111, 15112, 15113, 15114, 15130, 15150, 15151, 15152, 15153, 15160, 15170, 15180 to cover a broader range of sectors included in the indicator under ‘democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights’: 310 contracts. In 2015: 84 contracts were signed in total under the DCI, with the following detail: Democracy: 17 contracts; Democratic participation and civil society DAC 15150: 170 projects (8+24); Anti-corruption DAC 15113: 5 contracts; Justice DAC 15130: 17 contracts; HR: 21 contracts. Baseline is an average of 2010-2012.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The decrease in the number of projects is likely due to the fact that 2020 is the end of the 2014-2020 financial cycle, with a decrease in the availability of funds. The assessment is on track because even though the number for 2021 is lower than the 2021 milestones, over the entire period the total results have more than exceeded the total milestones. Indeed, this indicator should have measured cumulative and not annual progress.

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	2036.94	4307.00	4307.00	4307.00	4307.00	4307.00	4307.00	27878.94	35%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The amounts in the table above are provisional figures, with final data foreseen for July 2022, once data quality checks are concluded.

For the period 2021-2027, programming was completed in December 2021 for all geographic programmes (except Neighbourhood) and for all thematic programmes thus implementation has started late. NDICI-Global Europe has a Climate spending target of 30% for the whole instrument and for the whole MFF period. At SOTEU 2021, the Commission announced an additional EUR 4 billion to be spent on Climate through NDICI, equivalent to 35% of the overall instrument’s envelope. As the target has to be achieved over the entire seven years period, yearly figures 2022-2027 should be considered as rough estimates.

6.1.3. Key achievements

EU funded actions contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation goals as well as disaster risk reduction in line with international agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Examples of adaptation and DRR actions under implementation in 2021 include the following.

The EU supports partner countries in implementing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through existing programmes such as the Global Climate Change Alliance+ (GCCA+) via the EU budget programme DCI for a total amount of EUR 148 million since 2015. Adaptation is the climate top priority for most developing countries, in particular for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In this regard, the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) EU flagship initiative has continued to focus on SIDS and LDCs as priority beneficiaries. It has also contributed to setting up monitoring and evaluation systems for climate change mitigation, supporting national deforestation and forest degradation programmes as well as creating carbon sinks through reforestation, afforestation and rehabilitation of vegetation, as well as building coastal resilience through natural adaptation solutions. The GCCA+ has funded over 80 national, regional and worldwide projects in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific. So far, the results of these projects include significant contributions to more than 80 national climate change strategies, more than 40 awareness campaigns in over 60 countries, and more than 30 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change related strategies and programmes.

The programme Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient (EUR 3 million from DCI), which was jointly implemented with the UN-Habitat and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), was concluded in 2021 successfully developing a strong and well-structured methodology for urban resilience. UN-Habitat developed an integrated City Resilience Profiling Programme methodology, hereinafter called “CRGP methodology” which was developed in collaboration with the city of Barcelona. The CRGP methodology was continuously developed in parallel with its implementation in the four pilot cities: Maputo, Asuncion, Port Vila and Dakar. In each of the cities, data were collected and analysed, producing a diagnosis and delivering recommendations for action. With regards to the UNDRR component of the programme, a total of 1 826 cities and local governments joined the Making Cities Resilient (MCR) Campaign and endorsed the “10 Essentials”. Capacities of local governments were strengthened in disaster resilience self-assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) action planning in more cities than anticipated: 214 cities completed the self-assessment reports and 23 local governments developed climate and disaster risk reduction action plans and many initiated implementation.

The African-Caribbean-Pacific-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (ACP-EU NDRR) programme (EUR 74.5 million from the EDF) aims to strengthen governments’ capacities to integrate disaster risk management into their development agendas. In 2020 it expanded its portfolio adding 17 new projects for a total of 147 projects benefiting over 70 countries since its inception in 2011. It has currently 31 active projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, 18 active projects in the Caribbean, and 10 active projects in the Pacific.

The Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility II (LoCAL II) is supported by the DCI for EUR 7.75 million. In 2021, it was active in 14 countries (Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, The Gambia, Ghana, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Tanzania and Tuvalu). LoCAL II helps local governments to address climate change adaptation. LoCAL deployed country-based mechanisms to integrate climate change adaptation into local governments’ planning and contributed to channelling climate finance to over 240 local governments representing 6 million people. The LoCAL facility was specifically designed to work with – and complement – the climate adaptation programmes of other governments and donor partners. The grants have enabled local governments to tackle the effects of climate change – such as changing rainfall patterns and downstream run off as a result of it.

Conversely, on mitigation, the Technical Assistance Project on Capacity Building for CO₂ mitigation from international aviation (EUR 6 million from DCI) was under implementation in the course of 2021 and lead by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It is currently assisting 14 selected countries from Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean to develop and implement their State Action Plan on emissions reduction and to establish aviation environmental systems for CO₂ emissions monitoring and reporting. The 14 selected States have developed Action Plans fully compliant with ICAO’s guidelines including robust historical data and reliable base scenarios. Following the success of this project, the EU launched the second phase. The 2nd phase is implemented by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and ICAO.

Under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), bilateral and regional projects have been targeting climate adaptation and mitigation. For example, EU for Climate Action in the Southern Neighbourhood, known as Clima MED (2018 – 2025) with a total budget of EUR 9.5 million provides technical assistance to support the transition of Southern Neighbourhood countries towards sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient development. By 2020, the project has reached 9 million people in 8 countries through the development and implementation of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAPs). 6 Communication campaigns have been held. 138 cities were trained and benefitted from help desk on Covenant of Majors. 420 cities’ staff trained on developing sustainable local actions. Another example is the EU4Climate project with a total EU contribution of EUR 8 million since 2018 has supported the development and implementation of climate policies by the Eastern Partnership countries in line with the Paris Agreement, EU acquis and European best practice. The programme supported the finalisation of the updated National Determined Contribution (NDC) for Moldova, with the other countries in the region on track to deliver updated NDCs in 2021. In addition, gap analyses of the national legislation against the EU acquis were developed in all six countries, and Azerbaijan developed a roadmap for Low Emission Development Strategy 2050 development. Work on these components is ongoing in all partner countries, as is support on MRV systems, climate mainstreaming, climate investment, and adaptation.

6.1.4. Performance

DG INTPA's contribution towards Climate Change in the period 2014-2020 amounted to EUR 11.8 bn, slightly above 22% of total INTPA commitments in the period and thus greater than the target of 20% set in the DCI. Namely, EUR 5.5 bn (47%) towards adaptation, EUR 3.1 bn (26%) to mitigation and EUR 3.2 bn (27%) contributing to both ("cross cutting").

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	529.00	814.20	837.40	952.80	1 173.90	1 150.20	1 057.50	6 515.00
Share compared to total envelope	4.26%	6.40%	7.00%	8.38%	10.97%	11.44%	10.05%	8.17%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

The amounts in the table above are provisional figures, with final data foreseen for July 2022, once data quality checks are concluded.

The amounts in the above table, representing the estimated NDICI-Global Europe contribution to biodiversity, are calculated by applying an increasing yearly percentage to the yearly NDICI-Global Europe total amounts while taking into account variations due to programming, starting from 6.3% in 2022, 6.5% in 2023, 9% in 2024, 10% in 2025 to 10.4% in 2026 and 9.6% in 2027. President von der Leyen, furthermore, announced a doubling of biodiversity funding in external action vis-à-vis the 2014-2020 baseline, in particular for vulnerable countries. This would correspond to a total of EUR 7,000 million to be reached from NDICI-Global Europe and IPA III.

With the 2021-2027 MFF, to meet the target and the Pledge, biodiversity will be mainstreamed through all relevant interventions using all the available toolbox, from capacity building measures, investments, to Budget Support. In addition, specific programmes will be developed targeting biodiversity loss. For example in 2021, the preparation of new programmes under the NaturAfrica initiative will start, comprising Team Europe initiatives at country and multi-country level. They will promote a holistic approach to nature conservation, boosting job opportunities in the green sector/tourism and tackling illegal exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity loss. Forests protection and preservation should receive particular attention.

In order to implement the biodiversity target and commitment, biodiversity is being mainstreamed through all relevant interventions and instruments including investments and Budget Support. In addition, specific programmes have been developed targeting biodiversity loss. For example NaturAfrica is providing a holistic approach to nature conservation, boosting job opportunities in the green sector/tourism and tackling illegal exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity loss. Forests protection and preservation has also received particular attention with the development of forest partnerships. Sustainable land management is another important area of cooperation with e.g. the implementation of the programme Landscapes for our Future and further support to African initiatives such as the Great Green Wall. However, it will be crucial to maximise synergies with the climate target, e.g. promoting nature based solutions

In 2021, four actions implemented under the Neighbourhood geographic programme contributed to biodiversity as a significant objective, including individual measures in favour of Azerbaijan (EU Resilience Facility for Azerbaijan), in favour of Tunisia (Environmental action in Tunisia), in favour of Jordan (EU support to Green Economy in Jordan) and the multiannual action plan in favour of the NDICI Neighbourhood East Region part 1 for 2021-2022 (Strengthening Environmental Resilience and Maritime Safety for Black and Caspian Sea riparian states). For example, the Environmental action in Tunisia is expected to contribute to the decrease in CO₂ emissions in Tunisia from 34.9 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents in 2021 to 5 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents in 2028.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

For the period 2014-2020, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy supported 20 partner countries to contribute to 79 green economic policies and practices through knowledge development, policy dialogue and technical cooperation. Over the same period, seven African countries were supported through SWITCH Africa Green towards green business development with projects combining policy and regulatory guidance on partnerships with the private sector, in particular Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprises.

With the overall objective of tackling illegal timber harvesting and trade, the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) has helped improve forest policies and regulatory framework enabling better sustainable forest management and preservation of forest in some 20 partner countries. In these countries, the FLEGT process has facilitated the implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation + (REDD+) strategy and contributed to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

The Commission is a proud and early supporter of the African-led Great Green Wall initiative, to which the EU budget contributed through a few dedicated programmes. The most ambitious EU contribution has been so far delivered through the Regreening Africa programme. Together with partner organisations, the EU has set an ambitious target of scaling-up of evergreen agriculture/agroforestry/farmer-managed natural regeneration techniques over at least 1 million hectares in eight African countries,

while contributing to climate action, providing livelihood opportunities for more than 500 000 households and informing policy-makers. The project is midway into implementation and has already contributed to the restoration of more than 600 000 hectares in the eight participating countries.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the EU Water Initiative Plus (implemented in 2016-2021) with a total EU contribution of EUR 23.5 million delivered hundreds of knowledge products and modernised 9 water laboratories. Some 40 surveys were carried out in rivers, ground and coastal waters, covering more than 1000 sites. Due to this support, the water monitoring in the EaP region is now closer to EU standards.

6.2.4. Performance

The EU supports biodiversity both through dedicated actions and by mainstreaming sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity protection/conservation in other sectors. Attention has been put on developing integrated responses that benefit people and the planet. As a result, actions carried out under the allocated budget has proven effective to respond to partners’ needs and to foster a green and inclusive post- COVID recovery. This is why under the NDICI, the Commission will continue to support actions that can tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis while at the same time creating better livelihoods for the populations.

6.3. Contribution to gender equality

6.3.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 2: EUR 200.1 million							
Score 1: EUR 8,453 million							
Score 0: EUR 2,180 million							

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: gender equality is principal objective, score 1: gender equality is significantly impacted, score 0*: impact on gender equality to be determined ex post, score 0: no significant impact on gender equality.

The table above shows provisional figures, with final data foreseen for July 2022, once data quality checks are concluded.

According to the NDICI – Global Europe Regulation, at least 85 % of new actions implemented should have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective, as defined by the gender equality policy marker of the OECD DAC. At least 5% of these actions should have gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment as a principal objective. On 25 November 2020, the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), a joint Communication from the Commission and the HRVP, was adopted with the same objective of 85% towards the total number of projects.

Following the above, the attribution of the above scores is also in line with the OECD DAC Gender equality policy marker and methodology. The score 2 equals G2 and implies that gender equality is principal objective, the score 1 equals G1 and implies that gender equality is a significant objective, score 0 equals G 0 and means that gender equality is not targeted. This is also aligned with the Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025 for external relations adopted in November 2020. The score 0* is not used. For 2021, the Commission has 14 G2 projects, 220 G1 projects and 49 G0 projects. Under G0 scores, there are actions which relate to support measures, administrative costs action such as for example the deployment of digital health tools.

The challenges to gender equality are as varied as the contexts in which they emerge and call for context specific responses. There is, however, not a single country in the world that is close to achieving by 2030 gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Some progress has been achieved, but deep-rooted inequalities persist, including on basic access to health, education and jobs, but also with regards to widespread gender-based violence everywhere in the world. In many places, women’s and girls’ rights are called into question and often denied. Instability, fragility, conflict, climate change, environmental degradation, migration, forced displacement and lately the COVID-19 pandemic are among the critical factors exacerbating inequalities and threatening hard-won gains. Civil society organisations, including women’s rights organisations, are facing shrinking civil, civic and democratic space.

In its external action, the EU pursues a three-pronged approach, combining gender mainstreaming, targeted actions and political dialogue. Article 8 of the NDICI stipulates that programmes and actions funded under this Regulation shall promote gender equality, women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment and non-discrimination on any grounds, through targeted and mainstreamed actions.

In 2019, 64.71% of the Commission’s new external action programmes were marked ‘G1’ or ‘G2.’In 2020, the Commission reached 68% amounting to EUR 8.5 billion. Funding that specifically targets gender equality and women’s empowerment (i.e. ‘G2’) amounted to EUR 480 million (4.8% of the total) in 2020.

During 2021, the first year of implementation of the new funding instrument and of the GAP III, in which most of the year was allocated to the programming of new country, regional and thematic programmes, 82.7% of the total numbers of projects are having

gender equality as a principal or a significant objective (234 projects in total). Of these projects, 6% had gender as a principal objective (14 projects in total).

The Commission also increased the funding being paid to women's organisations and movements from nearly EUR 7 million EUR to 9 million EUR during 2021 (funded on instruments prior to NDICI).

6.3.2. Key achievements and performance

Achievements and performance against the indicators and a number of GAP III objectives are detailed above.

During 2021, EU Delegations have submitted country level implementation plans (CLIPs) with concrete actions to improve gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment and to roll out the Gender Action Plan in their country contexts through political and policy dialogues, outreach and communication activities, consultations and partnerships with the national gender machinery and women's CSOs and funding of specific actions. The CLIPs lead a more strategic EU approach in its external relations, a better cooperation with EU Member States, strengthened partnership with and increased ownership by local actors.

Some concrete examples

Programmes that focus on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls continued to be one of the principal objectives. During 2021 the **EU-UN Spotlight Initiative**, launched at the end of 2017 with an investment of nearly EUR 500 million, continued its implementation in 26 countries and 6 regions, a mid-term assessment was finalized in 16 countries and all of these countries started to implement the second phase. The same exercise was also started at the end of 2021 for the Caribbean, Pacific and Central Asia and the grounds were prepared for the extension of the current Initiative. The 2020 results were received showed solid results, some examples: 84 laws and policies strengthened or signed across 17 countries, 22% increase in number of convictions of perpetrators compared to 2019 and over 650.000 women and girls were provided with gender-based violence services. EUR 86 million was allocated to SHRH related activities.

The EUR 10 million project "**Women's Financial Inclusion Facility (WFIF)**", a blended finance operation to promote women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion in Sub-Saharan countries. With the Germans (KfW) as the implementing partner, the EU contribution consists of first loss risk capital in the Women's World Banking Capital Partners fund II and Technical Assistance. The fund invests in emerging market financial service providers that incorporate low-income women into their client base and expand gender diversity within their own management teams. The program conducts gender assessments at the organisational level and market level, which will result in a gender action plan for each portfolio company to close the gap on gender equality among the company's clients and in its own employee base.

Digital2Equal peer-learning initiative with World Bank IFC and online platform companies (such as Jumia, Uber, Facebook), aiming to increase the level and quality of women's engagement in the digital economy through online platforms by driving a step-change in best practice amongst global private sector leaders. Within this initiative one topic where training to platform companies was provided was on employer provided childcare, looking into private sector opportunities to support women's employment. Participating platform companies took also commitments on introducing improvements their gender performances, which included practices supporting motherhood and career progression, flexible family days and examining company disparities on pay following motherhood.

The project "Better Work" is focused on the garment sector and aims at improving working conditions and respect of labour rights for workers, **in particular women workers**, boosting the competitiveness of the sector, and enhancing compliance to fundamental international labour standards. Gender is an important cross-cutting theme in Better Work. Its gender strategy encompasses four pillars: discrimination, paid work and care, voice and representation and leadership and skills development. Under the pillar focused on paid work and care Better Work developed and implemented training on maternity protection, worked on improvement of childcare facilities. In Bangladesh Better Work launched a national programme to strengthen maternity rights, breastfeeding support, and childcare facilities in the workplace and support the retention of working mothers.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

Introduction

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a central priority for the EU. Commission President von der Leyen reaffirmed the EU's commitment to sustainability by placing the SDGs squarely at the heart of EU policy-making and action. All of the SDGs feature in one or more of the six headline ambitions in President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines. Among these, the European Green Deal is an ambitious new strategy for growth and will be an integral part of this Commission's strategy to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, both at home and abroad.

In line with the new European Consensus for Development, the EU has continued to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, both globally and with partner countries. Official development assistance (ODA), which still plays a significant role in many developing countries, will be used more catalytically to generate additional financing for sustainable development. The EU and its Member States are firmly committed to implementing the SDGs and to eradicating poverty.

While all Commissioners must ensure the delivery of the SDGs within their policy area pursuant to their mission letters, in the case of international partnerships there is an additional specific requirement to ensure that external finance contributes to the 2030

Agenda. SDGs play an important role in the NDICI, as well as in the EU's new partnerships with Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (the ACP countries). EU development cooperation pursues the eradication of poverty and fosters sustainable development in partner country, so by design it leads to international partnerships that contribute basically across all the SDGs. Furthermore, the Multilateralism Communication (adopted February 2021) presents a new strategy for a renewed rules-based multilateralism that also aims to have a more focused EU engagement in favour of 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

The reporting systems for development cooperation require to report on the various relevant SDGs of each project. In this respect, as stated in the Consensus and more recently in the NDICI, development cooperation actions should pay particular attention to interlinkages between the SDGs and to integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. This is consistent with the objective stated in the Staff Working Document "Delivering on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach"¹⁵, of capturing the transversal nature of the SDGs and the simultaneous contribution of most projects and programmes to different SDGs, in the light of interlinkages and co-benefits. This has to be taken into account in the following summary, which is presented along individual SDGs for practical purposes, even though most projects and programmes have actually contributed to several SDGs at once.

For the Neighbourhood South region, the 2022 programmes are guided by the post-2020 policy framework outlined in the Joint Communication on "A new Agenda for the Mediterranean" of February 2021, aimed at relaunching cooperation in a context of protracted conflicts, generating human suffering and forced displacement, and weighting heavily on the economic and social prospects of the region. The key challenges identified under the previous MFF remain broadly relevant, and have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, which has severely disrupted socio-economic activity and aggravated structural grievances across the Southern Neighbourhood. Therefore, the proposed objectives build on the achievements of previous cooperation, and on the need to mitigate the long-term impact of the pandemic. The programme proposes a range of actions contributing to the following SDGs: affordable and clean energy (SDG 7); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9); reduced inequalities (SDG 10); climate action (SDG 13); peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16); partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

For the Neighbourhood East region, the 2022 programmes are guided by the post-2020 policy framework outlined in the Joint Communication on the "Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020" of March 2020. The concrete priorities are built on the EaP commitment "20 deliverables for 2020", and are based primarily on the Association Agendas and Partnership Priorities, while also taking into account the current post-COVID-19 context. The programme has a strong focus on economic recovery, building sustainable, modern and attractive economies, and promoting long-term jobs and sustainable growth, connectivity, greening, digitalisation and health resilience. Targeted support contributes primarily to the achievement of the following SDGs: affordable and clean energy (SDG 7); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); digital transformation (SDG 9); reduced inequalities (SDG 10); climate action (SDG 13); peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

SDG 1 No poverty

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the 17 SDGs at its core, is the principal international blueprint for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Eradicating poverty in all its dimensions, tackling discrimination and inequalities and leaving no one behind are at the heart of the European Consensus on Development. Poverty is multidimensional and relates to economic, social, environmental, cultural and political aspects. Tackling the various dimensions of poverty requires actions on all fronts (including education, health, social protection, gender equality and strengthening resilience). The EU and Member States' actions under all SDGs contribute in some way to the core goal of eradicating poverty. Poverty eradication is the result of many interacting activities. This also means actions mentioned under most other SDGs (for instance in relation to access to social services and the promotion of growth) are designed to contribute across the board to this primary objective.

Launched in January 2015 and co-financed by the European Commission, the OECD and the governments of Finland and Germany, the "EU Social Protection Systems Programme" is a four-year programme supporting 10 low- and middle-income partner country governments and national expert institutions in their efforts to develop comprehensive social protection systems comprising social assistance, social insurance, active labour market measures and access to essential social services and care. Partner countries include Cambodia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Togo, Vietnam and Zambia. One of the aims of the programme is generating evidence-based knowledge, for future EU cooperation and for use by other development partners, on the effectiveness of social protection in reducing poverty (SDG 1) and vulnerability, addressing inequality (SDG 10) and promoting social cohesion.

To reduce poverty, the EU supports development of policies that seek to maximise positive social outcomes and impacts. In this context, EU actions support national initiatives in partner countries for domestic resource mobilisation, which is key to ensuring long-term inclusive growth, sustainable development and the provision of social services.

The EU works to enhance social cohesion, to reduce inequality of outcomes and to promote equal opportunities for all, and has stepped up its efforts to mainstream the combat against inequality in its external action. EU actions in support of social protection systems, including minimum subsistence levels, are important to ensure that no one is left behind, as stated under SDG 1.3.

¹⁵ SWD(2020) 400 of 18.11.2020.

Universal, sustainable and equitable social protection systems are fundamental to prevent and reduce poverty across the life cycle, including cash transfers for children, for mothers with new-borns, for persons with disabilities, for those who are poor or without jobs, and for older persons. In line with the NDICI-Global Europe and the European Consensus on Development, the EU has confirmed its commitment to allocating at least 20% of its official development assistance to social inclusion and human development.

In social protection, the EU supports bilateral social protection programmes financed through geographic funding allocations in 29 partner countries. Half of this EUR 1 billion investment is implemented through Budget Support (direct transfers of funds to partner country authorities); the other half follows a programme approach.

In Morocco, the 2021 financial inclusion programme and in Algeria, the support to local development will help alleviate poverty (SDG1)

SDG 2 Zero hunger

World hunger and food insecurity have again been on the rise in the past few years. According to the 2021 Global report on food crises, more than 155 million people across 55 countries experienced acute hunger requiring urgent food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance in 2020. SDG 2 is therefore one of the goals where trends deteriorated in recent years, which have been aggravated by the COVID-19 crisis. The EU and its Member States remain strongly committed to achieving SDG 2 and therefore continued working with partners to collectively step up support to address hunger in all its forms, including by promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture.

Agriculture and rural development can be powerful drivers of growth, job creation and poverty reduction and thereby contribute to other SDGs. EU actions also target problems of malnutrition, particularly in children aged under five, and their negative consequences on their cognitive, social and economic development. For instance, the post-crisis response to food and nutrition insecurity in the Gambia (2017-2019) responding to the twin crisis of poor rains and an Ebola outbreak via a humanitarian-development nexus approach contributed to tackling the root causes of vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. Stunting of children under five years old dropped from 23% in 2015 to 14% in 2018.

In the area of development smart innovation through research in agriculture (DeSIRA initiative launched at the One Planet Summit in December 2017), the EU has increased its efforts and helped energise support and action, by providing a platform and mobilising more than EUR 270 million by the end of 2020 to build capacities for research and innovation and responses at country, regional and global levels contributing to rural and agriculture transformation.

SDG 3 Good health and well-being

The central role of health has been put under the spotlight with the COVID-19 crisis, given the multiple impacts across economic and social aspects. At the same time, to ensure continued progress towards SDG 3, effective health policy and programmes require complementary work and progress in SDGs relevant to other sectors, such as SDG 2 (nutrition), SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality and women's empowerment) and SDG 10 (reducing inequalities). Good health is a global public good and an essential component of the human development of each country, and hence a co-determinant for its economic and social development.

EU assistance for health issues amounts to EUR 2.6 billion in the period 2014–2020. 50% is allocated to global initiatives, while the other 50% is implemented through bilateral and joint EU actions in 17 countries aimed at strengthening country health systems and supporting countries to reach their SDG 3 targets, including universal health coverage. The EU plays a significant role in shaping the international policy agenda through its contributions to global initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM); GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance; the Universal Health Coverage Partnership of the World Health Organisation (WHO); and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). During 2019, the Commission pledged EUR 550 million to the Global Fund for the period 2020–2022.

In the Eastern Partnership, two major programmes worth EUR 75 million implemented by the WHO mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Additionally, a EUR 35 million EU grant reimburses EU Member States for their vaccine donations to the region. These actions ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and support effective response against COVID-19 while contributing to longer-term socio-economic and health resilience.

The Partnership Instrument (PI) to builds alliances and partnerships across the world to build resilience against global health threats. These initiatives have contributed to protecting millions of people in Latin America and will lead to significant cumulative savings for the economy. Key actions strengthen the joint work of the World Health Organisation, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Organisation for Animal Health to fight antimicrobial resistance, strengthen national action plans and promote a prudent use of antimicrobials in the food industry and the private sector in Latin America.

The Supporting public health institutes programme (SPHIP) (2015–2020) strengthens institutes of public health in eight low-income countries so that they are better able to assist national authorities with evidence-based policy-making in key public health areas. In the SPHIP projects, knowledge translation influences public health policy development by guiding relevant health sector stakeholders on the use and communication of research data.

In addition, Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation actions contribute to SDG 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” by promoting the development of national capacities to assist in reducing the risks

of illness and death from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination; and in strengthening national capacities for early warning, risk reduction, and the management of national and global health risks.

In Morocco, a budget support on Social Protection and in Egypt a support to the socio-economic response to COVID-19 are widely addressing health issues (SDG 3 Health).

SDG 4 Quality education

Access to quality education is an essential means of achieving sustainable growth and jobs: it helps citizens and professionals to grasp the opportunities created by digital technologies, strengthens societies' resilience to emergencies and crises, and contributes to sustaining peace and preventing violent extremism. It has also a powerful role to play on climate change, environment and gender equality through skills building, awareness raising and strengthening resilience. The EU continued its proactive engagement towards achieving SDG 4, supporting around 100 countries and offering support to global education partnerships such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW).

The EU, together with its Member States, is the biggest contributor to GPE, which supports basic education, focusing on the poorest countries and/or those in fragile situations. For 2018–2020 an additional EUR 100 million was pledged, on top of the EUR 375 million for 2014–2018.

Through the Erasmus+ programme, the EU continued to help partner countries facilitate mobility of individuals, and reinforce intercultural dialogue and understanding. Between 2015 and 2019, under Erasmus+ mobility in higher education, more than 130 000 students and university staff moved between partner countries and Europe and vice versa.

The EU also contributes to the Building Resilience in Crises through Education (BRiCE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) initiatives. BRiCE supports access to quality education at preschool, primary and lower secondary levels for children in fragile and crisis-affected environments in several African countries, with EUR 24 million contributed for 2018–2021. ECW has enabled the provision of: (i) education to 1.5 million children and youth, half of whom are girls, in 19 crisis-affected countries; and (ii) training to more than 21 000 teachers. In addition, a specific mental health and psychosocial support for children in conflict has been incorporated into ECW-supported actions. The EU financial contribution for the period 2018-2021 amounts to EUR 21 million.

Education (SDG 4) is central in the cooperation with the Neighbourhood South. A 2021 programme in Algeria will support international cooperation for research and innovation while the EU contribution to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees addresses education as its main SDG target. EU also contributes in Lebanon to a more inclusive and equitable quality education for all vulnerable children, including refugees from Syria.

SDG 5 Gender equality

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are EU core values and principles embedded in its development and international partnerships policy.

Through the implementation of the Global Europe-NDICI regulation and the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) at least 85% of all programmes should be gender responsive and at least 5% of these programmes gender transformative. Each country and region should design, formulate and implement one project which has gender equality and women empowerment as principal objective

The continuing implementation of the Spotlight Initiative, a transformative EU–UN partnership aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls worldwide, greatly contributed to the SDG 5 target, even more so during the COVID-19 crisis which sadly enough saw increasing levels of domestic violence at global level. The partnership was launched in September 2017 with an initial investment of EUR 500 million, in 2020 the Commission saw solid results and innovative approaches.

The EUR 9,7 million 'EU4 Gender Equality' programme 2020-2023 aims to strengthen equal rights and opportunities for women and men in the Eastern Neighbourhood by challenging gender stereotypes, work on violence prevention and championing men's participation in care work. The programme also includes a Reform Helpdesk that supports Eastern partnership governments' reform work towards equal opportunities for women and men.

The Regional Campaign to Prevent and Combat Violence against Women and Girls in the Southern Mediterranean Region has continued offering support to victims of violence against women during the COVID-19 crisis. The constant work of women's CSOs under this action has been strategic in developing partnerships with national governments to raise social awareness and political commitment to approach violence against women from the pandemic lens, supporting victims more effectively. They also published an on-line directory of available services for victims and survivors of violence against women, a first in the region.

SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation

The EU continues to support access to water and sanitation, and sustainable and integrated water management as an important contributing pillar to all other SDGs, i.e. biodiversity, climate, nutrition, gender, health, education and partnerships. The European Green Deal generates further impetus to maximise the impact of actions linked to water in EU external actions.

In the area of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the Council Conclusions on Water in EU external action were adopted in November 2021. Transboundary water cooperation is vital to prevent conflicts and ensure effective and sustainable use and management of shared resources. However, cooperation in many water basins is inadequate to tackle the existing problems and challenges, including weak legal and/or institutional frameworks, insufficient implementation of joint policies and low capacity.

Team Europe Initiatives on transboundary water management for Africa and on Water, Energy and Climate in Central Asia were developed in this context. In parallel to this dynamic, a continued support to the globalization of the UNECE water Convention was put in place. 2021 was also the first implementation year of Climate Investor 2, a programme that actively developed its pipeline with the private sector in the areas of water access in rural areas, innovative sanitation solutions and non-revenue water.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear risk mitigation (CBRN) actions contribute to the attainment of SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”. Through the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative, partners are assisted in developing measures that can directly or indirectly help improve water quality and quantity. For instance, in 2021 Jordan benefitted from support for protection and surveillance of risks to its main water supply network.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the EU Water Initiative Plus (completed in mid-2021) delivered hundreds of knowledge products and modernised 9 water laboratories. Some 40 surveys were carried out in rivers, ground and coastal waters, covering more than 1000 sites. Due to this support, the water monitoring in the EaP region is now closer to EU standards. The implementation of national policies and strategies at local level progressed through the development of management plans for 11 pilot river basins. Such plans identify targeted measures to improve water quality and efficient water use, estimate the costs of the measures, and provide indicators to monitor their implementation in the mid-term. More than 10,000 people have been directly involved in project activities through national policy dialogues, public consultations, numerous outreach events, and capacity-building activities.

SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy

Sustainable energy is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement targets and has a pivotal role in the European Consensus on Development and in the external dimension of the European Green Deal. The EU continues to support access to sustainable energy across the world as well as actions towards energy efficiency and decarbonisation of energy, while pursuing the Green Deal’s objective of fostering clean energy technology, to facilitate global energy transition and attract further investments in this sector.

Regarding access to electricity and clean cooking fuels, African countries are the most concerned and remain one of the geographic priorities of EU international energy engagement. In addition, Africa’s huge potential for different sources of renewable energy could allow for the deployment of renewable hydrogen solutions in view of creating a market for green hydrogen that connects the two shores of the Mediterranean, as declared in the SOTEU 2021. The Climate and Energy Diplomacy, the Africa EU Green Energy Initiative and the Global Gateway are the main channels to develop actions with partner countries.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, in line with the external dimension of the “Green Deal” and the priorities of energy efficiency in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the programme contributes to energy security, transition towards clean energy, promotion of energy efficiency in key sectors, and massive deployment of renewables in order to “green” the production mix and diversify energy sources.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the programme contributes to develop energy resilience, focusing in parallel to energy and climate policies. NDICI-Global Europe aims at reducing energy dependency through green finance, diversifying energy sources and routes, and securing supply by promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy. Investments in infrastructure for energy and transport interconnectivity between EaP countries and the EU also address infrastructure vulnerability to the impact of climate change, environmental challenges and hybrid threats. As part of its efforts to promote clean energy, the EU is working with Ukraine and Moldova to achieve integration between the Ukrainian and Moldovan electricity grids and the EU. In Ukraine, a EUR 53.4 million project (EU contribution EUR 9 million) will develop good governance in the Ukrainian energy sector, support the restructuring of the utility provider Ukrenergo, and rehabilitate nine sub-stations in the South-Western Power Grid of Ukraine. In Moldova, a EUR 270.8 million project (EU contribution EUR 40.8 million) will finance an electricity substation and transmission line, as well as upgrading existing infrastructure, to strengthen the connection with Romania. This will contribute to the stability and efficiency of the Ukrainian and Moldovan electricity grids, contributing to diversification of supply and increased energy security.

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

The EU supports SDG 8 by implementing ongoing actions and adopting several new actions funded by various financing instruments. The ‘Sustainable investment climate and value chains programme II’ (EUR 13.5 million) supports a number of global and European partnerships, platforms and programmes promoting key aspects of investment climate, trade and private sector development in the context of the 2030 Agenda, its SDGs and the EU’s EIP third pillar.

In 2019, a large-scale sector reform contract for employment and skills in Albania (EUR 29 million) was completed that initiated institutional and structural changes in the financing and governance of the labour market and VET systems, developed and implemented the Albanian Qualification Framework, modernised the legislative framework for initial VET and adult training, and supported turning EU occupational health and safety directives into national law. Albania established a National Agency for Employment and Skills and three multifunctional training centres. The National Employment Service was modernised and 36 labour offices were reorganised improving compliance with international labour standards and providing a broader range of employment promotion services.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, EU support aims at enhancing cooperation on youth, education, research and innovation; sharing EU experience in accompanying innovation efforts and supporting the development of Smart Specialisation Strategies; promoting cooperation on digital education; and developing skills strategies and labour market policies, as well as skills and capacity development.

Economic growth and decent work are addressed in 2021 programmes for economic recovery of Libya and in Tunisia to support competitiveness of Tunisian companies.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the programme aims at achieving two key long-term EaP policy objectives beyond 2020: resilient, sustainable and integrated economies; and resilient, fair and inclusive societies. This entails increased trade and further regional and bilateral integration of the economies of EU and partner countries, together with cooperation for progressive decarbonisation towards climate neutrality, embracing the opportunities from the twin ecological and digital transformation. The programme supports structural reforms, access to finance, SME growth, investing in people - particularly the youth - and better connecting education, research and innovation with private sector needs.

SDG 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Connectivity plays a fundamental role in achieving the SDG targets. The Action ‘Knowledge Hub Jobs & Growth (Part I) – Global Gateway Support Mechanism’ adopted in December 2021 will primarily contribute to achieve SDG 9, as well as SDG 5, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 17. The expected output of the action will be to support the EU international agenda on quality infrastructure and connectivity (both “hard” and “soft”) with third countries that delivers environmental, economic, social and financial sustainability.

Digitalisation, a key part of connectivity, is essential in addressing inequalities and achieving sustainable development and is mentioned in several SDGs. However, digital transformation has the potential for positive impacts across the entire 2030 Agenda. To boost the implementation of the transport-related parts of SDG 9, the EU continues to support strategic multimodal corridor development that builds on economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Mainstreaming the digital revolution throughout the energy industry will also contribute to a more efficient energy sector and therefore to socioeconomic development and climate change mitigation. The overall objective of the Digital Energy Facility is to support the modernisation and digitalisation of the energy sector, innovative business models and the long-term sustainability of energy systems. This can establish the necessary preconditions for increased access to energy and renewable energy development worldwide, with a specific focus on Africa.

Digital transformation is at the heart of the Commission’s agenda. The Commission has identified the digital sector as a target area for support under the External Investment Plan, focusing on innovation that addresses local social needs, financial inclusion and job creation. Three guarantees have been approved under the digital window (EUR 220 million), aiming to (i) increase the use of digital technologies, (ii) widen rural access to broadband and (iii) boost investment in innovative start-ups using digital solutions.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, NDICI-Global Europe interventions still aim at improving the investment environment, and promoting coordination with International Financial Institutions - namely European FIs - which have signalled important additional outreach in the South. The programmes co-finance investments funded in the context of the EFSD+; supports initiatives to assist partners in attracting and retaining opportunities in selected sectors; steps-up support to the green, blue and social economies through innovative financial vehicles, including impact finance; supports the implementation of SME policies; and assists the development of sustainable transport and tourism.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, in line with the EaP policy objective beyond 2020 of a resilient digital transformation, the programme contributes to the achievement of strong interconnections between the EU and partner countries, and among partner countries themselves. This is an important driver for economic development, and encompasses regional integration, secure connectivity, trade and mobility. On transport, the programme supports the investments outlined in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) indicative investment action plan. This includes upgrading key physical infrastructure in road, rail, port, inland waterway and airport facilities, as well as logistics centres, primarily through blending and guarantees under the Neighbourhood Investment Platform. The EU4DigitalUA technical assistance project and Ukrainian authorities was created and thanks to its efforts, the European Commission Equivalence Decision of the EU Digital COVID certificate for Ukraine was announced on August 20, 2021. With this decision, Ukraine’s international digital COVID-19 certificate is fully recognised by the European Union: holders of this certificate are able to use this certificate under the same conditions as holders of an EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate.

SDG 10 Reduced inequalities

SDG 10 calls for reducing inequalities within and between countries. The objective of addressing inequalities is also at the heart of EU development cooperation, as emphasised in the European Consensus on Development, and will help build more sustainable societies. In the past few years, the EU has increased efforts in ensuring that migration leads to inclusive growth and sustainable development, as set out in the Consensus document.

EU funding instruments have established a more structured way to cooperate with partner countries on migration, through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey and the EU Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis. The EUTF further consolidated its achievements in partnership with EU Member States development cooperation agencies, UN organisations, NGOs and partner countries with the approval of an additional 36 programmes and 16 ‘top-ups’ across its three regions for a total of EUR 851 million. This brings the total number of approved programmes to 223 with a total budget of EUR 4.4 billion since 2015.

“Bridging the gap” is a joint initiative of the EU and several Member States to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities. It delivers support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop tools such as indicators, guidelines and data, to promote the rights, participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

It also supports the governments and relevant organisations in five countries (Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan) to implement and monitor disability-inclusive policies in areas such as education, health, employment and social protection. 892 people in Sudan (60% women) have increased their access to the job market and are now employed, self-employed or in technical and vocational education and training. Over 1 500 people with disabilities in different districts in Ethiopia have access to basic services and 115 have been granted small loans to sustain their incomes.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, the programme enhances cooperation on migration on the basis of a comprehensive, balanced and mutually beneficial approach. NDICI-Global Europe interventions address the challenges of forced displacement and irregular migration; support partners' capacity to effectively manage their asylum systems and their capabilities to perform return operations; and support assisted voluntary return and reintegration.

Reduced inequality (SDG 10) is the main target of the 2021 EU response to the multiple crises and support to a people centred recovery in Lebanon and a significant objective in the framework of the EU's support to the rule of law and justice in Jordan.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the programme also addresses migration as a comprehensive and joint priority, continuing to support mobility in a secure and well-managed environment, and to ensure support to vulnerable migrants and refugees. Labour migration initiatives aim at establishing partnerships to foster legal migration and mobility, and enhancing cooperation and cross fertilisation of skills and competencies.

SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Urbanisation and the role of cities in the economy are increasingly shaping development challenges and opportunities in developing countries, so much that local authorities are increasingly recognised as key actors in achieving most of the SDGs. With cities globally contributing 80% of GDP, 70% of global energy consumption and 70% of global carbon emissions and nearly one billion people living in slums, achieving the SDG 11 targets represents a major challenge. The EU supports urban development through various channels, including through blending and guarantees, where investments in urban infrastructure have been supported.

One billion people all over the world face the challenges of being excluded from modern society. Numbers of slum dwellers continue to grow and challenges faced by informal settlements remain a critical factor for persisting poverty and exclusion in the world. The Participatory Slum Upgrading programme (PSUP) is a joint effort of the ACP countries, the Commission and UN-Habitat to address the informal settlements challenge. So far, the programme has reached out to 40 ACP countries and 160 cities.

Following a call for proposals 'Local authorities: partnerships for sustainable cities,' 16 partnerships between local authorities from EU Member States and partner countries for a total of EUR 53 million have been signed in 2019 to strengthen urban governance, ensure social inclusiveness, improve resilience and greening and foster prosperity and innovation in cities.

Risk mitigation efforts developed through the Centres of Excellence Initiative under IcSP Article 5, alongside disaster management planning, are actions which contribute directly to reducing the number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters, including water-related disasters. Developing institutional capabilities and resilience to disasters, alongside integrated policies and plans related to CBRN management is of great importance in this area.

Support to neighbourhood South will be provided through enhancing disaster risk management and civil protection in the region. The project will build sustainable capacities of Partner Countries' respective civil protection institutions for disaster risk prevention, preparedness and response based on a multi-hazard approach, and enhance regional co-ordination, institutional and operational co-operation between the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and the Southern neighbourhood countries and among Southern neighbourhood countries.

In the Eastern Partnership, the number of Covenant of Mayors (CoM) East signatories almost doubled from 257 to 493 within 5 years since 2016. As a result, the network now covers more than 45% of the population. Moreover, close to 75% of these municipalities (360) have committed to the ambitious target of 30% reduction of CO₂ emissions by 2030. In addition, within the framework of the Regional Programme for Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects complementing the East initiative, 392 projects have undergone energy efficiency measures or moved to renewable energy, including schools, kindergartens, district heating systems and street lighting systems, benefitting directly over 520,000 users. This resulted in savings of almost EUR 2.19 million per year.

SDG 12 Responsible consumption and production

The EU is committed to pursuing its international cooperation on sustainable consumption and production and the circular economy as an essential contribution to SDG 12. EU international cooperation on sustainable consumption and production and the circular economy focuses mainly on developing policy and institutional frameworks in this area, promoting green business development in key value chains, and mobilising finance for the global circular economy transition.

Relevant indicative initiatives include engagement at multilateral level to encourage the use of standards and ensure a level-playing field for the private sector, financial and technical assistance and the circular economy missions to foster links between EU business and partner countries. The SWITCH to Green initiatives (SWITCH Africa, SWITCH-Asia, SWITCH to Value Chain projects and SWITCH to Green and Water Facility) are the EU flagship on sustainable consumption and production and circular economy practices.

SDG 13 Climate action

Climate change is one of the main priorities of the EU's external action and a central theme of the European Green Deal, together with the European Consensus, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. DG INTPA is mainstreaming climate action into all policy areas. The Commission supports the upgrade and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Reflecting this ambition, the EU has set the ambitious spending target of 30% of Global Europe financial envelope in the period 2021-2027 contributing to climate objectives, to which President von der Leyen added EUR 4 billion in her 2021 SOTEU speech.

In 2021, an EU-UNEP partnership on climate change, environmental degradation and security was reinforced with EUR 6 million under the Global Threats component of the NDICI-Global Europe Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention to enable the partnership to expand its work to address emerging environment-related risks, with a focus on transboundary dimensions.

In the Southern Neighbourhood, climate change resilience is a top priority, to mitigate risks to human lives and livelihoods and to promote sustainable development. Considering urbanisation trends, the loss of biodiversity, the increasing marine and land pollution and the impact of climate change on resources, focus is placed on sustainable water management, including wastewater treatment, water re-use and efficient use of water, as well as measures to protect and restore biodiversity, both marine and terrestrial, animal and vegetal. Addressing climate issues, EU supports Green Economy in Jordan, including in response to the Syrian crisis.

In the Eastern Neighbourhood, the programme aims at achieving the key long-term EaP policy objective beyond 2020 of environmental and climate resilience. The EU supports partner countries to transform the region towards modern, resource-efficient, clean, circular and competitive economies, while increasing their environmental and climate resilience, including through more sustainable use of natural resources. The programmes supports the EaP challenges to increase the resource-efficiency of economies; develop new green jobs and economic opportunities linked to the green transition; develop local and renewable sources of energy; and manage natural assets to maximise sustainability. In the area of climate action the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (E5P) supports municipal investments in energy efficiency and environmental projects. Within the framework of this Fund, the EBRD has extended a EUR 20 million sovereign loan to Armenia for the benefit of the Yerevan Bus Company to acquire 100 smart energy-efficient buses to reduce congestion and air pollution.

SDG 14 Life below water

Global progress in addressing major threats, including pollution and eutrophication, overfishing and destruction of habitats, as well as the impacts of climate change, has been slow and most SDG 14 targets may not be reached by 2030. The EU continues to work on capacity-building and spur local and regional actions on effective governance, and the protection and sustainable use of marine resources. The role of the EU external action in support of SDG 14 is growing. The EU promotes an integrated approach to effectively address the drivers of ocean degradation while linking livelihoods with natural resources preservation.

The lagoons and waterfalls of Oyster Lagoon park in Belle-Anse, Haiti, were designated a protected area in 2017. However, with 7 000 families living within the park and dependent on fishing and charcoal production, this project (Strengthening participatory governance in Oyster Lagoon National Natural Park, Haiti) was set up to identify income-generating activities that would reduce pressure on the biodiversity hotspot's natural resources. 30% of the 2 000 fishermen now earn three times more than before thanks to providing training, motorboats and a cold storage facility. Mangrove cutting and lizard hunting have been largely eradicated thanks to increased public awareness of the endangered species. The local authority has also defined new rules on coastal fishing, hunting, protection of water sources and the sale of charcoal.

SDG 15 Life on land

SDG 15 received particular attention ahead of 2021 via the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Farm-to-Fork Strategy. In 2021, important international summits took place, highlighting the importance of nature and biodiversity for a wide range of connected global issues (e.g. COP26 of the UNFCCC, UN Food Systems Summit). The EU furthermore participated in the CBD COP15.1 and will be a key player in the CBD COP15.2 due to take place in 2022.

Through its Partnership Instrument, the EU uses its influence to halt biodiversity loss by shaping an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework and by advancing its environmental priorities with G7 and G20 partners. By engaging actively with partners to amplify efforts to switch to a circular and resource-efficient economy, the EU ensured that the 2019 G7 environmental meeting Declaration integrated EU priorities on circular value chains. The PI action on protecting biodiversity mobilises experts, policymakers, young leaders, and scientists from the EU's key partner countries to design an ambitious follow-up framework to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

The Commission signed a EUR 13 million convention with Agence Française du Développement to renew its funding of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) from 2020 onwards. CEPF is a multi-donor fund which has successfully positioned itself as the leading donor in CSO financing for key biodiversity areas around the globe. The Fund is efficiently linking conservation of hotspots providing multiple ecosystem services with empowering private sector stakeholders and vulnerable population groups, and providing sustainable livelihoods.

SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

EU supports the implementation of SDG 16 worldwide through a variety of actions funded under thematic and geographic EU external financing instruments, particularly focusing on promoting democracy and human rights.

In all three NEAR regions as well as Russia, the EU has been, and will continue to work on promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality, and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law. The NDICI-Global Europe Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy builds upon the key features of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The action will achieve this by supporting and strengthening civil society organisations (CSOs), democracy activists and human-rights defenders working on critical human rights and democracy in non-EU countries. In order to avoid a funding gap in 2021, an individual measure was adopted, including country allocations amounting to EUR 27.8 million for NEAR (+Russia). The action will, in particular, contribute to SDG 16 by: (i) promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and access to justice for all; and (ii) building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. It is also expected to contribute to SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries).

In the Neighbourhood East and South, the EU has been, and will continue, supporting Public Administration Reform (PAR) notably through the EU-OECD initiative 'Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)'. PAR remains a key priority in strengthening states' capacity to govern in a context of fragility and is a cross-cutting issue of fundamental importance for success in political and economic reforms and building a basis for implementing good governance standards. The SIGMA programme (EUR 10 million) will continue working with state institutions responsible for reforms of public administration, as well as the state structures in charge of co-ordination among institutions, independent bodies and the Parliament within the scope of their scrutiny and oversight powers, with the overall objective to enhance economic well-being and political freedom and facilitate closer economic integration and political co-operation between the EU and its neighbours.

In neighbourhood South a regional project will contribute to mainstreaming Gender in Law Enforcement. In line with EU strategic engagement on Women, Peace and Security, a specific action will be launched with INTERPOL on a gender responsive approach and practice to law enforcement. The project will capitalise on INTERPOL's experience in building related gender capacities in other regions and on its unique position as a global law enforcement organisation

The CT Travel project (Advanced Passenger Information and Passenger Name records (API/PNR)) will be extended to Neighbourhood South. This project will provide support to border security at regional level with a targeted action in threat analysis and intelligence-led approaches to detect terrorist and criminals, through the establishment of passenger information units, passenger name records (PNR) and advanced passenger information (API).

In the areas of peace and personal security, access to justice and trust in institutions, the EU has been providing in Jordan a support to the rule of law and justice is contributing to the national reform process, improving access to justice for all and promoting effective and accountable judiciary institutions. In Libya, the EU is committed to support inclusive governance and rule of law, aiming at improving the accountability of democratic institutions and the functioning of the justice system. The EU made also contribution to SDG 16 through its support to Algeria's sustainable and integrated territorial development, governance and participative democracy, and decentralisation.

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and the new NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention are specifically designed to promote the achievement of SDG.16 with a focus on crisis response, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, crisis prevention, and longer-term actions to enhance security and stability in partner countries around the world. Activities mainly contribute to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in line with SDG 16. In 2021, support was provided for peace processes (e.g. in the Middle East and Africa, including Syria, Yemen, Libya, Senegal and Central African Republic); for transitional justice institutions in Colombia, Somalia, Benin, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and Chile; for risk reduction for vulnerable communities including refugees and migrants in Latin America, the Western Balkans and South Asia; for promoting the protection of civilians in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Sudan and Mozambique. Other support focused on building capacity to prevent, counter and respond to security threats linked to terrorism and violent extremism and transnational organised crime in many partner countries.

SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals

The European Commissioner for International Partnerships took office in December 2019, sending out a strong message on the central role of partnerships in EU's external action. Successful sustainable development requires partnerships, particularly with our partner governments, but also with the private sector, civil society, multilateral organisations and financial institutions.

The EU continues to be actively engaged in UN processes such as the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the Financing for Development (FFD) Forum, the special high-level meetings of the UN General Assembly such as the Climate Summit, the SDG Summit, the FFD High-level Dialogue and the Small Islands Developing States Summit.

The Commission continues to play an influential role in major OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) policies, acts and events. The EU's views were reflected in decisions taken on a revised Peer Review Instrument and the adoption of several key OECD DAC recommendations.

The EU and its Member States maintained their position as the biggest provider of official development assistance (ODA), accounting for about half of global ODA to developing countries (0.46% of gross national income (GNI) in 2019). Latest available figures also show an increase of ODA to least developed countries, reaching 0.125% in 2018.

The EU helped generate political momentum on integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs) to map the different financial sources available for sustainable development at country level and to support country-led financing strategies. The purpose of INFFs is to help countries have a better understanding of all the different financial resources at their disposal and to develop a financing strategy to reach the SDGs. The EU has actively been supporting the Indonesian government who volunteered to be an INFF pioneer country. A joint EU-UNDP scoping mission took place to kick-start the INFF process.

The EU is committed to support the UN peace and security architecture. Through IcSP, the EU works closely with different UN entities¹⁶. The cooperation also includes assisting Resident Coordinators in their policy and programming responsibilities for the deployment of dedicated Peace and Development Advisers to their offices. This comes in addition to funding of particular UN political and peacekeeping missions *inter alia* in Central African Republic, Libya, Mali, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Yemen. In addition, regular policy level dialogues with UN partners supports a mutually beneficial partnership for peace.

The Partnership Instrument enables the EU to build partnerships across the world on priorities ranging from climate and biodiversity to trade and security. These alliances influence decision making processes by partners in policy areas of EU and of mutual interest, widely promote EU interests and values in partner countries and in multilateral fora, increase the alignment of the EU and its partners' policy positions and approaches, as well as the harmonisation of legal and policy frameworks, and support the rules-based multilateral system.

In the Neighbourhood East and South (and Russia), the EU has been, and will continue to support the work of Civil Society Organisations. This support is channelled notably through the Thematic Programme for Civil Society Organisations. The CSO programme preserves the key features of its predecessor in its actor-based nature; its comprehensiveness and worldwide coverage; and its ability to act independently from the consent of government and other public authorities. The first overarching priority of the programme, at both global and partner country level, is an inclusive, participatory, empowered, and independent civil society and democratic space in partner countries and an inclusive and open dialogue with and between civil society organisations. The Programme includes a component for Support to Civil Society in Partner Countries with country allocations amounting to EUR 23 million for 2021. This Action will be implemented by EU Delegations in the two neighbourhood regions and Russia through grants to Civil Society organisations. This Programme will contribute primarily to the Commission priorities on Governance, Peace and Security, and Human Development and to supporting the vital role of Civil Society with regard to SDG 17, and will further contribute to SDGs 16 and 5.

¹⁶ The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN-DPPA), the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UN-PBF), the UN Standby Team of Senior Mediators and the UN Special Political Missions.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World**European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation****Lead DG:INTPA**

Associated DGs:BUDG

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The operation of nuclear power plants is a sovereign decision of any State that choose to include nuclear in its energy mix. Nevertheless, as history showed with the accidents of Chernobyl in 1986 and more recently Fukushima in 2011, any accident has transboundary consequences and affects the population and the environment of neighbouring countries and regions.

The European Union must ensure the safety and security of its citizens and protect the environment. The best way to tackle this challenge when considering the use of nuclear energy is to guarantee that the nuclear reactors are operated safely and according to the best international standards.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The objective of the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) is to support the promotion of nuclear safety culture and radiation protection, the safe management of spent nuclear fuels and radioactive wastes and the application of effective and efficient safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries.

This is achieved by cooperating with key stakeholders and in particular with the nuclear regulatory authorities in charge, with the aim of transferring the EU expertise. In particular, the regulation will support the promotion of transparency in nuclear related decision-making by authorities of third countries.

1.3. Specific objectives

The objectives of the INSC are:

- a) the promotion of an effective nuclear safety and radiation protection culture and implementation of the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards, and continuous improvement of nuclear safety, including the promotion of transparency of authorities in third countries in decision making processes relating to the safety of nuclear installations;
- b) responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations, including the promotion of transparency of authorities in third countries in decision making processes;
- c) establishing efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in third countries.

1.4. Public intervention context

The promotion of nuclear safety is a key priority for the EU since the early days of the EEC and EURATOM. The European Instrument for Nuclear Safety contributes to the promotion of the implementation of international treaties and conventions as well as the adoption of the highest safety standards complementing work inside the EU. The INSC is a specific tool complementing the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). It covers cooperation in nuclear safeguards which is essential to the global non-proliferation policy.

1.5. Actions

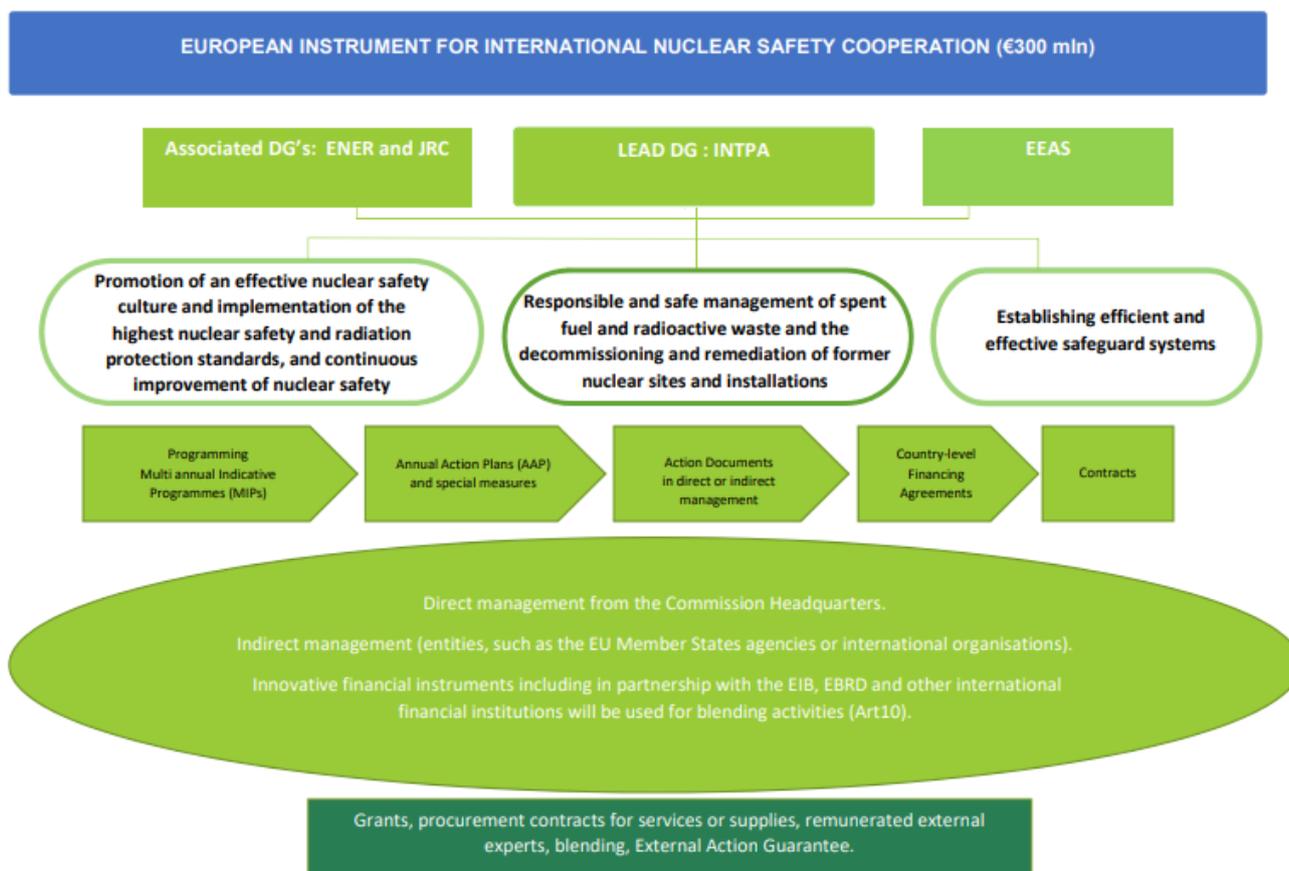
The INSC will achieve its objectives by using a combination of implementing methods to establish cooperation and deliver assistance to the beneficiary countries.

The action financed by the INSC will be implemented by the means of technical assistance, capacity building, training and education, transfer of the EU acquis and best international practices as well as twinning programmes promoting nuclear safety culture in third countries.

1.6. Delivery mode

Direct management by the Commission from Headquarters and under indirect management by entities, such as the EU Member States agencies or international organisations, that ensure a level of protection of the EU's financial interests equivalent to that under direct management. Indirect management may also be entrusted to partner countries or the bodies they designate. Innovative financial instruments including in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international financial institutions will be used for blending activities.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/948 of 27 May 2021 establishing a European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation complementing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe on the basis of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and repealing Regulation (Euratom) No 237/2014 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 79).	2021 - 2027	300.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	37.6	38.6	39.9	41.8	44.1	47.2	50.9	300.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The lessons learned from the 2014-2020 MFF show that the EU external action instruments are relevant and delivering results. For the following MFF, it was therefore proposed to build on the activities formerly covered under the 2014-2020 Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, continuing the assistance in nuclear safety and adapting the new Instrument to emerging challenges and needs.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	37.6	300	13%
Payments	0.9		0%

The commitment appropriation (CA) for the year 2021 (EUR 36.1 million) will finance 10 projects in 9 countries in the area of nuclear safety (42.5%) and management of radioactive waste (42.5%). In addition, the CA will cover the support measures for the management and implementation of the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation.

With the 2022 commitment appropriation (EUR 35.9 million) we expect to finance¹ 9 projects in 8 countries and regions as well as the support measures for the programme implementation. These projects are supporting the promotion on the nuclear safety culture (support to regulatory authorities) in Armenia, Jordan, Nigeria, Turkey and the South East Asia (ASEAN); the safe management of radioactive wastes in Iran and Central Asia and worldwide through our cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency; strengthening the non-proliferation regime in Africa by supporting the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCON) created by the Pelindaba Treaty on African nuclear-weapon-free zone.

As the programme is demand-driven and needs are permanently evolving (as e.g. raising decommissioning needs, emerging new nuclear technologies that will be deployed in embarking countries), the EU support to nuclear safety benefit from the flexibility of the INSC that adapts the programming on an annual basis.

The 2023 commitment appropriation, in line with the multiannual indicative programme, will finance projects related to the promotion of an effective nuclear safety culture (objective 1 of the programme), to radioactive waste management (objective 2 of the programme) (41.9% each) and to establishing nuclear safeguards for nuclear material (objective 3) (12.3%) as well as support measures (3.9%).

STATE OF PLAY REGARDING RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

Ukraine has been the main beneficiary of this activity with 45M€ of the 225 M€ regular INSC budget in MFF 2014-2020, plus 75M€ extra for the completion of the Chornobyl shelter.

Background INSC

Because of the specific legal basis of nuclear safety in the Euratom treaty and the relatively small financial scope (30-40M€ per year), the INSC functions as the only instrument covering international cooperation in this area. Ukraine has been the main beneficiary over the years (around 1 billion euros since 1991), with the safe confinement over the exploded Reactor 4 in Chornobyl having represented the largest financial contribution (managed by the EBRD).

Immediate Actions taken

On the day of the invasion, all ongoing INSC activities in Ukraine were suspended, see below, except one, the running of the so-called Joint Support Office (JSO), set up to assist INTPA.F1 with the management of the INSC in Ukraine. Two weeks later, all above-mentioned suspensions were lifted, and developments on the ground are being followed continuously. INTPA.F1 is in continuous close interaction with Commission services, DG ENER, DG JRC, DG NEAR, DG ECHO, the member States (WENRA, ENSREG) and the IAEA.

Ongoing and planned activities

¹ Due to the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and the impact to nuclear facilities, the current proposal is being reviewed and may be amended as needed with an increased provision of contingencies for Ukraine

The JSO provides technical support to the project management cycle in Ukraine and includes local and international experts. These experts have remained active in supporting INSC contractors and beneficiaries. Thanks to its ample network, the JSO has been able to provide continued reliable information on the status of nuclear installations and organisations in Ukraine. This information is being shared with INTPA.F1, and other DG's (ENER, ECHO, JRC) daily. This is the most important and most reliable source of information on the Ukrainian nuclear installation in the European Commission according to the different services.

Ongoing activities are mainly focused on improving the radioactive waste management in Ukraine, supporting the management of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, strengthening emergency preparedness and enhancing the capabilities of the nuclear safety regulator (see attached list).

Another 14 M€ worth of INSC projects, which are mainly continuations of ongoing projects, are in the pipeline. The purpose of INSC activities in Ukraine has been to align the country to the *acquis communautaire*/ international best practice. However, considering the Russian aggression on Ukrainian territory, including areas where nuclear facilities are located as well as the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone (CEZ), some of these past or ongoing activities may have to be re-started or re-focused, in line with changing needs. We have started with a contribution agreement which will allow for fast purchasing of monitoring equipment in the CEZ and support to the regulator.

There may be a need to adapt past Commission Decisions on the INSC.

Future INSC activities in Ukraine

AAP 2022

It is planned to present soon an adapted proposal for AAP2022 following events in Ukraine to the SSC., assigning more than half of the budget for contingencies for Ukraine. This description will be vague to allow for the maximum flexibility, will focus on the regulator and the waste management organisations. Supporting Energoatom, the national operator of nuclear power plants in Ukraine will not be excluded.

2023 and beyond

The evolution of the situation in the coming weeks and months will guide us as to the potential needs for Ukraine and their impact on the AAP provisions (currently 37.2M€):

Depending on the circumstances and the evolution of the war, two main scenarios seem possible:

1. If engaging with Ukraine remains difficult or impossible, the line will remain the one of AAP 2022, i.e. maximum flexibility to allow support for the continuation of nuclear safety and radiation protection.
2. If the aggression ends and safe access to the country, or a large part of it is granted, the need for recovery activities will be assessed and prioritised within the INSC. Ukraine will remain the priority for INSC for at least the period of this MFF. Based on past experience and the need to restore the damaged and looted facilities, the necessary budget is expected to exceed the foreseen budget of the INSC for the remainder of the MFF.

Potential immediate needs are already identified:

- Restoration of the national automated radiation monitoring system
- Restoration of safety systems of waste storage facilities.
- Supporting the regulatory authority to regain control over all nuclear facilities.

A more systematic study on possible scenarios has been launched.

Conclusion

INTPA is involved in the assessment and mitigation of the effects of the Russian invasion in Ukraine in the area of nuclear safety and expects to be involved closely in the reconstruction and recovery aspects in the coming years. INTPA F1 coordinates with Commission services, member states and the IAEA.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitment	314.4	314.4	100%
Payments	216.6		68.9%

The nuclear safety programme is implemented through projects that are contracted after international calls for tenders, restricted and negotiated procedures managed in the Commission based on specific technical expertise. . Moreover, some of the projects need a prior signature of a financing agreement with the beneficiary country. Financing agreements allow to contract in the three years after its signature. . This explains the incomplete budget consumption at the end of the MFF exercise, i.e. part of the allocated budget of the 2014 – 2020 INSC will be contracted still in 2021 – 2023. As such, the balance is not indicating any particular delay and is consistent with previous exercises of INSC and TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) programmes.

The payment appropriation of the year 2021 covered the costs of projects contracted in previous years and the 8 projects contracted in 2021 addressing e.g. Emergency, Preparedness and Response to nuclear accident in Western Balkans, support to the Belarussian and the Iranian regulatory authorities, safe management of radioactive waste in Moldova and Ukraine.

The payment appropriation of the year 2022 (EUR 30 million) will cover the expenditures related to the 71 on-going projects, the 21 projects from previous Annual Action Plans (2018 – 2020) still to be contracted and part of the 2021 programme.

The 2022 payment appropriation will cover the costs related to past and on-going projects, new projects that will start in 2022 and support measures for the implementation of the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation. The COVID-19 crisis has significantly slowed down the implementation of the projects in the beneficiary countries during 2020 and 2021 as the nuclear safety cooperation instrument is a fully centralised managed instrument. The very specific and technical nature of the instrument implies a technical expertise that is not available in the EU Delegation to the partner countries. Therefore, all programming activities from definition and adoption of the annual action plan to the contracting, management and implementation on the projects and reporting are managed by the dedicated sector in DG INTPA, Unit F1 Climate change and sustainable energy, nuclear safety.

Travel restrictions due to the sanitary situation impacted the ability to deploy activities on-site. Remote cooperation has been used as often as practically feasible, in particular for training activities but did not allow a 100% effective recovery plan. Only 8 contracts were signed in 2021, compared to an average of yearly 12 previously. As a result, the end-year payment forecast was lowered as the original payment forecast was not met.

Despite this difficult circumstances, the EU flagship programme for the remediation of the legacy sites is now being implemented. This programme was set up to help the Central Asian states which have inherited 1 billion tonnes of hazardous processing waste, which are highly toxic chemical and radioactive residues left behind and unsafely stored in uranium legacy sites. Upon the Commission request, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has set-up an international multi-donors fund (the Environmental Remediation Account – ERA) to finance the implementation of the remediation programme based on the EU funded feasibility studies according to the highest international nuclear safety standards. The first two remediation projects in Kyrgyzstan began in 2020 and are about to be completed and activities have started in Uzbekistan in 2021.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Performance assessment of the INSC 2014 – 2020 by independent external experts has been completed in October 2021.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 will have started

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

Performance assessment of the INSC 2014 – 2020 by independent external experts has been completed in October 2021. Confirming the findings of the Mid-Term Review, the assessment noted the high relevance and unique added value with tangible outcomes and achievements. Main findings can be found in section 3.3. The assessment clearly indicates that the implementation and efficiency of the instrument suffers from a lack of resources that introduces undue delays in contracting. These delays in turn question the adequacy of the project regarding the evolving situation related to nuclear safety in the beneficiary country between the project proposal and the beginning of its implementation.

Resources nevertheless did decrease by 25% for the sector in charge of programming, contracting, implementation and monitoring (the instrument if fully centralised due to its very specific technical nature) for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021 – 2027).

As the instrument is based on a separate legal basis (EURATOM Treaty), the transfer to a better Directorate General should be considered.

Nevertheless, the report noted the need for improvement in cooperating with international organisations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). While recognising that international arrangements in place should be maintained, the report recommends to limit the implementation of projects by the IAEA to activities where the IAEA has unique expertise or capabilities and where it brings added value or is more cost-effective. The unit in charge established a renewed dialogue with the IAEA to cope with this recommendation.

During previous programmes (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States from 1991 to 2006 and INSC from 2007 to 2020), cooperation with the regulatory authorities was primarily aimed at improving the governmental, legal and regulatory frameworks, based on the experience in the EU. This involved the transfer of regulatory practices used in the EU Member States.

The competence of staff working in the nuclear area is of utmost importance to ensure that the use of nuclear technology is safe. The training and tutoring actions, which transfer EU knowledge to students and young professionals, trained around 2500 staff in the beneficiary countries between 2014 and 2020. Some 34% of these were women, which contributes to the gender equality goal in a highly specialised scientific area. This confirms the success of the programme.

A major milestone to make the Chernobyl site environmentally stable and safe was met on 29 November 2016 by sliding the New Safe Confinement over the nuclear reactor destroyed in April 1986. The New Safe Confinement is a giant arch-shaped structure that covers the damaged Chernobyl Unit 4 in order to prevent any further radioactive release. The total project cost is in the order of EUR 1.5 billion, to which the EU contributed more than 430 million (under the TACIS (EUR 210 million) and INSC (EUR 220 million) programmes). In July 2019, the facility was officially handed-over to the Ukrainian government. In 2020, the last facility to safely store the spent nuclear fuel has been completed and transferred to Ukraine, terminating the long lasting international engagement for Chernobyl. However, it has been found out in the performance assessment by external experts finalised in October 2021 that self-sufficiency of Ukraine must be under question after more than 30 years of large support, investment and assistance, raising questions about a possible dependency culture;

The first project supporting the Iranian Nuclear Regulatory Authority started in July 2017, and is running smoothly in a very cooperative atmosphere. Two follow-up projects are ongoing to establish the Nuclear Safety Centre in Tehran, in compliance with the EU commitment to the implementation of the joint comprehensive plan of action, and to perform stress tests at the Bushehr nuclear power plant. A sixth project has been adopted under the 2021 annual action programme. Although under difficult conditions with the US withdrawal and the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU continues to fulfil its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with the Islamic Republic of Iran, supporting the Iranian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

3.2. Key achievements

2500	26 countries and 4 regions	36	18
<i>Participants to the training and tutoring programme in the period 2014-2020</i>	<i>Having benefitted from EU assistance in nuclear safety in 2014-2020</i>	<i>Number of regulatory documents drafted and adopted in 2014-2020 with the support of the INSC</i>	<i>Nuclear waste management and strategy documents produced in 2014-2020</i>

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation has undergone the following evaluation/studies during its period of implementation. The mid-term evaluation (please refer to the Programme Statements of the DB 2022 for more information)

An independent assessment of the INSC 2014 – 2020 took place between April and October 2021, complementing the Mid-Term Review and applying the same review methodology confirmed the findings of the MTR. Additionally, the review noted that:

- The time to contract is long on average, indicating insufficient human and financial resources to implement the Instrument;
- Self-sufficiency of Ukraine must be assessed after more than 30 years of large support, investment and assistance, raising questions about a possible dependency culture;
- The cooperation with international organisations and in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency should be driven by the added value and cost effectiveness;
- The MTR finding concerning the insufficient resources for the implementation of the Instrument are confirmed. Situation has even deteriorated since the last evaluation, limiting the activities to only core functions.

The European Commission presented this report to the INSC committee in November 2021 and to the European Council Working

Party for Atomic Questions in January 2022.

The European Commission presented to the Member States in 2017 the assessment of the EU Assistance to the regulatory authority of Ukraine.

The European Commission presented to the Member States in 2019, three additional independent review of the EU assistance for:

- Training and Tutoring projects;
- Nuclear waste projects in Ukraine;
- Nuclear safety cooperation with Armenia.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: The promotion of an effective nuclear safety and radiation protection culture and implementation of the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards, and continuous improvement of nuclear safety, including the promotion of transparency of authorities in third countries in decision making processes relating to the safety of nuclear installations (Art 2.2.a)

Indicator 1: Number of countries benefiting from EU support in developing of a culture of safety for nuclear energy

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0	5	10	12	12	15	17	20			20
	Actual Progress									Final
9										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of countries)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Project documentation
Link to the objective	By providing the number of third countries/regions benefitting from the transfer of the EU expertise, the indicator gives an important information on the relevance of the programme to enhance the nuclear safety and security of the EU citizens as a nuclear accident has consequences worldwide.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF, using the same name and methodology.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 9 countries reported for 2021 are: Armenia, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, South Africa, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Specific Objective 2: Responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations, including the promotion of transparency of authorities in third countries in decision making processes (Art 2.2.b)

Indicator 1: Number of regulatory documents produced in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0	5	8	10	15	17	17	20			20
	Actual Progress									Final
5										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of documents)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Project documentation
Link to the objective	Nuclear safety depends upon a strong regulatory framework that includes law, regulations, guidelines and other documents. The transfer of the EU knowledge and in particular the EU Acquis that is recognised as the best international standard of nuclear safety is key to enhance nuclear safety in the beneficiary country. The volume and number of regulatory documents produced with the EU support

	and adopted/used in the beneficiary country indicates the level of improvement of nuclear safety in that country.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF, using the same name and methodology.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The 5 regulatory documents reported for 2021 are: 1. Law of Ukraine on introducing amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine regarding the improvement of management and deregulation system in the field of land matters; 2. State Nuclear Regulatory Inspection of Ukraine Order № 411 on approval of the Regulations on the procedure for investigation and accounting of operational events in the operation of nuclear power plants; 3. State Nuclear Regulatory Inspection of Ukraine Order № 263 on approval of Requirements for safety assessment of nuclear power plants in respect of external effects of natural origin; 4. State Nuclear Regulatory Inspection of Ukraine Order № 535 on approval of General provisions of radiation safety during the activities related to uranium ore mining, processing; 5. Decree of the Supreme Rada of Ukraine on taking the Draft Law of Ukraine on introducing amendments to the Code of Ukraine on administrative infractions and to the Criminal Code of Ukraine in respect of strengthening the responsibility for violation of radiation safety requirements in the areas affected by radioactive contamination.

Specific Objective 3: Establishing efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in third countries (Art 2.2.c)

Indicator 1: Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefitting from EC funded projects

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0	0	1	1	2	2	3	3			3
	Actual Progress									Final
0	0									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of documents)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Project documentation
Link to the objective	Safe management of radioactive wastes needs a clear and detailed series of documents that will ensure that any related activity is performed according to best international standards. The transfer of the EU knowledge and in particular the EU Acquis is key to establish/improve the safe management of radioactive wastes and spent nuclear fuel, decommissioning of nuclear facilities and environmental remediation of former nuclear sites. The volume and number of corresponding documents produced with the EU support and adopted/used in the beneficiary country indicates the level of improvement of radioactive waste management in that country.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF, using the same name and methodology.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Following the adoption of an MFF, projects need to be designed and implemented, which takes time. Furthermore, it also takes time for projects to generate and report results. Consequently, it is to be expected that there are no results to report in the first year of an MFF.

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC)

General Objective 1: The Union shall finance measures to support the promotion of a high level of nuclear safety, radiation protection, and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear material in third countries

Indicator 1: Number of countries benefitting from EU support in developing of a culture of safety for nuclear energy

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Countries										
2014	Milestones									2021
6			10	11	12	12	12	12		12
	Actual Progress									Final

	6	13	17	19	21	25	26	26		26
Are we on track :	On track									
Regions										
2014	Milestones								2020	
							3	3		3
	Actual Progress								Final	
			2		4	4	4	4		4
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number (of countries) NB: the figures are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	project documentation
Narrative	3 target regions are Central Asia, Africa, South East Asia
Methodology	The figures are cumulative.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF, using the same name.
Other methodological comments	Armenia, Belarus, Indonesia, Singapore, Jordan, Thailand, Vietnam, Iraq, Morocco, Tanzania, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Iran, Mongolia, the Philippines, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Bosna and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Ghana. Regional project in Central Asia, Southern Africa, the Balkans and Gulf countries. The countries embarking on nuclear energy are: Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. The countries with radioprotection issues are Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The countries and regions benefitting from the nuclear safety cooperation has grown up during the period, demonstrating the recognition of the value added of the programme for the countries dealing with radioactive legacy and/or engaging in nuclear energy.

Specific Objective 1: The promotion of an effective nuclear safety culture and implementation of the highest nuclear safety and radiation protection standards, and continuous improvement of nuclear safety.

Indicator 1: Number of regulatory documents produced in the beneficiary countries with the support of EU expertise

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones								2021	
4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8		8
	Actual Progress								Final	
	5	8	13	18	30	36	36	36		36
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of documents) NB: the figures are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	project documentation
Narrative	
Methodology	This indicator describes the implementation of EU projects: • At the preparation phase of the projects, a number of issues are identified through several Cooperation Forums with the IAEA. Subsequently during the implementation phase these issues are addressed through actions (e.g. training, reports, draft regulations). This indicator measures the number of nuclear safety regulatory documents (and actions such as laws, regulations, guidelines) that are produced with the support of the EU project and which proposes solution to the issues identified. • At the final stage, those documents are adopted by the Beneficiary country and applied by the concerned stakeholders (operators, regulatory authorities, nuclear facilities). This indicator is amongst the programme implementation indicators in the MIP 2014-2017. The figures are cumulative.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be used to monitor the 2021-27 MFF, using the same name.
Other methodological comments	The number of deliverables in 2018 reached a peak corresponding to the reported increase with the completion of major projects. These document are; i) the feasibility study for the Nuclear Safety Center in Iran foreseen in the annex 3 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action presented in June 2018 to the representatives of France, Germany, the United Kingdom, China and Russia; ii) the pre-construction safety assessment report for the radioactive waste disposal facility in Iraq; iii) 6 regulation and guidelines for Jordan; iv) 4 reference regulatory documents for Iran. Commission Implementing Decision of 13.06.2014 on the Instrument for Nuclear Safety cooperation Multiannual

Full metadata available at this address	Indicative Programme (2014 - 2017) COM(2014)3764 Final.
Justification of the trend	No new document has been released officially in the beneficiary countries in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemics. Nevertheless, the programme already achieved the objectives at the inception of the period.

Specific Objective 2: Responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, namely transport, pre-treatment, treatment, processing, storage and disposal, and the decommissioning and remediation of former nuclear sites and installations

Indicator 1: Number of waste management and remediation documents developed with EU support

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2021
4	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	9		9
	Actual Progress									Final
	2	3	5	8	13	18	18	18		18
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of documents) NB: the figures are cumulative.
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	project documentation
Narrative	
Methodology	The figures are cumulative.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF, using the same name.
Other methodological comments	Infrastructure improvement for radioactive waste management remediation of contaminated sites and decommissioning in Ukraine including the following document: ‘Analysis of investigation priorities for 32 DWSF facilities with uncertain site conditions and radioactivity inventory data’; ii) Development and final approval of 2 remediation plans including feasibility studies for sustainable environmental remediation of uranium legacy sites of Degmay and Taboshar in Tajikistan; iii) National Strategy for Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel Management complemented by Action Plan for the Strategy Implementation and Feasibility Study of radioactive waste management at Sewaqa site in Jordan’. The increase of the target from 8 to 9 is reflecting the newly identified need in Moldova . We are engaging jointly with Sweden in supporting the country under the current instrument taking into account the framework now fully in place to allow implementation of projects.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	No new document has been released officially in the beneficiary countries in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemics. Nevertheless, the programme already achieved the objectives at the inception of the period.

Specific Objective 3: The establishment of frameworks and methodologies for the application of efficient and effective safeguards for nuclear material in third countries.

Indicator 1: Number of nuclear safeguards authorities benefitting from EC funded projects

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2012	Milestones									2021
0	0	1	1	2	3	3	3	3		3
	Actual Progress									Final
	0	1	1	3	4	4	4	4		4
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number (of authorities) NB: the figures are cumulative
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	project documentation
Narrative	
Methodology	The figures are cumulative.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator will not be used to monitor the 2021-2027 MFF.
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	

Justification of the trend	The AAP 2020 in line with the MIP did not include a safeguards project.
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6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to gender equality

6.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming			Total		
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Score 1: 34.6						
Score 0: 3						

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

As we are at the beginning of the programming exercise with the late adoption of the first Annual Action Programme (December 2021), the estimated amounts for the INSC Contribution to gender equality are based on the spending from the previous MFF under INSC. We may revise the yearly profile, once we will advance with the programming process. The assessment of the performance contributing to the gender equality will be derived from the annual action programmes when contracting and implementation will start.

The contribution of the programme to gender equality is mainly achieved through all activities related to training and tutoring for which the European Commission strongly encourages the enrolment of women that in turn will provide additional opportunity for career development. This programme started under INSC 2014 – 2020 has a proven incentive for the participation of women in nuclear training and education (34% women participation over the reference period).

Under score 0, there are actions which relate to support measures, administrative costs action such as for example the deployment of digital health tools.

6.2. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.2.1. Goals

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Environmental remediation programme for Central Asia.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Training and tutoring programme, education projects.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Environmental remediation programme for Central Asia; remediation of the Pridniproviskyi chemical plant in Ukraine.

SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Environmental remediation programme for Central Asia; remediation of the Pridniproviskyi chemical plant in Ukraine.

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

All nuclear safety projects are contributing to the establishment of a competent and independent regulatory authority and strengthening the non-proliferation regime.

6.2.2. Key achievements and performance

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The Pridniproviskyi Chemical Plant (PChP) is a former Soviet Union uranium processing plant, located in the city of Kamyanske in Ukraine. Commissioned in 1947, the 240-ha site has received little to no attention in regard to clean-up, safe storage and/or disposal of the many radiological hazards that were simply left at the site when it was shut down in 1992. Around 40% of the 90-ha south area of the site is radiologically contaminated.

The radiological hazards are mainly restricted to the 20 or so buildings utilised formerly for the purpose of Uranium-Ore Processing. However, due mainly to the uncontrolled removal of materials for their scrap value, vandalism and lack of maintenance over the past 26 years, many buildings are in extremely bad condition. This has contributed to a greater distribution of contaminated materials both inside and outside of the buildings.

Many buildings have been repurposed and are in use by different State Enterprises under the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine (MECI). In some cases, the buildings, including a number of the contaminated ones, have been sold to Private Companies.

One recent project, which began toward the end of 2017, is aimed at improving the safety to the public from the former Pridniproviskyi Chemical Plant (PChP). The INSC Project will implement urgent measures aimed at making the site safer for members of the public (i.e. non-radiological workers) that work at the site and improve security in order to prevent further vandalism and theft, but specifically to prevent further unauthorised removal of materials from the site.

The remediation programme of the Pridniproviskyi Chemical Plant in Ukraine therefore contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) by protecting people and the environment from radiological hazards.

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The safe use of nuclear energy cannot be achieved without competent staff with a strong safety culture. The European Commission has developed a recognised and successful training, tutoring and education programme started under the former INSC and that will continue. It provides students and young professionals with courses and hands-on training benefitting from the best EU nuclear safety expertise. The programme also promotes the participation of women. Two Masters and one Bachelor diplomas are being established with the French University Nice Côte d'Azur and the Politecnico di Milano.

The training, tutoring and education programme provides education opportunities in the beneficiary countries contributing to SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all).

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

High volume of toxic and radioactive waste from former Soviet Union uranium mining activities is impacting on the environment and the population's health of Central Asia States. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly highlighted the issue by adopting Resolution no 68/218 on "The Role of the International Community in Averting the Radiation Threat in Central Asia" which recognises the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia.

Through the Instrument for Nuclear Safety and Cooperation (INSC), the EU has allocated a total funding of EUR 31.1 million to implement a two-phased approach for seven priority uranium legacy sites in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The European Commission has organised in 2017 and 2018 a very successful side event during the 72nd and 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York, the latter with the participation of former Commissioner Neven Mimica, to invite Countries to contribute to the multi-donor Environmental Remediation Account established in 2015 by the EBRD upon the European Commission request.

Another contribution of EUR 30 million is foreseen under the INSC and the first EUR 10 million have been adopted in 2021 and will be transferred to the EBRD in 2022.

The remediation programme of uranium legacy sites will clear water and land for a sustainable agriculture in a region known as the breadbasket of Central Asia (Ferghana Valley). This EU programme therefore contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

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

The EU contributes to the G7 decision to render the Chernobyl nuclear site environmentally safe again. The radioactive hazard was entirely secured, making the site safe for the next 100 years. The facility was subsequently handed over to Ukraine in July 2019, 33 years after the Chernobyl accident in 1986. The handover also represented the completion of the largest ever example of international cooperation in nuclear safety, with the establishment in 1997 of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund. The Fund was managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and funded by contributions from 45 countries, the Commission and the EBRD. The EU contributed EUR 431.6 million through its Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, making it the largest donor after the EBRD.

Most nuclear safety projects are managed directly by Commission departments. The European Commission has contributed significantly to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) with Iran.

Although there is no SDG target specific on nuclear safety, the EU actions contribute to progress on the commitments on SDG16 on governance.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World**Humanitarian Aid (HUMA)****Lead DG: ECHO**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The scale, frequency and duration of crises that demand international humanitarian response is increasing, aggravated by long-term trends such as climate change, economic shocks, population growth, rapid and unsustainable urbanisation, resource scarcities as well as increasingly protracted armed conflicts. These are, and will continue to be, the main drivers of humanitarian crises, which in turn generate growing humanitarian needs globally. In 2020-2021, the situation was further exacerbated globally by the COVID-19 pandemic and in a number of crises by new or escalated conflicts (Nagorno Karabakh, Tigray and Afghanistan). The Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 published in December 2021 announced funding requirements of USD 41 billion to assist 183 million of the 274 million people in need in 63 countries. This represents 1 in 29 people worldwide - a significant increase from 1 in 33 in 2020 and 1 in 45 at the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2019, which were already the highest figures in decades. However, funding is not increasing at the same speed as humanitarian needs. In 2021, global humanitarian needs were almost USD 38 billion, with a funding gap of USD 19 billion¹. This overall gap between available resources and humanitarian needs is expected to continue to grow. Against this background, there will be an ever greater need for front-line life-saving

¹ FTS : [Appeals and response plans 2021 | Financial Tracking Service \(unocha.org\)](#)

humanitarian assistance. Given the protracted nature of several crises, a nexus approach, with enhanced cooperation between humanitarian and development assistance is necessary. Where applicable, the peace element of the triple nexus remains paramount.

Actual delivery of aid is becoming more difficult and dangerous in view of the shrinking humanitarian space and often deliberate attacks against humanitarian and health care workers as well as against civilian infrastructure, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The EU humanitarian aid programme provides emergency, life-saving assistance to people, particularly the most vulnerable, hit by human-induced or natural disasters. Humanitarian aid is a key pillar of the EU's external action. It is also an important element of the EU's ability to project its values globally.

The EU is a leading player in humanitarian assistance on the international stage, both in terms of its ability to provide rapid and flexible assistance across a wide range of crises, and in virtue of its influence in shaping the global humanitarian policy agenda. Because of the financial weight (EU and its Member States together are among the world's leading humanitarian donors) and world-wide scope of its humanitarian actions, the EU is also able to encourage other humanitarian donors to implement effective and principled humanitarian aid strategies. Humanitarian aid is often the only EU instrument able to concretely intervene in acute conflict situations.

In a context of insufficient funding to address ever-growing needs, the EU is trying to fill gaps in global humanitarian aid by addressing needs in areas which are difficult to access and by providing a response not only to the biggest and most visible humanitarian crises, but also to forgotten crises (i.e. crises receiving no or insufficient international aid, political and media attention). Moreover, Member States often look to the EU as a donor to provide assistance in crises where they have only limited means to intervene in a national capacity.

Member States also benefit from the EU's "humanitarian diplomacy", which aims to increase humanitarian space and lead to more effective provision of humanitarian aid. Another key element of EU added value for Member States lies in the strong operational knowledge and technical expertise of the EU's unique network of humanitarian field offices spread over almost 40 countries.

1.3. Specific objectives

Together with the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (1257/96), the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid sets out the specific nature and mandate of humanitarian aid. In line with the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (1257/96), the EU's humanitarian assistance goes directly to people affected by disaster or conflict, irrespective of their race, ethnic group, religion, sex, age, nationality or political affiliation and must not be guided by, or subject to, political considerations. The EU acts on the basis of the international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The main objectives are to:

- provide needs-based delivery of EU assistance to save and preserve life, prevent and alleviate human suffering and safeguard the integrity and dignity of populations affected by disasters or human-induced crises, including protracted crises;
- build the resilience and recovery capacity of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities, in complementarity with other EU instruments.

These objectives contribute to the overall objectives, principles and actions of the Union's external action as defined in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union.

Effective multilateralism and UN-led coordination are central to the EU's humanitarian action. Promoting compliance with International Humanitarian Law and ensuring the protection of civilians, and of humanitarian and health care workers remains an essential objective.

On 10 March 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication on the EU's humanitarian action "New challenges, same principles", which confirmed the main principles and priorities for the EU's humanitarian action. The main objectives focus on more effectively addressing growing humanitarian needs as well as on supporting a better enabling environment for the delivery of principled humanitarian aid, including respect of international humanitarian law. At the same time, the Communication emphasises the need to work closely with development and peace building actors to promote long-term solutions.

While maintaining constant efforts in areas such as food, nutrition, water and shelter, a number of objectives have been strengthened in response to the global context. The EU will continue to devote 15% of its initial humanitarian budget to 'forgotten crises', and 10% to education in emergencies to promote access for children in crisis settings to safe and quality education. A stronger focus is placed on health as well as climate impacts, with disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures increasingly integrated into the EU's humanitarian response, and with climate mainstreaming to be enhanced across humanitarian action. Through the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, the EU addresses short-term needs and provides long-term solutions and, in conflicts, contributes to building lasting peace.

A meaningful participation of aid beneficiaries in decisions that affect them is key for the EU. In line with its equality agenda, the EU is committed to meeting the specific needs, rights and risks of groups of beneficiaries including women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. The continued integration of protection for people caught in crisis situations is key in the EU's humanitarian aid.

1.4. Public intervention context

The goals, principles and procedures for implementing EU humanitarian aid operations are set in the Humanitarian Aid regulation (1257/96). The EU's humanitarian aid enjoys strong public support as one of the most visible facets of the EU external action. Under the EU Treaties (article 214 TFEU) both Member States and the EU have important and distinct roles in humanitarian aid. Coordination of efforts, ensuring complementarity and promoting a nexus approach can increase synergies and impact, in areas such as humanitarian diplomacy, consolidated EU pledges and sharing of analysis or pooling of resources.

1.5. Actions

Humanitarian interventions mainly consist of funding projects carried out by humanitarian organisations, most of the time in complex, risky contexts. The Commission (DG ECHO) does not intervene directly on the ground (with some exceptions, e.g. on transport where the Commission aims to enable work of partners). As a rule, DG ECHO manages the EU's humanitarian aid financing through individual agreements with partner organisations (NGOs, United Nations agencies, and other international organisations). Direct management is applied for NGOs, and indirect management for UN and International Organisations.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Commission (DG ECHO) implements EU humanitarian aid operations by funding humanitarian projects of around 140 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, other International Organisations (including the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Commission has a permanent network of international and local humanitarian field experts working in crisis zones around the globe. The EU has been playing a leading role in establishing new policy approaches (e.g. education in emergencies) and innovative funding modalities (e.g. cash-based assistance).

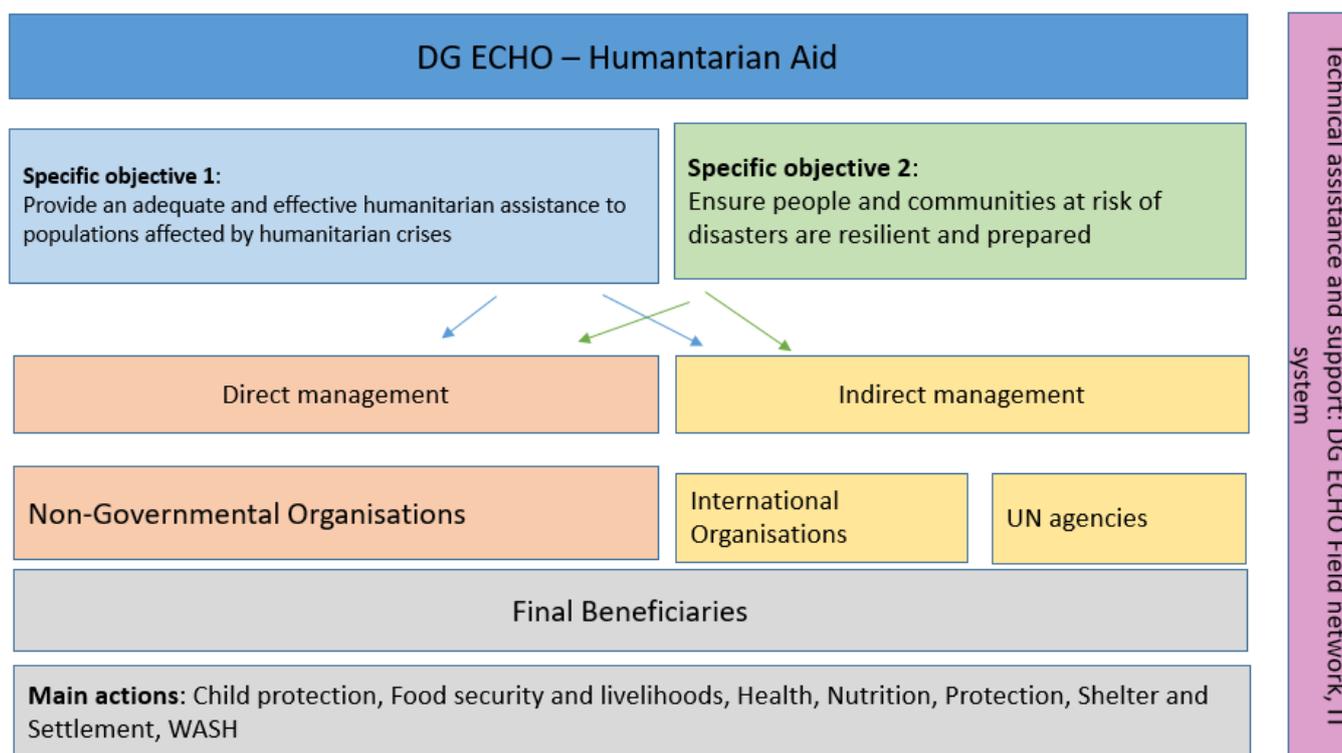
At the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, the main donors and humanitarian aid organisations agreed on the 'Grand Bargain' to adapt working practices to maximise efficiency and impact². They agreed on the need for flexibility on the donor side (enabling partners to deliver a timely and adapted response, while harmonising reporting requirements). Aid organisations on their side renewed a commitment to coordinated needs assessments, accountability to beneficiaries and taxpayers, transparency and visibility of donors' assistance, making sure that the highest possible proportion of funds reaches people in need. The Grand Bargain also included a strong commitment from donors and aid agencies to channel more resources directly to local responders. In line with these commitments, as also reaffirmed in the March 2021 Communication on Humanitarian Action, the Commission strives to modernise its funding mechanisms while further stepping up EU support for localisation of aid delivery.

The EU is further promoting innovative solutions that deliver more efficient, cost-effective and climate-proof aid³. This also includes promoting private sector engagement in delivering services and exploring innovative financing options.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

² See High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing: *Too important to fail - addressing the humanitarian financing gap*, and <https://agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861>

³ For example, through the European Innovation Council prize for Affordable High-Tech for Humanitarian Aid.



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (OJ L 163, 2.07.1996, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	11 569.16

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	2 168.1	1 806.1	1 626.9	1 660.7	1 693.6	1 727.5	1 762.4	12 484.1
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	9.9	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	9.9
Total	2 177.9	1 845.0	1 626.9	1 660.7	1 693.6	1 727.5	1 762.4	12 494.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The Humanitarian Aid Regulation is not time-limited; it contains no clause linking its legal validity to a specific Multi-Annual Financial Framework, nor does it have a clause specifying the financial means allocated to humanitarian aid under a given MFF. Therefore, the policy and legal framework for the EU's humanitarian aid can remain unchanged under the 2021-2027 MFF, which is supported by the conclusions of the last comprehensive evaluation on humanitarian aid (2017), where the relevance of the current framework was confirmed.

On 10 March 2021, the Commission adopted the Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU's humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles (COM(2021)110).

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en

As main interface with the external public, DG ECHO main website provides an overview of the different activities carried out by the DG, as well as funding opportunities. The website also contains all key strategic documents and relevant legislative texts guiding the work of the DG.

<https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/>

The website provide useful information for DG ECHO's partners.

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

As regards Commitment Appropriations, the budget amounts adopted in 2021 and requested for 2022 are in line with the financial programming. The payment appropriations are established on the basis of estimated payment needs triggered by old and new commitments. Considering the increasing humanitarian needs, it is foreseen that implementation will follow the same trend as in 2014-20 programme with limited or any difficulties, i.e. 100%.

In 2021, the Commission funded operations of humanitarian organisations in a wide range of crisis-affected countries and regions, such as Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, South Sudan, Venezuela, the Sahel region and Ukraine (pre-aggression). The larger part of the EU humanitarian funding was dedicated to addressing needs arising from protracted crises, including forgotten crises (such as the Burundi refugee crisis, droughts in Madagascar, the Rohingya regional crisis or the Sahrawi Crisis in Algeria), mainly driven by conflict and compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. At the start of 2021, it was estimated that more than 235 million people across the world – the highest figure in decades – were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, and more funding than ever was required to help them. The Commission deployed operations in more than 80 countries, covering 98% of the countries for which the UN had launched an appeal.

For 2022 and following years, the Commission will continue responding to new and protracted crises. This objective will remain very challenging as humanitarian needs will continue the past growing pace, a trend that is already observed in early 2022 with the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. In a context of limited resources, it will be of paramount importance that the increase of humanitarian needs triggered by Russia's military aggression on Ukraine is followed by adequate budgetary resources in order not to limit the response capacity for protracted and new crises. However, it remains to be seen whether there may be any medium to long term consequences of Russia's unjustified invasion of Ukraine on other humanitarian crises. This will depend to a large extent from the duration, and severity of the crisis in Ukraine as well as the evolution of the other crises.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Despite difficulties derived from the urgent respond to onset crises and disasters and the high need for relief to populations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission remained a global leader in the provision of humanitarian aid. With over 590 million interventions, the Commission responded to 98% of UN's humanitarian appeals and allocated an important part of its budget to respond to main and forgotten humanitarian crises. Furthermore, progress was made towards reaching objectives on thematic policies such as education in emergencies, gender mainstreaming, and climate mainstreaming.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

In 2021, the EU continued providing emergency assistance worldwide to people in need, particularly to the most vulnerable hit by human-induced or natural disasters, with the COVID-19 pandemic compounding the needs and in many cases complicating the

response. In 2021, the EU and the 27 Member States' humanitarian aid contributions amounted to more than USD 8.4 billion, representing 33.4% of the global share⁴. As the world's largest humanitarian aid donor, the EU and its Member States retained a central role in tackling humanitarian challenges worldwide, notably thanks to a close cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations agencies and other donors. This responded to the overall objectives and principles of the Union's external action as defined in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including by respecting the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. EU's humanitarian advocacy at international level also benefited the humanitarian community worldwide and indirectly people in need of humanitarian assistance, which resulted eventually in a more effective provision of humanitarian aid.

A key element explaining the achievements of EU humanitarian aid lies in the strong operational knowledge and technical expertise of the EU's unique network of humanitarian field offices spread over 40 third countries. With a budget of EUR 2.4 billion, the EU could fund more than 126⁵ million interventions, reaching people in need in the most fragile contexts worldwide and providing assistance in 98% of the countries for which the UN launched an appeal. The EU can moreover take advantage of the comprehensive range of humanitarian partners (around 140 partner organisations, including United Nations agencies, the international segment of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and non-governmental organisations) through which people in need can receive assistance even in the areas of the world most difficult to reach. The EU also continued to play a leading role in the development of ambitious policy approaches; 'Education in Emergencies' is to be particularly highlighted in this respect as, since 2019, the EU has dedicated 10% of its humanitarian aid budget to support actions in this field and is continuing to do so. In 2021, the EU investment in education in emergencies amounted to over EUR 146 million and supported more than 2.3 million girls and boys affected by humanitarian crises to have access to safe and quality education at primary and secondary levels.

EU-funded humanitarian actions were fully needs-based as EU humanitarian assistance went directly to people affected by disaster or conflict, irrespective of their origin, ethnic group, religion, sex, age, nationality or political affiliation, and was not guided by, or subject to, political considerations. As a result, the EU remained firm on acting on the sole basis of the international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

EU-funded humanitarian aid actions made an important contribution to the objectives of (i) providing needs-based delivery of EU assistance to people faced with natural disasters and human induced threats and protracted crises, and (ii) building the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster affected communities. On the first objective, in 2021 approximately 126⁶million people benefitted from EU intervention worldwide, 68% of the budget was spent in countries ranked 'very high risk to disaster' according to INFORM Risk index and more than 30% of the initial budget was spent in forgotten crisis. On the second objective, in 2021, approximately 49 million persons worldwide benefitted from targeted disaster preparedness actions in disaster prone countries. In addition, preparedness and risk reduction measures were mainstreamed into response actions. Around 49% of all EU humanitarian projects funded in 2021 included thus preparedness activities

Moreover, the EU ensured a rapid response to crises as they developed (e.g. the EU mobilised EUR 164 million from the Emergency Aid Reserve, to help address the immediate needs of those affected by food insecurity in several regions) and to the response to the COVID-19 exacerbating effects on humanitarian needs (e.g. EUR 100 million in humanitarian funding from the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve were mobilised to support COVID-19 vaccination rollout in Africa). EU humanitarian aid was delivered while ensuring the necessary flexibility, adequate expertise, relevance, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. The scale of funding dedicated to humanitarian aid actions allowed the EU to have a meaningful impact on the ground, addressing the needs of approximately 126 million people in 82 countries. The EU alone (i.e. without its Member States) contributed to 11% of global humanitarian funding in 2021 (corresponding to USD 2.9 billion)⁷. Positive impacts were also found in regions where funding allocations were more limited, thanks to the selection of projects with high leverage or multiplier effect potential. This was particularly true for 'forgotten crises', to which the Commission continues to pay a particular attention in line with its long-standing commitment.

Despite the drop of the proportion of total humanitarian projects including disaster preparedness considerations (from 58% to 49% between 2019 and 2022), due to the sharp increase of projects derived from the pandemic and from onset crisis; the EU continued to support capacity and resilience building of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in a targeted manner, through dedicated funding to strengthening preparedness capacities for response and anticipatory action. For instance, it signed a multi-year "Programmatic Partnership" with FAO to implement anticipatory actions and reinforce governments' capacity to do so in five countries in Asia. This initiative builds upon on-going Disaster preparedness Budget Line the Commission is financing in South-East Asia through FAO, which was evaluated in 2021 as having significantly influenced the Association for Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) policy framework which resulted in several ASEAN Member States to successfully deliver shock responsive COVID-19 assistance within own fiscal space and social protection systems.

⁴ Source OCHA FTS, data retrieved on February 2021.

⁵ Provisional beneficiary estimation calculated through a methodology still to be approved. This result shall be considered as a rough indicative information and does not extrapolate directly from the more than 590 million humanitarian interventions performed by the Commission in 2021.

⁶ Provisional beneficiary estimation calculated through a methodology still to be approved. This result shall be considered as a rough indicative information and does not extrapolate directly from the more than 590 million humanitarian interventions performed by the Commission in 2021.

⁷ Source OCHA FTS, data retrieved on February 2021.

Thanks to the EU's disaster preparedness targeted actions, local communities were able to react fast and efficiently when disasters occurred, thus helping to save many lives and assets in regions exposed to natural hazards, particularly climate related ones. For example, in Bangladesh, beneficiary households were able to save an average of USD 570 in avoided losses to their assets and livelihoods through taking early actions against floods. To complement this and reinforce its contribution to resilience through humanitarian action, the EU also promoted the integration of disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures in regular humanitarian response actions so that communities could be better prepared to respond to aftershocks and to reduce imminent risk to which they were exposed.

In 2021, the EU provided **over EUR 2.2 billion in aid to the most vulnerable** (including EDF and externally assigned revenues) across **more than 82 countries**.

The EU's principled and needs-based approach to humanitarian aid includes addressing 'forgotten crises' (crises with little media attention and poor coverage⁸; with a pledge of at least 15% of the budget). The EU was thus present in every significant humanitarian crisis in 2021 with a variety of adapted funding tools. In larger crises, the EU consistently responded to situations where other donors were not present and often played the role of coordinator and catalyst. 79.7% of the contracts were issued within a very short timeframe (11 days).

Education in Emergencies remained a flagship policy, 10% of the budget was dedicated to it, and more than **2.3 million boys and girls in the most vulnerable situations** benefited from this support. The EU continued to mainstream gender considerations across humanitarian sectors of action, and advanced in the implementation of the approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises outlined in the Staff Working Document 'Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance'⁹. In addition, the EU took specific measures in order to mainstream the needs of persons with disabilities across all EU-funded humanitarian actions. In this respect, in 2021 the Commission funded some 30 humanitarian aid projects specifically targeting persons with disabilities. This comes on top of some 232 assistance projects that addressed the needs of persons with disabilities, among other vulnerable beneficiaries. As of 2021, the EU has also strengthened disaggregated data requirements on persons with disabilities in the funding proposals of humanitarian actions. In January 2021, the ECA published its Special Report 02/2021: *EU humanitarian aid for education: helps children in need, but should be longer-term and reach more girls*. The Commission is in the process of implementing the actions addressing the recommendations by end-June 2022.

The EU continued to invest in disaster preparedness as an essential means to strengthen national and local response systems in order to reduce humanitarian needs caused by disasters, natural hazards and those related to other types of risks (biological, industrial, etc.) and threats (violence and conflicts). A total of EUR 75 million financed 25 countries¹⁰ and 5 regional interventions across the globe in 2021.

In the framework of its co-chairmanship with Switzerland of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) initiative (June 2018 – June 2021), the EU continued in 2021 to promote principled donor behaviour, while taking into account the new challenges and needs emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. access restrictions, vaccines). The overall priorities of the GHD co-chairmanship included: reconciling counter-terrorism measures and principled humanitarian aid, promoting respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), innovative financing, as well as assessing the impact of the UN Development System reform rollout on the international humanitarian response in the field.

Besides being co-convenor of the Grand Bargain's work stream 5 on coordinated needs assessments, the EU joined the Facilitation Group (FG) of the Grand Bargain, where it has been playing an active role since October 2019. In December 2020 and January 2021, the EU chaired the Facilitation Group, and again in October and November 2021.

Gravely concerned by the continued widespread violations of International Humanitarian Law and the adverse consequences of armed conflicts for civilians and humanitarian action, the EU continued to strongly advocate for compliance with IHL. The Commission has also worked towards further strengthening IHL and the monitoring of violations, in line with the newly adopted Communication on the EU's humanitarian action. In 2021, the EU organised a high level side event on IHL in the margin of the UN General Assembly Ministerial Week. The EU has also promoted the protection of education from attack and the protection of children in armed conflict, among others as part of a high-level side event, jointly organized with Belgium, in the margin of the 2021 UN General Assembly. The EU has also organised a discussion series on the safety and security of humanitarian and medical personnel in armed conflicts, which produced an Outcome Document with over 40 recommendations.

In 2021, the EU continued guaranteeing fast and safe access to the field; ECHO Flights continued supporting Humanitarian Aid Transport Services. To allow Member States and humanitarian partners to transport humanitarian staff and supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance, the EU temporarily put in place the **EU Humanitarian**

⁽⁸⁾ As example: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central America, Chad, Colombia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Sudan, Ukraine

⁽⁹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/Gender_SWD_2013.pdf

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen + regional approach in the Caribbean, Central America/Mexico, South America, Southern Africa and South-East Asia.

Air Bridge, offering air transport to and from various destinations worldwide. In 2021 the HAB implemented **21 flights and covered until now 23 hard-to-reach countries** to transport humanitarian and medical staff and supplies.

Some concrete examples of EU support in humanitarian crisis are:

- Following the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021, the political and institutional context in the country has completely changed, along with the challenges and objectives for the years to come. In 2021, the EU provided EUR 222 million to humanitarian assistance programmes covering the needs of displaced populations, in particular on food security, nutrition, health, wash, mine decontamination to protect humanitarian workers, protection and education, with a specific focus on the specific needs of women and girls. Of the total funding, 26% is allocated to health and nutrition, 23% to food security and livelihoods, 14% to education, 12% to mine action and logistics and 11% winterisation and multi sector support. A minimum of 5 million beneficiaries in extreme need are planned to be reached in the immediate term. As of 12 December 2021, around 280 tons of life-saving medication, COVID-19 and nutritional items have been delivered to Kabul through the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, in close co-operation with humanitarian partners
- The EU continued to deliver life-saving assistance and support to millions of people affected by the crisis in Syria. The EU allocated EUR 220 million to support the most vulnerable impacted by this crisis (including refugees in Lebanon and Jordan) and continued to deliver life-saving assistance and to support millions of people throughout Syria, focusing on the vital delivery of food, medicine, water, and shelter items. In Turkey, the EU continued providing support to the largest refugee population in the world (close to 4 million, of which 3.6 million Syrians). Under the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, the EU contracted about EUR 2.4 billion of humanitarian projects. In addition, it has allocated EUR 531.7 million in humanitarian funding for 2020, which allowed us to support the two flagship humanitarian projects Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education. In early 2021, the Commission also allocated additional EUR 50 million to continue with some of our key protection, health and education projects. In December 2021, the EU budgetary authorities approved a request for additional funding (so called Draft Amending Budget or DAB 5), which will allow the ESSN to continue until early 2023 with an additional allocation of EUR 325 million. This will ensure continuity in the support to over 1.5 million beneficiaries until it is handed over to DG NEAR. The Emergency Social Safety Net (which provides monthly cash payments directly to refugees through a debit card to help meet their basic needs. It supported over 1.5 million refugees by the end of 2021) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education which (provides cash transfers to vulnerable families to promote school enrolment and attendance for refugee children). By the end of 2021, it reached nearly 695 000 children.
- In response to the complex crisis in the Sahel, in 2021, the Commission covered emergency humanitarian needs in seven countries of the wider Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Mali, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon). The Commission responded to emergency humanitarian needs of most vulnerable populations in these countries, mobilising EUR 222.7 million to support multisectoral humanitarian interventions to the benefit of the over 10 million forcibly displaced persons across the region. The emergency response in conflict areas included support to rapid reaction mechanisms (a three-month multi sectorial emergency aid package) and to existing national structures to maintain access to basic services. Moreover, EU aid supported humanitarian access to hard-to-reach areas through humanitarian air services, humanitarian civil-military coordination and security management. In addition, as a response to the food and nutrition crisis induced by climate conditions, poverty and insecurity, compounded by the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU provided food during the lean season and nutrition treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition and in need of life-saving treatment.
- In response to the Venezuela crisis, the EU allocated a total of EUR 70 million in 2021 to support the affected population in Venezuela and in the wider Latin America region, mainly for the provision of health and nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, education in emergencies, as well as support to host communities. The EU remained the leading donor in the response to the humanitarian crisis inside Venezuela, not only in terms of volume of funding, but also in terms of humanitarian diplomacy, including through the Humanitarian Assistance working group of the ICG for Venezuela.
- After more than 7 years of conflict, the security situation in eastern Ukraine remained volatile. Since the July 2020 ceasefire, there were fewer hostilities and civilian casualties. However, in 2021, daily incidents continued to cause damage to housing, water and electricity supply, schools, and health facilities, which left about 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, of which one third were older persons. At the end of 2021, the Russian military build-up at the border with Ukraine led to an escalation of tensions and increasing concerns over humanitarian consequences in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Since the beginning of these new developments, the EU has been preparing for all scenarios, working together with donors and partners to prepare the humanitarian response to be implemented in 2022. The EU is one of the largest humanitarian donors to the crisis in eastern Ukraine, with an allocation of EUR 28.9 million in 2021. The EU humanitarian funding, delivered through UN agencies, non-governmental organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, helped people access healthcare, including better preparation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding also supports the rehabilitation of damaged houses, schools, and hospitals. It provides affected people with the means to meet their basic needs and access safe water, education in

emergencies, and protection services including legal support. In 2021, EU funded humanitarian assistance reached more than 750 000 people in Ukraine’s government-controlled areas and in the non-government-controlled areas

Criticalities

The above should however not hide the fact that delivering principled humanitarian assistance is at times utterly difficult, such as in situations of armed conflict, where warring parties may disregard International Humanitarian Law and interfere with or obstruct the delivery of principled humanitarian assistance in the field. Humanitarian and health care personnel, as well as medical facilities and schools have been exposed to armed attacks. While the EU has repeatedly reaffirmed its firm commitment to upholding international humanitarian law, improved compliance in this area implies political support and other means beyond the remit of humanitarian aid assistance as such. According to the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB), violence against aid workers in 2020 claimed 484 individual victims, 117 of whom died, making 2020 the worst year on record for the second year in a row. South Sudan, Syria and Democratic Republic of Congo had the highest numbers of attacks.

Tribute should also be paid to the versatility and adaptability of many of the EU humanitarian partners, who may have to face difficult logistical challenges when delivering assistance in hard-to-reach areas, and other types of unexpected developments in the field that may hinder aid delivery. It is particularly in such situations that the in-house expertise available to the Commission, when managing EU humanitarian aid funding and interacting with the humanitarian partners in the field, proves to be invaluable. In close liaison with its partners, this expertise enables the Commission to adjust actions in the field and adapt to evolving circumstances. While being able to meet acute humanitarian needs in an effective manner, EU humanitarian aid – in particular in protracted crises – needs to be linked to development actors who are best positioned to act to address structural issues. Such situations vindicate the need for strengthening further the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. This would allow humanitarian aid actors to focus on responding to acute emergencies, while development actors would support strengthening of national systems allowing inclusion of persons affected by emergencies into national service delivery. An initiative in this sense is the Global Network against Food Crises, created in 2016, which brings together development and humanitarian actors with the aim to coordinate analysis and interventions, with a focus on food crises.

Impact of COVID-19

In 2021, Europe and the world continued to be strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The European Union and the Member States, acting together as ‘Team Europe’, have mobilised almost EUR 46 billion so far. Of this, the EU humanitarian response to needs resulting from the pandemic amounted to a total of approximately EUR 656 million. As expected, the direct and indirect consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were most acutely felt by populations already affected by humanitarian crises: refugees, internally displaced persons, and people living in conflict zones and/or in areas devastated by climate change.

The EU immediately responded to increase the emergency response and preparedness to the pandemic in particular in countries where healthcare systems are weak or at risk of being rapidly overwhelmed in case of epidemic outbreak.

In addition, to allow Member States and partners to transport humanitarian staff and supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance hampered by the pandemic, the EU put in place the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge.

In the efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19, many governments took measures limiting internal and cross-border movements, unintentionally also impeding humanitarian operations.

All ongoing and planned actions across all sectors were analysed with partners, in order to factor in the COVID-19 situation and needs. Support was provided to COVID-19 vaccination. To this end, funding was provided to the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer, a last resort tool to ensure access by vulnerable populations who could not be included in national vaccine deployment plans. Furthermore, strong support to vaccine rollout in Africa was implemented, through a EUR 100 million package that had been announced by President Von der Leyen.

To allow Member States and humanitarian partners to transport humanitarian staff and supplies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance, the EU temporarily put in place the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, offering air transport to and from various destinations world-wide. The Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB) continued to operate in 2021 with 21 flights providing essential medical supplies and humanitarian cargo. With three new countries added in 2021, the HAB has now covered a total of 23 countries.

3.2. Key achievements

EUR 2.2 billion	82	2.3 million	21
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<p>of humanitarian aid provided to the most vulnerable in 2021.</p>	<p>Countries received humanitarian aid from the EU in 2021.</p>	<p>girls and boys benefited from the education in emergencies initiative in 2021.</p>	<p>flights were organised by the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge to deliver more than 5 400 tons of medical and humanitarian equipment and to transport medical and humanitarian staff and other passengers in 2021.</p>
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3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

The time scope of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96) is not limited to the duration of one Multiannual Financial Framework. Evaluations could thus cover parts of two different MFF cycles. In addition, because of the ‘continuous’ nature of humanitarian operations, it is deemed that evaluation results have a validity for the medium term (3-5 years) unless actions have been substantially modified, which also provides a basis for the Commission (DG ECHO)’s evaluation approach, by which basically all humanitarian interventions are evaluated over a five-year period. The comprehensive evaluation of European Union Humanitarian Aid (2012-2016) was finalised in 2017. The evaluation considered that EU funded actions were found to be overall cost-effective and positively contributing to saving lives, reducing morbidity and suffering as well as improving dignity of life of populations affected by disasters, and presented some areas of improvement that have been subsequently evaluated in evaluations of concrete actions.

Areas for improvement encompass developing, when appropriate, a more programmatic approach to the partnership between the EU as a donor and its humanitarian partners; increasing the involvement of local implementing partners in the delivery of EU-funded actions; scaling up successful innovative approaches and improved reporting; more systematic coherence and synergies between the EU humanitarian aid and civil protection activities; better communication of the rationale of the EU’s strategic directions; as well as continued emphasis on Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) and defining exit strategies.

As a response to the above findings, the Commission is, among other actions, 1) looking at ways of further facilitating a longer-term approach to the funding of operations where appropriate; 2) putting in place a framework that would allow for a more strategic or more programmatic relationship with key NGO partner organisations; 3) working on the elaboration of guidance on localisation; 4) improving its communication of the underlying rationale for allocations internally and externally; and 5) working to establish a distinct longer-term reflection process on data collection needs, in the context notably of the Commission’s push for building further its evidence-based policy-making capacity.

The following humanitarian aid evaluations were finalised in 2021:

- Evaluation of European Union’s humanitarian assistance in Syria (2016-2018). The evaluation concludes that the Commission has made a unique contribution to strengthening the humanitarian footprint across the country and improving coverage of response in hard-to-reach and besieged areas. The response was in strong alignment with the humanitarian principles, and well-coordinated with other humanitarian actors. The Commission’s assistance has played a significant part in the delivery of food, non-food items, water and shelter to the population in need. Its cash-based interventions have enabled communities to prioritise their own essential needs. Its support has also enabled primary healthcare providers to continue to function and deliver healthcare. Overall, the Commission played a lead role in donor coordination on the Syria response, acting as a bridge between partners and donors, and individual EU member states rely heavily on the Commission’s presence on the ground.
- Evaluation of the European Union’s humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh (2017-2019). The evaluation concludes that the Commission has, despite a budget that was not proportionate to the needs, contributed to meeting objectives of preventing and alleviating human suffering, maintaining human dignity and upholding humanitarian principles. This also encompassed a key role in terms of coordination and advocacy. As a large-scale dignified return for the Rohingya is unlikely in the foreseeable future, further development of a joint strategic approach has become even more pressing. Strategic recommendations targeted at the Commission Myanmar and Bangladesh are to 1) develop a multi-year strategy aligned with the Nexus joint response plan, 2) continue innovative approaches at both a country and global level to promote localisation, 3) refine advocacy strategies to promote changes in policy environments and 4) promote consistent attention to cost effectiveness by partners. A recommendation for the Commission is to ensure timely and adequate funding to maintain the Commission’s position as a key facilitator and influencer in the response.
- Evaluation of the EU’s implementation of the DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document “Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance” of July 2013, (2014-2018). The evaluation finds appropriate coherence with relevant policies at EU and global levels, significant added value to the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, and

coordination with Member States. Gender integration has improved in operations. Targeted actions have significantly increased but overlooked some vulnerabilities. Funding of global capacity building by Enhanced Response Capacity was effective. Dialogue with partners about gender is appreciated but not systematic; dialogue is not always linked to the Gender-Age Marker, whose rating process is still often a ‘box ticking’ process. Implementation is supported by DG ECHO experts but knowledge of e-training opportunities is limited. Connectedness is poor, as gender issues are still not among Nexus priorities. Recommendations include more training on the Marker, adaptation of targeted actions, and advocacy within Nexus.

Evaluations are published on: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/evaluations_en

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Provide an adequate and effective humanitarian assistance to populations affected by humanitarian crises

Indicator 1: Geographical coverage of the EU Humanitarian Aid: Number of countries with EU supported operations as a percentage of countries in need of humanitarian assistance according to UN Humanitarian Appeals.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
96%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%			100%
	Actual Progress									Final
	98%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	UN FTS
Link to the objective	A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 2: Percentage humanitarian aid funding targeting actions in forgotten crisis

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%			15%
	Actual Progress									Final
	30%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EVA Actions
Link to the objective	A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024
Other methodological comments	The target for this indicator is to stay above the commitment assumed by the Commission to allocate at least 15% of the budget committed for humanitarian aid to humanitarian crises identified as forgotten crises.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 3: Percentage of Humanitarian Aid initial budget allocated to Education in Emergencies

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027

0	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%			10%
	Actual Progress									Final
	10%									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Initial allocations based on the Draft humanitarian aid budget
Link to the objective	A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024
Other methodological comments	The target of this indicator is to sustain the level of 10% of humanitarian aid budget allocated to Education in Emergencies according to political commitments assumed by the Commission.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 4: Number of children reached with EU Education in Emergencies assistance

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86			1.86
	Actual Progress									Final
	2.3									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of children (in million)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	HOPE database
Link to the objective	A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator, linked to the Management Plan 2020
Other methodological comments	The target for this indicator is to stay above 1,86 (the reference level which was achieved in 2020).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Milestone achieved, therefore the indicator is on track.

Indicator 5: Number of humanitarian projects per sector

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Multi-purpose cash transfer										
Milestones										
0	Actual Progress									Final
	61									
Are we on track :	On track									
Protection										
Milestones										
0	Actual Progress									Final
	269									
Are we on track :	On track									
Food Security and Livelihood										
Milestones										
0	Actual Progress									Final
	103									
Are we on track :	On track									
Health										
Milestones										
0	Actual Progress									Final

	240										
Are we on track :	On track										
Education in Emergencies											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	102										
Are we on track :	On track										
Shelter and Settlements											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	78										
Are we on track :	On track										
Nutrition											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	91										
Are we on track :	On track										
WASH											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	130										
Are we on track :	On track										
Disaster risk reduction/ preparedness											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	195										
Are we on track :	On track										
Coordination											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	88										
Are we on track :	On track										
Support Operations											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	49										
Are we on track :	On track										
Mine actions											
	Milestones										
0	Actual Progress										Final
	13										
Are we on track :	On track										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects per sector
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	EVA Action - EU Database
Link to the objective	A Stronger Europe in the World

Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator, linked to the Management Plan 2020
Other methodological comments	This indicator has no targets or milestones. It its only intends intended to track the repartition of projects by sector rather than reaching a specific threshold for descriptive purposes.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Number of interventions of ECHO funded humanitarian aid operations (beneficiaries)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2019	Milestones									2027
177	177	177	177	177	177	177	177			177
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Million people
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Number of beneficiaries declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded by DG ECHO.
Link to the objective	A stronger Europe in the world
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator is a continuation of the 2014-2020 indicator "Total number of beneficiaries of Commission's interventions"
Other methodological comments	The target and milestones aim to remain over the number of interventions funded in humanitarian aid operations from 2019. Such figure was calculated on the basis of the aggregation of the estimated number of 'action beneficiaries' as declared by the partners implementing humanitarian projects funded by DG ECHO. One single individual beneficiary in need of humanitarian assistance can benefit from more than one humanitarian action and from more than one project.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	According to a new methodology that is being developed by the Commission and that will be adopted throughout the year, this number of interventions reached over 126 million beneficiaries. The number of beneficiaries cannot be compared with the baseline value as their methodologies do not extrapolate. New baselines and milestones will be set for this indicator in 2023 on the basis of such new methodology.

Specific Objective 2 : Ensure people and communities at risk of disasters are resilient and prepared

Indicator 1: Percentage of humanitarian assistance grants including elements of disaster preparedness, resilience and disaster risk reduction

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2027
0	61%	65%	70%	75%	75%	75%	75%			75%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	HOPE database
Link to the objective	A Stronger Europe in the World
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator, linked to the Strategic Plan 2020-2024
Other methodological comments	The Commission made a political commitment to mainstream preparedness and disaster resilience overall in EU humanitarian programmes. The aim is to go beyond the baseline and reach 75% by 2024. Intermediate milestones have been set in order to frame progressive progress towards the 2024 target. Target and milestones shall then stabilize at 75% or more after 2024. This indicator counts all projects having Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Disaster Risk Reduction results in their project logical framework .
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	While the baseline of 58% was set in 2020, it was calculated according to 2019 results. As a consequence of COVID-19, projects to address needs from the pandemic increased importantly in 2020, reducing drastically the proportion between DP and humanitarian response projects if compared

	to 2019 (the level of this indicator at the closure of 2020 amounts to 46%) Progress in 2021 was positive in comparison to final figures for 2020 despite the general resulting from the pandemic.
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5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	831.71							831.71	7%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The figure for 2021 (EUR 831.80 million) is the result of the application of a new methodology that allows a more precise analysis of climate spending. For 2021, 40% of EUR 1.846 million and 100% of EUR 56.869 of total payments under the HUMA budget, were marked as contributing to climate mainstreaming.

The Commission is implementing the central tracking at commitment level, to improve the accuracy and reliability of the data on climate action. The tracking is based on EU climate markers methodology, made of three scores (0/40/100).

5.1.3. Key achievements

Building on positive results achieved during the response to cyclones Kenneth and Idai in 2020 in Mozambique, in 2021, DG ECHO continued to support WFP in strengthening national and local government’s capacity in the use of drone and satellite technology both for disaster preparedness, and post-disaster response. Both actions ultimately contribute to saving lives since they allow mapping of at-risk areas and collecting data on the whereabouts and number of potentially affected people in the fastest possible manner - thus allowing to plan needed response in advance or triggering search and rescue operations in the aftermath of an event. This intervention (ongoing) has been coupled with expanding support to flood mapping in order to feed in into existing early warning systems and improve preparedness plans.

5.1.4. Performance

Over the course of the past multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, DG ECHO has successfully integrated climate action into its activities, primarily in terms of adaptation to climate change - both through the civil protection and humanitarian programmes.

On the humanitarian side, DG ECHO started the implementation of its renewed approach to disaster preparedness and risk informed humanitarian action (developed in 2021), which promotes the integration of climate risk considerations into all funded actions and establishes climate resilience as one priority for the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line (75 million Euros for 2021). Increased emphasis on anticipatory action as part of the renewed disaster preparedness approach is also a direct contribution to being better prepared for climate impacts. For instance, it signed two multi-year and multi-country programmatic partnerships with specific Anticipatory Action (AA) components with Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). This is in line with the priorities of the Communication on the EU’s Humanitarian Action (2021), which confirms a stronger focus on climate impacts and environmental factors - in particular to scaling up anticipatory action as a response to addressing climate shocks. DG ECHO continues tracking progress through tools such as the revised Resilience Marker. In 2021, the guidelines for the use of the Resilience Marker were updated to facilitate partners in the use of the tool as to embed considerations of climate risks in all projects. In 2021, DG ECHO also identified further possibilities to support the scaling up of AA within existing financing tools. The groundwork started in 2021 will continue in 2022 to more clearly define the feasibility and possible structure of new financing mechanisms.

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution		0.00	0.00					0.00
Share compared to total envelope		0.00 %	0.00 %					0.00 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

In line with the ambitious approach to reducing the environmental footprint of humanitarian aid put forward in 2020, DG ECHO has continued with the implementation of such approach and in 2021, it developed minimum environmental requirements for all its funded actions to comply with. The application of these requirements will start in 2022 although 2022 will be a transition year during which partners will start to apply them to the extent feasible. The implementation of the requirements will ultimately contribute to the protection of biodiversity in humanitarian contexts by reducing deforestation, supporting natural regeneration of ecosystems around camps and settlements and generally reducing pressures on the natural environment. This is also reflected in the funding allocation for disaster preparedness - i.e. the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line – where environmental (and climate) resilience is identified as a priority for funding for the next 4 years (2021-2024). In order to better support its partners and staff in this area of work, DG ECHO developed in 2021 two knowledge tools including: i. a Compendium of good practices for a greener humanitarian response; and ii. an online self-led training on Greening Humanitarian aid. Additionally, as part of its commitment to advocate globally for compliance with international humanitarian law, DG ECHO also promotes the respect of the rules on the protection of the environment in armed conflict.

5.2.3. Key Achievements

Building on positive results achieved during the response to cyclones Kenneth and Idai in 2020 in Mozambique, in 2021, the Commission continued to support WFP in strengthening national and local government’s capacity in the use of drone and satellite technology both for disaster preparedness, and post-disaster response. Both actions ultimately contribute to saving lives since they allow mapping of at-risk areas and collecting data on the whereabouts and number of potentially affected people in the fastest possible manner - thus allowing to plan needed response in advance or triggering search and rescue operations in the aftermath of an event. This intervention (ongoing) has been coupled with expanding support to flood mapping in order to feed in into existing early warning systems and improve preparedness plans.

5.2.4. Performance

Over the course of the past multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, the Commission has successfully integrated climate action into its activities, primarily in terms of adaptation to climate change - both through the civil protection and humanitarian programmes.

On the humanitarian side, the Commission started the implementation of its renewed approach to disaster preparedness and risk informed humanitarian action (developed in 2021), which promotes the integration of climate risk considerations into all funded actions and establishes climate resilience as one priority for the Disaster Preparedness Budget Line (EUR 75 million for 2021). Increased emphasis on anticipatory action as part of the renewed disaster preparedness approach is also a direct contribution to being better prepared for climate impacts. For instance, it signed two multi-year and multi-country programmatic partnerships with specific Anticipatory Action (AA) components with Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). This is in line with the priorities of the Communication on the EU’s Humanitarian Action (2021), which confirms a stronger focus on climate impacts and environmental factors - in particular to scaling up anticipatory action as a response to addressing climate shocks. The Commission continues tracking progress through tools such as the revised Resilience Marker. In 2021, the guidelines for the use of the Resilience Marker were updated to facilitate partners in the use of the tool as to embed considerations of climate risks in all projects. In 2021, the Commission also identified further possibilities to support the scaling up of AA within existing financing tools. The groundwork started in 2021 will continue in 2022 to more clearly define the feasibility and possible structure of new financing mechanisms.

5.3. Contribution to gender equality

5.3.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 1: 2 168.1							

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that EU humanitarian aid takes into account the different needs and capacities of women and men of all ages. The Commission is working on a methodology on Gender expenditure tracking and has provisionally assigned score 1 to the total Humanitarian Aid budget for 2021 (EUR 1.503 billion). This methodology is Commission-wide and differs from other assessment methods used to track humanitarian funding, e.g. the Commission’s humanitarian gender-age marker and the OECD DAC Gender Equality Marker. It is clear that Humanitarian Aid has some impact on gender equality (therefore, scores 0 and 0* could not be assigned), but gender equality is also not the principal objective of the programme (and score 2 could not be assigned).

Considering that humanitarian projects often have multiple objectives rather than one, it is more appropriate to measure gender mainstreaming rather than targeting. The Gender-Age Marker is the tool that assesses to what extent humanitarian actions integrate

gender and age considerations. The Gender-Age Marker uses a set of four criteria to assess how strongly humanitarian actions are adapted to and integrate gender and age considerations. The Gender-Age Marker represents a new generation of assessment tools and strengthening the integration of gender and age concerns is an organizational change process for partners that can take time. In the coming years, the EU will continue the targeted training of implementing partners, as well as the dissemination and further development of guidance and toolkits on the gender-age cross-cutting issues. The development of operational best practices will continue to be based on operational experience. Systematic monitoring of operational guidance implementation via feedback loops will be ensured taking into account the results of the assessment of the first three years of implementation.

Several assessment parameters have been developed to ensure quality programming, one of them being the Gender-Age Marker.

In June 2020, the EU published its second assessment report on its Gender-Age Marker, showcasing that for projects starting in 2016 and 2017, 89% of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations 'strongly' or 'to a certain extent'.

Furthermore, the EU continued to operationalise its approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises outlined in the Staff Working Document 'Gender: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance', supporting prevention and responding to gender-based violence, including through targeted actions and capacity-building of humanitarian actors in this area. An evaluation of the policy along with the Gender-Age Marker and other gender-related activities in the period 2014-2018 was published in June 2021. The evaluation pointed out progress both in terms of mainstreaming, integrated and targeted actions, and in terms of global capacity development.

The EU continues to be an active member of the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (having previously led the initiative between June 2017 and December 2018). In January 2021, the EU sent its commitments to the Call to Action Road Map covering the period 2021-2025¹¹. The EU will report on these commitments on an annual basis, starting in April 2022.

During 2021, the Commission allocated approximately EUR 33.1 million to prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence. Furthermore, over the same year, it is estimated that the EU allocated approximately EUR 29.7 million to reproductive health from its humanitarian health programming. In the framework of the implementation of the European Union Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), progress has been made towards the aim of transforming the lives of girls and women through ensuring their physical and psychological integrity, promoting their economic and social rights and strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation. Also to be mentioned that since 2021, the Commission gives clear priority to education in emergencies projects that target at least 50% girls.

5.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

5.5.1. Goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated more clearly than ever the importance of disaster preparedness and that increased efforts are needed to ensure that the most vulnerable are protected. Humanitarian protection aims to prevent, reduce and respond to the risks and consequences of violence, deprivation and abuse in humanitarian settings. Every year, DG ECHO assesses humanitarian needs and allocates between 7% and 20% of its civil protection and humanitarian aid annual funding for shelter and settlements related humanitarian assistance. Building back safer is essential for resilience, especially in disaster-prone countries: shelter plays an essential role in reducing vulnerability and building resilience. The EU allocated over €1 billion for targeted protection actions from 2015-2019.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

The COVID-19 is expected to exacerbate all forms of malnutrition, particularly in children, due to a loss of household income, a lack of available and affordable nutritious food, reduced physical activity and disruptions in essential nutrition services. DG ECHO works to reduce undernutrition of children under 5 years old, especially in the most critical crises requiring humanitarian nutrition support were Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Niger. Food and nutrition assistance accounts for almost 20% of the EU's total humanitarian budget in 2020 it counted for around €500 million.

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The EU aims to help children affected by humanitarian crises to have access to safe, quality and accredited primary and secondary education. Education is crucial to give every child a better future and develop its full potential. In 2021 the EU continued its strong leadership in education in emergencies, dedicating 10% of EU humanitarian aid to restore and maintain access to safe, quality and inclusive primary and secondary education during humanitarian crises. The EU supported over 2.3 million children to quickly enter or return to learning opportunities.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

¹¹ [Gender- and age-sensitive aid \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/data/2021/06/P11222_en.pdf)

Natural hazards and human-induced crises are not gender neutral: they have a different impact on women, girls, boys, and men. To respond effectively to different needs, EU humanitarian assistance must take gender and age into account. To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, DG ECHO introduced a Gender-Age Marker in 2014. This tool measures how EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. In 2020, the second assessment report highlighted that in 2016 and 2017, 89% of all EU humanitarian aid integrated gender and age considerations ‘strongly’ or ‘to a certain extent’.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

In emergencies and humanitarian crises, providing access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene education is important for a healthy living environment. Water, sanitation and hygiene (also known as WASH) are closely connected sectors and essential for good public health. The European Union, as one of the largest humanitarian donors of WASH assistance, contributes around €200 million each year. This funding ensures timely and dignified access to sufficient and safe water services for populations threatened by humanitarian crises.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The provision of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable, sometimes in the form of cash transfers for their basic needs, contributes to paving the way for national social safety nets and more structural poverty reduction national programmes.

The Commission works to reduce undernutrition of children under 5 years old, especially in the most critical crises requiring humanitarian nutrition support.

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Humanitarian food and nutrition aid will continue to contribute to improved nutrition outcomes and food security by applying an integrated and multisectoral approach.

The fight against acute hunger and acute malnutrition (severe and moderate) is at the centre of humanitarian interventions aiming at reducing the excess mortality and morbidity caused by hunger and malnutrition. Nutrition interventions in emergencies respond to specific needs of targeted vulnerable groups (infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women), by addressing the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition. Immediate access to food and free access to lifesaving healthcare respond to acute food and nutrition crises; water, sanitation and hygiene measures together with the provision of accessible health services (disease control measures) and safe environments play a dominant role in individual nutritional status.

The Commission funding for nutrition aims at providing lifesaving interventions to the most vulnerable populations. For example, severely malnourished children in Sudan are given therapeutic food in treatment centres; in Ethiopia, recurrent droughts make children much more at risk of acute malnutrition in the Somali region. Humanitarian support responds to the nutritional needs of these children in remote areas with no access to basic services. In Syria, children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women disproportionately affected by the conflict are included in nutrition programmes and provided with treatment to severe acute malnutrition and comprehensive healthcare services.

Climate change, conflicts and economic shocks increasingly influence food security and nutrition in fragile settings. The COVID-19 is expected to exacerbate all forms of malnutrition, particularly in children, due to a loss of household income, lack of available and affordable nutritious food, reduced physical activity and disruptions in essential nutrition services. In a context of unprecedented food insecurity, the EU stepped up humanitarian interventions on several fronts. Humanitarian funding was significantly increased to the 42 countries most affected by food insecurity: initial allocations were 20% higher compared to 2020 and, additionally, more than EUR 250 million were mobilised from reserves throughout the year. Advocacy was intensified in key countries such as Yemen, Ethiopia, Madagascar or Nigeria. Actions were also taken with a longer-term perspective, including a further enforcement of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in food crises scenarios, or the promotion of anticipatory action approaches (e.g. a high-level event was co-organised with FFP in October).

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

The health humanitarian assistance aims at limiting excess preventable mortality, permanent disability and diseases associated with humanitarian crises. Lifesaving healthcare services are essential for the most vulnerable populations (children under 5 years old, women, displaced populations) affected by natural or manmade humanitarian crises. In fragile and heavily disrupted systems, humanitarian health funding contributes to the provision of primary healthcare (e.g. in cyclone-affected areas of Mozambique), vaccinations (e.g. during the Ebola outbreaks and the COVID-19 pandemic), access to medicines and medical devices. Emergency health response to outbreaks and building national capacities for preparedness is important to cope with increased relapse of epidemics.

Mental health and psychosocial support is an integral part of the humanitarian health assistance in case of sexual violence, mental disorders, trauma and high distress (e.g. for conflict-affected people in Ukraine, refugees in Uganda, internally displaced persons in South Sudan). Digitalisation and innovation in the health sector has prominently influenced also humanitarian interventions (e.g. electronic medical records, mobile apps for contract tracing).

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Natural hazards and human-induced crises are not gender neutral: they have a different impact on women, girls, boys, and men. To respond effectively to different needs, EU humanitarian assistance must take gender and age into account. To ensure the effective implementation of this policy, DG ECHO introduced a Gender-Age Marker in 2014. This tool measures how EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age considerations. In 2021, estimates show that the EU allocated approximately EUR 33.1 million in humanitarian aid to prevent and respond to gender-based violence under its protection and health programming. Furthermore, in 2021, it is estimated that the EU allocated approximately EUR 29.7 million to sexual and reproductive health from its humanitarian health programming.

The EU ensures that gender and age considerations are taken into account in all its humanitarian aid operations. To ensure an effective, quality response, humanitarian action should cater for the differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys; and should contribute to the active participation of women and girls in humanitarian aid. Supporting the prevention and response to gender-based violence is considered as a life-saving humanitarian intervention and a priority.

The European Union continued to engage as an active member of the new Call to Action on Gender-Based Violence, a global initiative which brings almost 100 partners representing UN Agencies, INGOs, national/local NGOs as well as states and donors with the aim of driving structural change in the humanitarian system to address gender-based violence. As a practical example of its continued commitment to the Call to Action, the EU sent its commitment to the new Call to Action roadmap 2021-2025 in January 2021.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

In emergencies and humanitarian crises, providing access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene education is important for a healthy living environment. Water, sanitation and hygiene (also known as WASH) are closely connected sectors and essential for good public health. The European Union, as one of the largest humanitarian donors of WASH assistance, contributes around EUR 200 million each year. This funding ensures timely and dignified access to sufficient and safe water services for populations threatened by humanitarian crises.

The EU provides safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support through its humanitarian aid operations to those in need during humanitarian crises and ensures that the most vulnerable have access to WASH. In 2021, significant progress has been made regarding the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus, increasing coherence across the WASH sectors and all stakeholder groups, based on a joint understanding, solid evidence, and mutual learning on all levels.

The promotion of basic WASH services ('minimal WASH package') and multisector outcomes, as part of other 'stand-alone' sector service deliveries, such as health, nutrition, education in emergencies, and shelter and settlements, remained the primary objective of the EU's WASH policy, especially in the framework of acute and chronic crises (e.g. WASH operations in South Sudan and in the Sahel zone). 2021 was also the first implementation year of Climate Investor 2, a programme that actively developed its pipeline with the private sector in the areas of water access in rural areas, innovative sanitation solutions and non-revenue water.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

The EU contributes to this goal through its targeted disaster preparedness actions aiming at strengthening national and local capacities to respond to climate-related disasters and thus be more resilient to such shocks. Actions span from conducting risk assessments, to support strengthening early warning systems, developing contingency plans, stockpiling equipment and supplies or reinforcing skills of first responders in conducting emergency operations. Through its dedicated budget line for Disaster Preparedness, the Commission also supports third countries in reinforcing their capacity for emergency response to disasters and thus, strengthens their resilience and capability to adapt to changes in climate impacts. In 2021, the Commission allocated EUR 75 million for preparedness interventions in third countries. Through the emergency toolbox, additional funding is provided to respond to unexpected emergencies.

Furthermore, the inclusion of climate risk analysis in the design of all humanitarian actions helps ensure that the interventions take into consideration and respond to the risks posed by climate change and to its possible impacts. The EU supports the implementation of a greener humanitarian response by reducing the environmental and climate footprint of its funded humanitarian actions. To this end, in 2021, it developed a set of minimum environmental requirements for its partners to comply with when implementing humanitarian operations. 2022 will be a transition year during which partners will start to apply these standards to the extent feasible.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World**Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)****Lead DG:FPI**

Associated DGs: FISMA

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The EU, under its Common Security and Defence Policy, will continue working towards addressing challenges in international security and stability. Key challenges include organized crime, terrorism, people smuggling, migration, the proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and the rule of law in third countries that may directly affect the EU's own security.

It is therefore essential for the EU to support third countries in security sector reform and help them establish efficient civilian security services, thereby increasing their capacities to tackle internal and external security challenges.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The credibility of the EU as a peace actor on the international scene is linked among other things to its capacity to act and intervene quickly to address civilian crises through Common Security and Defence Policy Missions and to promote nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament through support for multi-lateral action. Interventions in both areas help the EU to assume its role as a global player as envisaged under Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union "to preserve peace, prevent conflict and strengthen international security" thereby contributing to a 'Stronger Europe in the World'

1.3. Specific objectives

CFSP pursues the following two specific objectives:

- **Fast action to enable resource-effective CFSP intervention as part of the Integrated Approach**

CFSP supports the deployment of civilian Common Security and Defence Policy Missions to preserve peace and to strengthen international security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, of promoting international cooperation and developing and consolidating democracy and rule of law as well as of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in line with Article 21 and 42 of the Treaty on European Union and Part Five of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;

- **Support the implementation and promotion of: 1) strategy on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in order to increase security in this area; 2) strategy on combating illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as measures against illicit spread and trafficking of other conventional weapons; 3) EU's policies in the field of conventional arms exports whilst ensuring complementarity with the Stability and Peace actions under NDICI-Global Europe**

The purpose of CFSP action on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament is to preserve peace and to strengthen international security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, and to promote strategic cooperation with international partners on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, on combatting the illicit accumulation of small arms and light weapons and other conventional weapons and support EU policy on conventional arms exports in line with Article 21 of the Treaty on the European Union.

1.4. Public intervention context

Under CFSP, the European External Action Service (EEAS), in consultation with FPI, is responsible for programming CFSP actions that are decided and adopted by Member States as per the provision of the Treaties. The Commission is responsible for providing the funding for CFSP actions.

The Commission monitors the execution of the CFSP budget according to the principles of sound financial management as well as the performance of beneficiaries of CFSP funding as regards budget implementation rates. The Commission regularly reports to Member States in the relevant Council Working Party settings on these CFSP budget execution rates.

1.5. Actions

All CFSP activities must be consistent with other areas of the EU's external action and must ensure coordination with international organisations. CFSP pursues its objectives by the following means:

- Different types of civilian Common Security and Defence Policy Missions, depending on the Council's mandate, for example, Advisory Missions counselling host countries on drafting legislation in the security sector or capacity-building Missions providing hands-on operational activities;
- Different types of mandates of EU Special Representatives promoting EU policies all around the world;

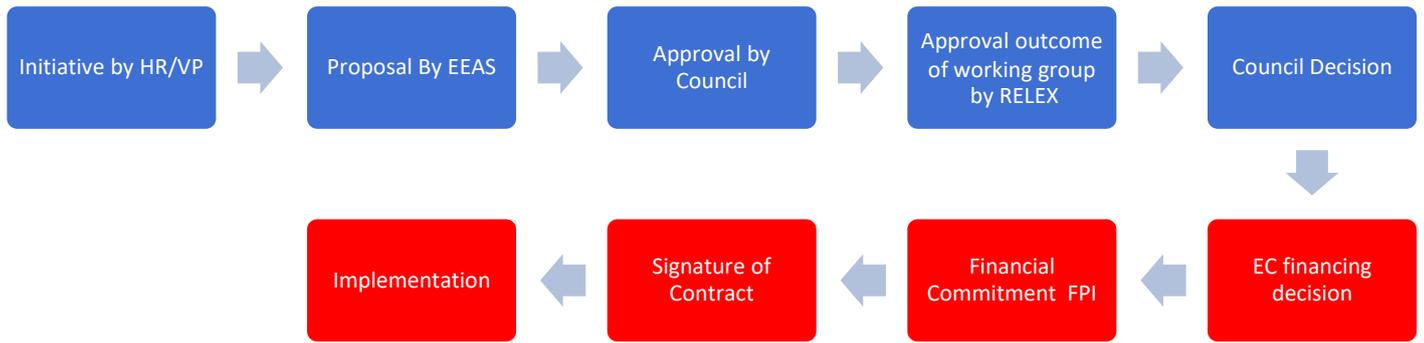
Actions related to non-proliferation and disarmament (NPD). These are implemented through agreements with international organisations, notably within the United Nations family, as well as for specific purposes with other selected organisations in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament.

1.6. Delivery mode

The management mode is primarily in indirect management (for civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Missions and EU Special Representatives, as well as Non-Proliferation and Disarmament actions), and to a lesser extent in direct management. The lead service for the programming of CFSP actions is the EEAS, in consultation with FPI, while FPI is responsible for ensuring the funding under the CFSP and the sound financial management of the funds.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

The CFSP budget is managed by FPI. The main beneficiaries of CFSP budget funding are civilian CSDP Missions in the area of security sector reform, accounting for an estimated 80% of the CFSP budget. The remaining approximate 20% of the CFSP budget are used to fund beneficiaries in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, such as UN agencies and NGOs, and EU Special Representatives.



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1), and in particular Article 52(1), point (g), thereof. Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28).	2021 - 2027	2 678.72

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

CFSP is implemented on the basis of individual Decisions adopted by the Council. Under Articles 42(4) and 43(2) TEU, the Councils adopts the legal framework for civilian CSDP Missions. On the basis of Art. 28 TEU, Member States may decide to launch operational actions, for example stabilisation actions. As regards actions in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, the Council adopts Decision on the basis of Art. 28(1) and 31(1) TEU.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	352.2	361.7	371.8	382.1	392.7	403.6	414.7	2 679.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.7	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.7
Total	352.9	361.7	371.8	382.1	392.7	403.6	414.7	2 679.7

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

Under the 2014-2020 MFF, the CFSP budget was EUR 2 340 billion under Heading 4 “Global Europe” as a separate instrument.

During the 2021-2027 MFF, too, CFSP will remain a separate tool, but complimentary with other conflict and crisis response instruments, e.g. the rapid response pillar of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) during the period. Continued strong support for non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and disarmament, with increased levels of support to match the level of ambition of Member States, is expected.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

Dedicated webpages on civilian CSDP Missions and non-proliferation and disarmament can be found on the EEAS Internet site:

https://ec.europa.eu/fpi/what-we-do/common-foreign-and-security-policy-preserving-peace-and-security_en

https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/military-and-civilian-missions-and-operations_en

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/427/Disarmament.%20Non-Proliferation%20and%20Arms%20Export%20Control

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

The level of commitment and payment appropriations requested for 2021, 2022 and 2023 are as follows:

- In 2021, the implemented commitment appropriations stand at EUR 407 Million (composed of EUR 352 million voted budget, EUR 23 million carry-over from 2020 and EUR 32 million from recoveries). Implemented payment appropriations in 2021 stand at EUR 386 million (EUR 329 million voted budget, EUR 8 million carry-over from 2020, EUR 32 million from 2021 recoveries and EUR 17 million transfer from other budget lines).-
- For 2022, requested commitment appropriations stand at EUR 361 million and payment appropriations at EUR 333 million.
- For 2023, requested commitment appropriations stand at EUR 371 million and payment appropriations at EUR 380 million.

FPI committed EUR 407 million for CFSP actions, i.e. 100% of the available commitment appropriations to cover CFSP entities mainly operating in indirect management, as nominated by Member States in the corresponding Council Decisions . The COVID-19 pandemic has, however, been an exceptional situation that has affected planning, decision-making and implementation of the mandates of civilian CSDP Missions. In 2020, four Missions (EULEX Kosovo, EUBAM Libya EUPOL COPPS and EUBAM Rafah) could not undergo the Strategic Reviews and their respective mandates were renewed for one year with essentially the same budget. At operational level, a number of mitigating measures were designed and implemented in cooperation with the EEAS to ensure the safety of staff (e.g. through the relocation of staff).

Despite the significant challenges, all Missions have remained operational throughout the pandemic. The Missions successfully balanced duty of care concerns with operational continuity and visibility on the ground. In this regard, FPI contributed by issuing a number of clarifications and instructions to Missions in the field, including on the use of flexible and ad hoc procurement procedures, the management of the budget, relocation of staff and the application of allowances in a crisis situation.

The systematic trend of budget under-consumption by the civilian CSDP Missions continues, and can be expected to increase further as the pandemic continues. In 2020 for instance, civilian Missions returned unused funds totalling EUR 42 million, pointing to a lack of absorption capacity and realistic budget planning. In 2021, EUR 33 million were returned (of which EUR 32 million were implemented in 2021 and the remaining is a carry-over to 2022).

The implementation of the NPD actions has been heavily affected and delayed by the COVID-19 crisis, given their reliance on travel, meetings and workshops. As a result, the Commission put in place a number of no-cost extensions of ongoing NPD actions in 2021, in order to foresee sufficient time to carry out all the envisaged activities.

On overall, with a flexible handling of the CFSP budget, the Commission ensured that CFSP actions decided by the Council could be implemented swiftly, thus committing a total of EUR 407 million. However, FPI had to revert to mitigating measures due to the mismatch of political ambitions of Member States and the availability of CFSP funds. This involved splitting commitments for the first year of mandates of the Missions in Kosovo and Libya and the Kosovo Chambers between the budget years 2021 and 2022.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

CSDP Missions contribute to enhancing stability and promoting peace and the rule of law. Since the launch of the first Mission in 2003 in the Western Balkans, the EU CSDP civilian Missions have acted as key players of the EU's response to international crisis, working hand in hand with the EU's diplomatic and mediation efforts, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. This constitutes the EU's Integrated Approach, which makes it a significant contributor to peace and security and a security provider.

The establishment of the Civilian CSDP Compact by the EU Member States in December 2018 aimed at strengthening the capacity of civilian CSDP. The Council welcomed the progress in implementing the Civilian CSDP Compact¹, which aims to make Missions more capable, more effective, flexible, responsive and more joined up with other EU actors.

The non-proliferation and disarmament actions contributed to international peace and security by strengthening the norms against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction through advancements in universalisation, institutional strength and effective implementation of the relevant treaties and mechanisms. Preventing and combatting the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and by supporting the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and the adoption of policies in line with Common Position 2008/944/CFSP on exports of military technology and equipment also contributed to this objective.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) operations contributed to the preservation of peace, the prevention of conflicts and to strengthening international security. On 10 May 2021, the Council stated that the EU has significantly enhanced its operational capacity and footprint in recent years and underlined the key contribution of the 11 civilian CSDP Missions and Operations to global peace and security in the framework of the EU's Integrated Approach to external conflicts and crises and hence to the security of the Union and its citizens. The Commission provided the necessary funds in a timely manner through Contribution Agreements, which ensured the Missions' operational capacity. The funds were used for staff recruiting and training by the Missions, for providing the logistical support for carrying out the operations.

CSDP Missions

The Commission has made considerable progress in the area of finance and procurement that are under its competence. This notably included the streamlining of administrative and operating procedures in CSDP Missions, through the staff embedded in the Mission Support Platform (MSP). Having in place those procedures allowed for the Missions, inter alia, procuring and managing the necessary assets for performing their objectives. Furthermore, since its creation, the MSP acted as a knowledge centre on procurement and finance and developed specific tools for the use by the Missions to achieve a higher level of harmonisation of procedures and thus enhance the civilian Missions' responsiveness.

The geographical areas covered by the CFSP budget are the South-Caucasus region (EUMM Georgia, EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia), the Middle East (EUBAM Rafah, EUPOL COPPS, EUSR for the Middle Peace Process, EUAM Iraq), the Western Balkans (EULEX Kosovo, the Kosovo Special Chambers, the EUSRs for Bosnia-Herzegovina and for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkans regional issues), Africa (EUCAP Mali, Niger and Somalia, EUSR for the Sahel, EUAM RCA), as well as Eastern Europe (EUAM Ukraine).

The EU Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (CAR) was launched in August 2020 (and reached its full operational capacity in August 2021). The Mission provides advice to the Ministry of the Interior and the Directors General of Police and Gendarmerie, in order to support the transformation of CAR Internal Security Forces into a coherent, rule-based and accountable security provider under national ownership and democratic control.

EU stabilisation actions undertaken on the basis of Article 28 TEU, combine the high political visibility offered by the Council Decision launching them, a large span of domains in which the Member States can engage, together with a flexibility in their planning and implementation. These actions serve to apply the Integrated Approach to conflicts and crises. The EU action in support of the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism in Yemen (UNVIM), approved initially by the Council in 2018, supports the delivery of commercial supplies of vital importance for the Yemeni population (the EU action was extended until September 2021 and then until February 2022). However, UNVIM has displayed so far a sub-optimal budget implementation performance.

There are a number of challenges that impact on the performance of civilian CSDP:

Civilian Missions operating in sometimes insecure environments have faced continuous difficulties in recruiting the required number of staff with the necessary skills to carry out the relevant job functions. Although Member States have committed to increase the number of seconded staff under the Civilian Compact, progress is slow. This has a direct impact on the performance of Missions. Furthermore, Missions also face numerous challenges for example regarding public local tendering in difficult theatres of operation. When procurement procedures fail, this also has negative impact on mandate performance, including on budget absorption.

Non-proliferation and disarmament actions

¹ Council conclusions of 10 May 2021.

Support to non-proliferation and disarmament in partnership with the UN and other international organisations contributed to enhancing the Union's security, as well as to stabilising fragile regions, notably through actions against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

In 2021, the Commission continued to support the combat against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and other conventional weapons by launching eight new non-proliferation and disarmament actions.

The implementation of these eight new 2021 actions started in most cases in the fourth quarter of 2021 and in some cases only in December 2021. The main challenge was therefore the launching in time of the projects, including the setting up of the project teams.

Furthermore, the implementation of 29 non-proliferation and disarmament actions launched in the period 2016-2020 continued throughout 2021. The main challenge for these 29 actions continued to be the COVID-19 pandemics and the related travel restrictions. The implementing organisations and beneficiaries had to replace in person workshops, expert missions, trainings and conferences supporting the universalisation and effective implementation of various non-proliferation legal instruments by virtual or hybrid events. Several activities requiring physical presence had to be postponed. In consequence, the implementing organisations and beneficiaries requested no-cost extensions of the actions. In response, the Commission approved the extension of 13 actions related COVID-19 extensions in 2021, thus providing additional time to complete all activities.

3.2. Key achievements

1 172

1 972

staff of the Palestinian Authority trained by the EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah from 2015 to 2021

pieces of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and pieces of ammunition destroyed in the Western Balkans in 2021

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

As regards civilian CSDP Missions:

CFSP actions are currently not subject to classical evaluations through external experts, although this had been recommended by the Court of Auditors in its 2017 report on the Sahel Missions. So far, Member States have not put in place an external evaluation system, but rely on their own strategic assessments conducted on the basis of input provided by the EEAS. The Commission has regularly drawn the EEAS' attention to the fact that evaluations should be conducted by external experts as a more appropriate tool to assess the work of the civilian Missions.

Civilian Missions are subject to Strategic Reviews, which are conducted by the internal services of the EEAS for assessment by Member States. These Reviews aim at analysing the achievements and efficiency of a Mission, form the basis for the operational plans and provide orientations for the operational mandate in the different areas of security sector reform.

In addition, the EEAS issues an Annual Lessons Learnt Report based on contributions from its services and from the Missions on operational planning, conduct of operations and support tasks. Ad-hoc reports are also prepared such as the report on "Cultural Heritage in Conflicts and Crises". Furthermore, the Joint Action Plan implementing the 'civilian Compact' draws lessons learnt for various work strands of the Missions, the Institutions and Member States. For example, one of the lessons learnt for Member States is to increase the number of national staff deployed in CSDP Missions.

As regards non-proliferation and disarmament actions:

As regards the evaluation of the non-proliferation and disarmament actions, the Council adopts an Annual progress report on the implementation of the strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction ⁽²⁾. In addition, the Commission and EEAS receive six-monthly and annual reports on the implementation from the implementing organisations and beneficiaries (e.g. from IAEA and U.N.). Regular financial audits are conducted too.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

⁽²⁾ Please see: [Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the European Union Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction \(2020\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

Specific Objective 1: Fast action to enable resource-effective CFSP intervention as part of the Integrated Approach

Indicator 1: Percentage of contribution Agreements with EUSRs and CSDP Missions signed within 4 weeks after Council Decision adoption

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									2028
0	88	90	92	95	95	95	95	95		95
	Actual Progress									Final
	81.3									
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI
Link to the objective	This indicator measures the time elapsed between the adoption of relevant Council Decisions and the signature of the Contribution Agreements signed by FPI.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The target for this indicator (the time required to sign a Contribution Agreement) has been set higher in comparison with previous measurements in order to monitor the capacity to further shorten the time span, by 2024, between the adoption dates of Council Decisions and the signature of Agreements.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The result in 2021 is slightly below the milestone. The target is still expected to be reached annually as of 2024.

Indicator 2: Percentage of civilian CSDP Missions coordinating with interventions financed under other EU instruments

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2021
0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100			100
	Actual Progress									Final
	100									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI
Link to the objective	The indicator measures the number of EU interventions that are subject to coordination between different instruments.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The indicator measures the number of CSDP Missions that have effectively demonstrated the coordination of interventions with other EU instruments, against the total number of CSDP Missions whose mandates have been renewed during that calendar year.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The target is to be reached annually as of 2021.

Indicator 3: Percentage of positively pillar assessed CSDP Missions not requiring supervisory measures as for article 154.5 of the Financial Regulation.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2024
0	90	90	95	100	100	100	100			100
	Actual Progress									Final
	91									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI

Link to the objective	The indicator measures the compliance of CSDP Missions with the Financial Regulation
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The percentage of positively pillar assessed CSDP Missions reflects the capacity to achieve the end result of a fully compliant CSDP Mission. As the number of Missions deployed on the ground can vary between 2020-2024, depending on political decisions by Member States to open or close CSDP Missions, the population underlying the measurement may change during the period of reporting
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend depends on the number of CSDP Missions operating on the ground. This number can vary from year to year, depending on Member States' decisions to open or close a CSDP Mission. The trend also depends on the progress that Missions make in terms of consolidating their internal set up to reach a positive pillar assessment. The target is expected to be reached annually.

Specific Objective 2: Support the implementation and promotion of: 1) strategy on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in order to increase security in this area; 2) strategy on combating illicit accumulation and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as measures against illicit spread and trafficking of other conventional weapons; 3) EU’s policies in the field of conventional arms exports whilst ensuring complementarity with the Stability and Peace actions under NDICI

Indicator 1: Percentage of relevant non-proliferation and disarmament actions that are complementary with actions funded under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace / Stability and Peace under NDICI

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									2021
0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100			100
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	FPI
Link to the objective	The indicator measures the complementarity of EU instruments. The complementarity corresponds to the notion of the integrated approach, referred to in the specific objective 1.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	The target has been set at 100%, as all non-proliferation and disarmament actions funded from the CFSP actions have to be complementary to NDICI actions in the same area. The baseline has been set on the basis of the new CFSP funded non-proliferation and disarmament actions launched in 2020 which have been all assessed as complementary or not overlapping with the IcSP actions. CFSP funded NPD actions are complementary or do not overlap with actions funded under the IcSP and NDICI.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The target is to be reached annually as of 2021.

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to gender equality

5.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 2: 15							
Score 1: 284							
Score 0: 53							

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)
 The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

Civilian CSDP Missions and EURs

CSDP Missions report to the EEAS, including on gender-related issues. The Commission is not the addressee of these reports and can therefore only refer in a limited way to achievements by Missions in relation to gender promotion.

While gender activities are not the main core task of the civilian CSDP Missions, they do, to a certain extent, cover topics related to gender in their work. Following the launch in December 2020 of the Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III), the Civilian Operations Commander issued an instruction to the civilian CSDP Missions on the implementation of GAP III. The Missions were strongly encouraged to contribute to the development of the country-level implementation plan (CLIP) foreseen by the GAP III to be led by EU Delegations.

In this context, nine of the eleven Missions have put in place a Gender Focal Points (GFP) network. The new EUAM RCA prioritised the development a Gender Action Plan in 2021 and will appoint GFPs in 2022. Currently, 122 staff serve as gender focal points as catalysts for gender mainstreaming.

Furthermore, nine Missions have adopted or are in the process of adopting a Mission Gender Action Plan, which provide a good tool for monitoring. Thanks to these action plans, most missions have put in place systems for collecting sex-disaggregated data, for example when implementing actions or when delivering training courses. In addition, several missions have developed gender analyses of various kinds, such as sector analyses.

Non-proliferation and disarmament actions

As described below under SDG 5, U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs implements an action in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the area fight against small arms trafficking and misuse.

5.2. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

5.2.1. Goals

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Since 1 April 2019 and in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs implements an action in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the area fight against small arms trafficking and misuse. The action's objective is to enhance the effectiveness of small arms control measures through gender analysis and integration of gender perspectives. Activities include training of national officials in 18 countries on gender-mainstreaming and small arms control; promoting gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in regional initiatives; strengthening the small arms control component in the Women Peace and Security framework, and awareness-raising and partnerships. The EU contribution amounts to EUR 4.4 million.

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

CSDP Missions work in the field of security sector reform, while EUSRs are promoting EU policies in different parts of the world. None of them directly report on their activities against the SDGs, but their work may indirectly help achieve SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). CFSP reporting on the substance of the operations conducted by the Missions and the EUSRs is addressed to the EEAS and Member States and not the Commission. The Commission receives the reporting on budget, procurement and finance management.

Non-proliferation and disarmament actions contribute to SDG 16, as they contribute to international peace and security and to the reduction of violence globally by preventing and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, as well as by promoting the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and EU's policies in the field of conventional arms exports, in particular on the basis of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP.

5.2.2. Key achievements and performance

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) contributes directly to the achievement of priority 5 '*A Stronger Europe in the world*' of the von der Leyen Commission in the area of Security and Defence. Taking into account the shared responsibilities of the Council, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Commission in relation to CFSP, the actions contribute to :

- the preservation of stability through CSDP Missions and EUSR Mandates;
- international peace and security and to the reduction of violence globally by preventing and combatting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the illicit accumulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, as well as by promoting the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and EU's policies in the field of conventional arms exports, in particular on the basis of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP

The CSDP Missions work in the area of civilian security sector reform, including police and rule of law, the fight against terrorism and organised crime, maritime capacity building and border management. There are three types of Missions: capacity building

Missions, monitoring Missions and advisory Missions, and some of their work does indirectly contribute into building accountable institutions.

As neither Missions nor EU Special Representatives are subject to external evaluation, the Commission cannot assess their direct or indirect impact towards these goals' achievement.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World**Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) (including Greenland)****Lead DG: INTPA**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Rising vulnerability, inequalities, climate change and environmental degradation are all part of a new global reality that has been compounded by pandemics. The 13 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) are especially vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation due to their geographical locations (all are islands in the Caribbean, Arctic, Antarctic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, accounting for a large part of EU biodiversity). Economic diversification, competitiveness, digital transformation and connectivity are further major challenges faced by the OCTs. The OCTs' economies often rely on tourism, making them heavily dependent on external factors and therefore very fragile.

The new Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG) provides an updated legal framework for supporting OCTs' actions in tackling these challenges and ensuring their economic and social development. For the first time, the DOAG incorporates the formerly additional Greenland Decision, placing all OCTs firmly within the same instrument and under the same source of funding, the EU Budget (OCTs other than Greenland previously benefitted from the European Development Fund).

The OCTs have been associated with the EU since the Treaty of Rome. They are not sovereign countries, but maintain special constitutional links with three Member States: Denmark, France and the Netherlands. Partnership with the OCTs is based on EU values and shared policy priorities, and OCTs are considered important EU 'outposts' in their respective regions.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of the DOAG is to promote the economic and social development of all the OCTs and to establish close economic relations between them and the Union as a whole.

Furthermore, the aim of this Decision is to preserve the existing ties between the Union and the OCTs acknowledging the geostrategic positions of the latter in the Arctic, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic, the Antarctic and the Pacific.

The OCT association shall pursue this general objective by enhancing the OCTs' competitiveness, strengthening the OCTs' resilience, reducing their economic and environmental vulnerability and promoting cooperation between them and with other regional partners including Outermost Regions and third countries.

The new DOAG delivers:

- unity of management having all the OCTs under the same source of financing, thus creating synergies in programming and implementation;
- consolidation of shared objectives;
- simplification and coherence in the legal framework;
- higher profile for the OCTs as a group.

The Union financial assistance allocated through the partnership should bring a European perspective to the development of OCTs and should contribute to strengthening the close and long-lasting mutual ties, while also consolidating the position of OCTs as advanced outposts of the Union.

The partnership between the EU and OCTs will facilitate consultations and policy dialogue on the objectives and areas of cooperation established through the DOAG. In particular, it will define the framework providing the basis for cooperation and dialogue in areas of mutual interest.

1.3. Specific objectives

The association between the EU and the OCTs continues to be based on the political, trade and cooperation pillars. The specific objectives of the DOAG are:

- to foster and support cooperation with OCTs, including in addressing their major challenges and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals;
- to support and to cooperate with Greenland in addressing its major challenges, such as raising the education level, and to contribute to the capacity of its administration to formulate and implement national policies.

Given the OCTs' geographical locations, cooperation between them and their neighbours should be pursued in the interests of all sides, with a particular focus on areas of common interest and the promotion of the Union's values and standards. The new DOAG reinforces the provisions on strengthening cooperation with non-OCT neighbours and for the first time sets aside an earmarked envelope for this purpose.

Under the DOAG, EU policy priorities linked to the Green Deal will be strengthened through: i) the horizontal spending target of 25% for climate change objectives, ii) its contribution to mainstreaming biodiversity action in the Union policies, and iii) the achievement of the overall ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027. The DOAG does not include horizontal spending targets for other cooperation areas. However, the DOAG explicitly states that gender equality should be mainstreamed into all actions as a key contribution to the successful achievement of the SDGs.

Through the DOAG, the EU will enhance support to the OCTs in addressing green and digital sustainable development. Given their economic vulnerability and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU will endeavour to support OCTs' economic diversification.

1.4. Public intervention context

The DOAG is based on Articles 198 to 204 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Pursuant to Article 204 TFEU, these provisions apply to Greenland, subject to the specific provisions set out in Protocol No 34 to the TFEU.

The detailed rules and procedures of the association are laid down in Council decisions based on Article 203 of the TFEU, under which such acts are adopted through a special legislative procedure.

The detailed arrangements of the provisions in Part Four of the TFEU have to be made at Union level, as the purpose of the association — social and economic development and close economic ties between the OCTs and the Union as a whole — cannot be achieved via action at Member State level alone. Moreover, Member States would not be able to take action with regard to the OCT trade regime, as the EU alone is responsible for common trade policy (Part Five, Title II of the TFEU).

The approach towards cooperation with the OCTs contained in the Commission's legislative proposal respects the principles of partnership, complementarity and subsidiarity. It proposes that the EU financial assistance to OCTs be based on programming documents, which define the cooperation strategies and priority areas between the Union and the OCTs.

Under Articles 198 and 199 of the TFEU, the association will continue to provide a comprehensive partnership comprising an institutional framework and trade arrangements and covering many areas of cooperation, as well as the basic principles governing Union financial assistance to OCTs.

Considering the specificities of the OCTs and their special relationship with the EU, the new legislative act for all OCTs covers the political and legal framework and how cooperation should be implemented and will ensure effectiveness, consolidation of shared objectives and coherence, as well as more visibility for the OCTs as a group. The DOAG puts forward an approach that is flexible and tailored to the situation of each OCT.

In line with the principle of proportionality, the DOAG does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve its objectives.

1.5. Actions

The OCT instrument covers three pillars of actions: political, trade and cooperation between the Union and the OCTs. It includes specific provisions guiding the partnership with Greenland, where required.

At the level of cooperation with OCTs:

- Unless otherwise specified, the DOAG follows implementation provisions from the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), via a referral clause.
- OCTs remain eligible for other Union programmes (such as the humanitarian aid instrument, Horizon Europe and Erasmus+) as a matter of principle, unless the rules of a specific programme preclude their participation.
- OCTs are eligible for the thematic part and rapid response actions of the NDICI.
- The OCTs are eligible for InvestEU as a vehicle for investment financing.

Cooperation through the DOAG takes place via four main types of actions:

- geographic/bilateral cooperation with individual OCTs;
- regional programmes benefitting OCTs in the same geographical region (Caribbean, Pacific, Indian Ocean), based on shared needs;
- intra-regional programmes for cooperation between one or a group of OCTs with one or more non-OCT neighbours, who would participate with their own funds;
- technical assistance.

Additionally, the DOAG sets aside a reserve/non-allocated fund for unforeseen circumstances such as natural disasters, emerging challenges such as migratory pressures, and new international priorities.

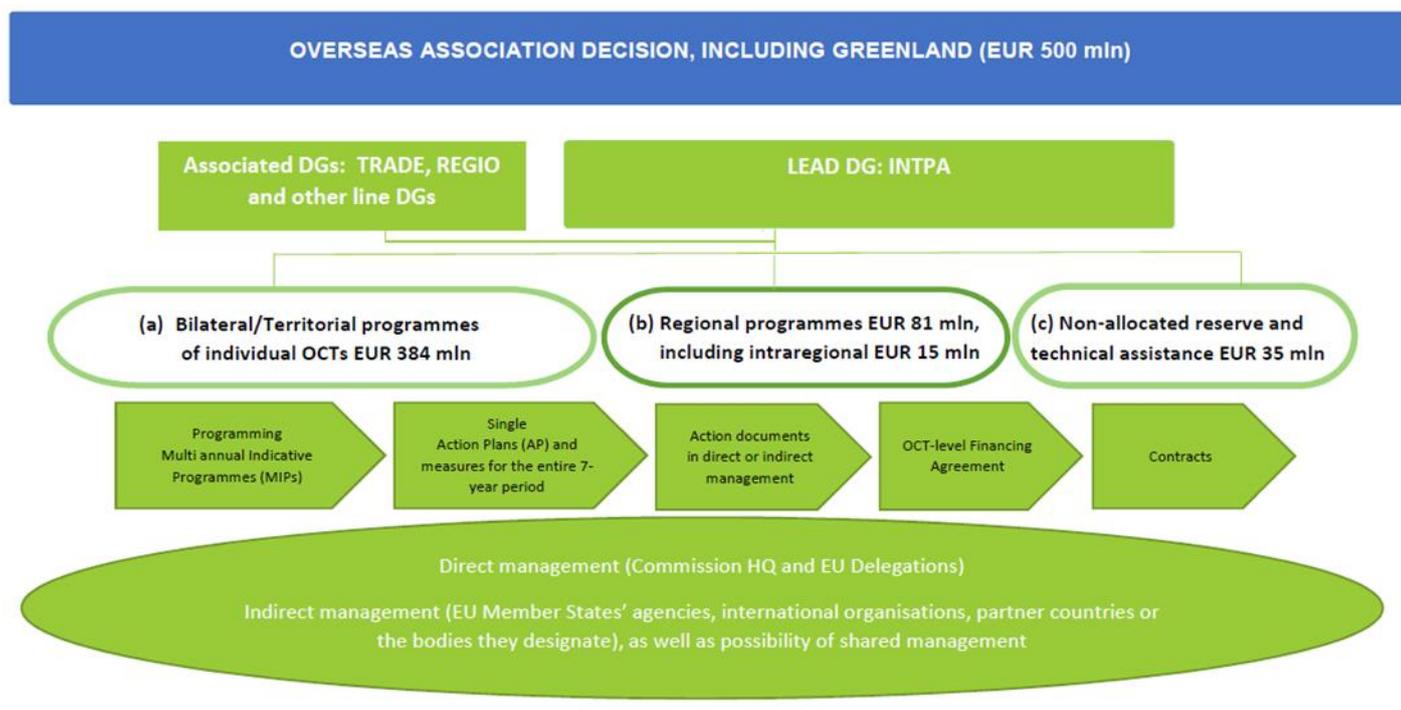
1.6. Delivery mode

The Delivery mode shall be direct management by the Commission from Headquarters and/or through the Union Delegations and offices, as well as indirect management by entities such as the EU Member States' agencies or international organisations that ensure a level of protection of the EU's financial interests equivalent to that under direct management. Indirect management may also be entrusted to partner countries or the bodies they designate. In case of contribution from other Union programmes, different set of rules can be applicable.

The lead service involved in implementing the DOAG is DG INTPA, in cooperation with DG TRADE, DG REGIO and other line DGs, especially on external dimensions of internal policies like climate, environment, energy and digital, as well as the EEAS.

For the sake of consistency and effectiveness, and unless otherwise specified, the DOAG will apply the implementation, evaluation and monitoring provisions of the NDICI.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Decision (EU) 2021/1764 of 5 October 2021 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Union including relations between the European Union on the one hand, and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark on the other (Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland) (OJ L 355, 7.10.2021, p. 6).	2021 - 2027	500.00

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	67.0	69.0	70.0	71.4	72.9	74.3	75.4	500.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	0.0	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	0.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The OCT programming exercise conducted during 2021 (Multiannual Indicative Programmes) revealed that more commitment appropriations are needed than available in the financial programming to ensure a seamless starting up of the implementation of the 2021-2027 cooperation. Operational planning for 2022 requires EUR 98.5 million instead of EUR 68.96 million; and for 2023 EUR 96.2 million instead of EUR 70.03 million. The gap in commitment appropriations can only be closed by partially relying on funds available only in the year following the annual action plan (AAP) decision year with reference to the NDICI provision allowing automatic carry-over (Art.30). This means, for the 2022 AAPs, EUR 26.37 million will rely on 2023 appropriations (EUR

98.5 million minus available appropriations 2022 (EUR 68.96 million) minus carry over 2021 (EUR 3.17 million). For the 2023 AAPs, EUR 52.54 million out of the total for AAPs of EUR 96.2 million will rely on the 2024 appropriations (for the AAP 2023 still available from the EUR 70.03 million for 2023 after multiannual decisions 2022: EUR 43,66 million).

The financial programming therefore relies on the concept of “multiannual decisions” due to the required frontloading for implementing decisions. This reflects the use of the 2021 funds (EUR 62.5 million of which EUR 60 million for Greenland and EUR 2.5 million for support measures) and the planned use in 2022 (EUR 98.5 million in Commission decisions) for the up to six OCTs that will have their territorial AAPs adopted in 2022 for which formulation work is ongoing. Moreover, the planning for 2023 foresees EUR 96.2 million in AAP decisions (of which EUR 32 million for three regional programmes, EUR 22.5 million for a Greenland programme, EUR 93.2 million for other territorial programmes and EUR 2.5 million for support measures). Therefore, the 2022 commitment appropriations are put on the ‘Territorial’ budget line. For 2023, most commitments are foreseen for the Territorial programmes with the exception of EUR 6.6 million for regional programmes; EUR 22,5 million for Greenland and EUR 2,5 million for support measures.. The needed additional EUR 25.4 million for regional programmes AAPs 2023 should come from the 2024 budget to cover the multiannual decisions.

This internal re-allocation of funds made in the years 2021 to 2023 will be fully compensated in the years 2023-2027 by corresponding linear yearly increases on the lines ‘Intra-regional programmes’, ‘Technical Assistance’, ‘Non-allocated funds’, ‘Regional’ and ‘Greenland’ and by yearly linear decreases on the ‘Territorial’ budget line, so that the total funds on each of these budget lines, at the end of 2027, remains the same as foreseen by the legislative proposal and the MFF agreement.

Due to the above mentioned challenges, it is explored how to review the profile of the instrument and transfer (frontload) appropriations between the years in order to best manage the programming exercise and the subsequent implementation of the funds.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The mid-term review report (December 2017) on 10 external financing instruments, including the Greenland Decision and the 11th EDF for the other OCTs, concluded that the external financing instruments were ‘fit for purpose’. However, both the report and the consultations conducted highlighted the need for increased flexibility, simplification, coherence and performance. These lessons learned have helped to streamline the Union’s external action architecture. There is now only one dedicated financing instrument for OCTs in place, i.e. the DOAG.

The DOAG could not be included in the new NDICI or in any other legal act subject to the ordinary legislative procedure. This is because they both have a specific adoption procedure: a Council Decision by unanimity, following consultation of the European Parliament.

The guiding principle for the DOAG was to preserve what works well, while improving the partners’ ability to deliver effectively on their policies and priorities. On the other hand, the Member States concerned have firmly insisted on retaining the structure and acquis of the old Overseas Association Decision.

With the budgetisation of the European Development Fund in the 2021-2027 MFF, the EU budget is the unified source of EU financing for all OCTs.

The EU can continue to provide value to OCTs where it is often the sole cooperation partner besides the Member State to which the OCT is linked. Through budget support as the primary implementation modality, it can ensure predictability of resources.

Moreover, the EU has significant expertise and a recognised international reputation as a lead player in sustainable development in general, and in areas of cooperation most relevant to OCTs in particular

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	63.3	500.0	13%
Payments	0.7		0%

In 2021, 11 out of 15 programming documents for OCT cooperation (Multiannual Indicative Programmes) were adopted after late adoption of the DOAG in October 2021. The remaining 4 MIPs (Bonaire, Curacao, Wallis et Futuna and Caribbean OCT regional MIP) are scheduled for 2022.

Implementation of the financial assistance under the DOAG started in 2021 with three AAPs. This led to the adoption of three Commission Decisions in December 2021 for Greenland (EUR 60 million, education); support measures (Technical Cooperation Facility, EUR 1.5 million) and support to the OCT association (EUR 1 million). In addition, EUR 756 421 were committed for administrative expenditure.

In 2022, work on six AAPs for OCTs is ongoing with a total amount of EUR 98.5 million in commitments in view of Commission decisions in 2022. This preparatory work consists of six bilateral programmes (St Pierre et Miquelon, sustainable tourism (EUR 27 million); Saba, renewable energy (EUR 4.1 million); St Eustatius, sustainable agriculture (EUR 2.9 million); St Barthélemy, disaster risk management (EUR 2.5 million); French Polynesia, water and sanitation (EUR 31.1 million); New Caledonia, renewable energy (EUR 30.9 million).

For 2023, indicatively nine AAPs are envisaged with a total amount of up to EUR of 96.2 million in commitments with four for bilateral programmes in OCTs (including one for Greenland), three for regional cooperation and two for support measures. Out of these nine AAPs one regional programme for the French Southern and Antarctic Lands; biodiversity (EUR 4 million) and a programme for support measures (EUR 1.5 million) are already under formulation in 2022 in view of early adoption in 2023.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

With the adoption of three AAPs in December 2021, implementation started. However, at time of writing (February 2022) it is still too early to report on the performance assessment of these programmes

3.1.2. Active programme performance

See introductory remark under 3.1.1.

3.2. Key achievements

Regarding the DOAG the key achievement so far is the timely adoption of 11 MIPs and 3 AAPs in December 2021.

Concerning the previous cooperation period 2021-2027 (Greenland decision and EDF) the following is highlighted:

The Pacific OCTs regional programme (PROTEGE, EUR 36 million) contributes to protecting biodiversity and enhancing renewable natural resources, focusing on four priority areas: Agriculture and forestry; coastal fisheries and aquaculture; water, and; invasive species. Over the past year, the Pacific regional programme advanced notably very hands-on with the sharing of best agricultural practices among the OCTs. In particular, the second PROTEGE agro-ecology demonstration farm meeting was held in Moorea and Tahiti in November 2021 with the objective of training in crop bio-protection.

The Caribbean OCTs regional programme (RESEMBID, EUR 42.7 million) contributes to strengthen the sustainable development of Caribbean OCTs by focusing on resilience, sustainable energy and marine biodiversity. Regarding resilience and disaster risk preparedness, significant achievements were made with the finalisation of diagnostic reports on emergency preparedness and disaster response in 12 OCTs and the design of a certificate course on disaster risk financing and analytics.

In Bonaire, the EU support on youth contributed to three key milestones. Firstly, the adoption of childcare regulation and secondly, the operationalisation of two comprehensive child development centres. These centres offer a stimulating space to the youngest members of society to enhance their social, physical and intellectual potential. Strong attention is given to improve the quality of educational programmes within these centres. Thirdly, in 2021, a pilot initiative of inclusive childcare for children with special needs was introduced by six childcare organizations together with one centre's multi-disciplinary care team ensuring no kid is left behind. The pilot project is mostly aimed at children aged 1 to 12 years who have special needs.

In Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, the EU supported the implementation of the government's Strategic Development Plan, favouring economic diversification and demographic stability. The support contributed to an increase of the number of tourists (+39%) and registered companies (+27%) and a decrease of the unemployment rate from 10.1% in 2009 to 4.7% in 2019. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has put important socio-economic pressures on the tourism sector, but measures were undertaken to mitigate the impacts of this crisis.

The EU budget support to the education sector in Greenland (around EUR 30 million each year) contributed to making the Greenland education system more inclusive and to continue the government's reform agenda. The number of children being involved in education and receiving support from an early age continued to increase, with 75% attending pre-school in 2020 (up from 69% in 2013). While still too many students do not finish their education, the completion rates have seen a positive trajectory (up by four percentage points in 2020) and more 16-18-year-olds stay in education. Being impacted through the fishing and tourism

sector by the COVID-19 pandemic, Greenland was swiftly supported in its reaction to the crisis when variable tranches of the budget support were transformed to fixed tranches in 2020.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

No evaluations under the new DOAG have yet been carried out. The mid-term review required by the legal basis is foreseen in 2024.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To foster and support cooperation with OCTs, including in addressing their major challenges and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

Indicator 1: For OCTs, except Greenland, exports of goods and services as % of GDP

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									
19,2%	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	To be updated at a later date with the different data sources for each of the OCTs.
Link to the objective	This indicator can serve to assess the evolution of the competitiveness of the OCT economies, which is intimately related to the economic vulnerability of the OCT economies, and its diversification. However, this aggregate indicator covering all 12 inhabited OCTs would hardly demonstrate any clear trend specific to each OCT individually.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the OCTs in the 2014-2020 MFF, but it was used to monitor Greenland in the 2014-2020 MFF, as economic diversification through education was the main objective of the programme (and it covered one single OCT).
Other methodological comments	A direct contribution of the envisaged cooperation under the DOAG to the achievement of this indicator cannot be established as it does not directly support sectors generating exports of goods and services. Therefore, it is not conducive to monitor this indicator to assess the performance of the programme’s contribution nor to set milestones for this indicator that are dependent on Government’s exports related policies. Moreover, comparable and timely data are not available for all OCTs concerned and it is not expected that they will be in the future, due to the small size of some OCTs economies, their specific status (not always reflected in a separated way in statistics) and sometimes low capacity. The baseline established is a proxy calculated as an average on the basis of the data available. For 2021 no data are yet available. Regarding monitoring, DG INTPA intends to propose other indicators to measure the performance of the DOAG cooperation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	See methodological comment. Furthermore, the baseline is mainly based on 2020 data but also includes latest available GDP data from 2019 for Sint Eustatius, 2018 for Sint Maarten and 2005 for Wallis-et-Futuna.

Indicator 2: For OCTs, except Greenland, total Government revenue as % of GDP.

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									
26,9%	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	To be updated at a later date with the different data sources for each of the OCTs.
Link to the objective	This indicator can be used to assess the evolution of the sustainability of the economies and resilience of the OCTs. However, this indicator as aggregate average of all 12 inhabited OCTs would hardly

	demonstrate any clear trend specific to each OCT individually.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	Comparable and timely statistical data on Government revenue and GDP are not available for all OCTs concerned. The baseline established is a proxy calculated as an average on the basis of the data available. For 2021 no data are yet available. A direct contribution of the envisaged cooperation under the DOAG to the achievement of this indicator cannot be established as the cooperation does not directly support fiscal policies (revenue generation) based on economic growth and diversification. Therefore, it is not conducive to monitor this indicator to assess the performance of the programme's contribution nor to set milestones for this indicator that are dependent on Government's policies. Regarding monitoring, DG INTPA intends to propose other indicators to measure the performance of the DOAG cooperation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	See methodological comment. Additionally, regarding the baseline, no government revenue data was found for Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius at this stage; they were therefore excluded from the calculation.

Specific Objective 2: To support and to cooperate with Greenland in addressing its major challenges such as the raising of education level and to contribute to the capacity of the administration of Greenland to formulate and implement national policies.

Indicator 1: For Greenland, exports of goods and services as % of GDP

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									
26,4%	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Statistics Greenland: www.stat.gl
Link to the objective	This indicator can serve to assess the evolution of the competitiveness of Greenland, which is intimately related to the economic vulnerability of Greenland and its diversification beyond the fisheries sector.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was not used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF.
Other methodological comments	A direct contribution of the envisaged cooperation under the DOAG to the achievement of this indicator cannot be established as it does not directly support productive sectors but indirectly support the work force through education. Therefore, it is not conducive to set milestones for this indicator. For 2021 no data are yet available. Regarding monitoring, DG INTPA intends to propose other indicators to measure the performance of the DOAG cooperation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	See methodological comment.

Indicator 2: For Greenland, percentage of the fisheries sector in total exports

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2020	Milestones									
91,4%	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	Statistics Greenland: www.stat.gl
Link to the objective	The Government of Greenland wants to diversify its economy by developing other economic sectors, such as extractive industries and tourism. This to reduce its reliance on fisheries and fish processing.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This indicator was used to monitor the 2014-2020 MFF, using the same name and methodology.
Other methodological comments	A direct contribution of the envisaged cooperation under the DOAG to the achievement of this

	indicator cannot be established as it does not directly support diversification. Therefore, it is not conducive to set milestones for this indicator. Regarding monitoring, DG INTPA intends to propose other indicators to measure the performance of the DOAG cooperation.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	See methodological comment.

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution		17.20	17.50	17.90	18.20	18.60	18.90	108.30	22%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The OCTs are especially vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation due to their geographical locations and characteristics. Environment and energy are therefore crucial areas of EU-OCT cooperation.

The DOAG sets a (non-binding) target aiming to dedicate 25 % of its envelope (EUR 500 million) for the 2021-2027 period to climate-related actions.

Through the MIPs and the formulation of programmes the Commission together with the partner OCTs will aim to achieve the climate target to the best extent possible.

9 of the 11 adopted MIPS will directly contribute to the climate action. With the adoption of the further four MIPs still pending (total amount of EUR 64.4 million) and also in view of the contribution of the intraregional envelope (up to EUR 15 million), the 25% goal will possibly even surpassed. We estimate that the implementing programmes will contribute with around 28% to the climate target. A more precise estimate will require formulation work on the implementing programmes.

The AAPs of 2021, however, only indirectly contribute to the climate target. For example, the government of Greenland is working to provide 1069 additional dormitory places across Greenland until 2027 in new or renovated buildings who are up to 50% more energy efficient. The EU supports this work, with 90% of Greenland’s MIP foreseen for the education sector. For 2020, over EUR 1 million went into more sustainable school buildings.

5.1.3. Key achievements

The ongoing 11th EDF all-OCT Thematic Programme (Green Overseas) and the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regional programmes (EUR 97.8 million) are all dedicated to a mix of action on climate change, environment, resilience and sustainable energy, showing the vital importance of these areas to all OCTs. In its consultation and design phase Green Overseas has already allowed for an exchange on best practices and priorities on climate change adaption and resilience between OCTs, UK territories and experts. The programme will soon launch a number of pilot projects to allow the beneficiaries, who are particularly exposed to climate change, better manage the risks it poses and to move to clean energy solutions.

At bilateral level, several OCTs selected climate change/environment as the priority sectors under the 11th EDF to promote their long-term sustainable development and welfare. The most recent adopted territorial programmes under the 11th EDF are on water sanitation (Sint Maarten – EUR 7 million) and on resilient infrastructures (Curaçao – EUR 16.95 million). In Saba, the EU support under the 11th EDF substantially improved the energy mix in favour of renewable energies (with a 40% share). This development of renewables helped the island to mitigate the impacts of climate change by cutting carbons emissions and to also accelerate its low carbon transition.

5.1.4. Performance

The DOAG defines a wide range of priority areas for cooperation with the OCTs, in pursuit of their economic and human development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the 2014-2020 period, from this array of possible cooperation priorities, climate action emerged as the common denominator in all 3 OCT regional programmes (Caribbean, Indian Ocean, and Pacific) and in the single all-OCT thematic programme. Moreover, 4 (of then 25) OCTs additionally opted for climate-related action in their bilateral cooperation programmes.

5.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

5.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	5.00	5.20	5.20	5.40	5.50	5.60	5.70	37.60
Share compared to total envelope	7.46 %	7.54 %	7.43 %	7.56 %	7.55 %	7.54 %	7.56 %	7.52 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

5.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Almost all OCTs are located in global biodiversity hotspots and account for a major part of EU biodiversity. The importance for the EU of contributing to biodiversity preservation is reflected in the (non-binding) target of 7.5% of annual spending in 2024 and 10% as of 2026 from the DOAG budget (EUR 500 million) for biodiversity actions.

Through the MIPs and the formulation and implementation of programmes the Commission together with the partner OCTs will aim to achieve these biodiversity targets to the best extent possible. Nature-based solutions and eco-tourism as well as reforms in the agriculture, water and sanitation or energy sectors are ways to contribute to biodiversity conservation in OCTs. First estimates based on the MIPs (including those four which still need to be adopted) suggest that around 10% of the total DOAG financial allocation will contribute to biodiversity during the period 2021-2027

5.2.3. Key Achievements

It is too early to report on achievements for the 2021-2027 period. However, formulation work for a dedicated follow up biodiversity programme for the TAAF under its MIP 2021-2027 (EUR 4 million) is under way.

The on-going 11th EDF Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regional programmes as well as the BEST initiative have helped OCTs to improve protection and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as to reinforce cooperation on environmental actions.

The Indian Ocean Regional Programme (EUR 4 million- 11th EDF) is a good example that places the protection of biodiversity in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (TAAF) at the core of its action. This programme, called "RECI" (Restoration of Indian Ocean Island Ecosystems), aims, over the period 2019-2023, to strengthen regional skills in ecosystem monitoring, eradication of introduced species, and implementation of biosecurity measures. As of today, technical operations are in progress and important activities have already been carried out. In particular, this concerns environmental monitoring and the preparation of biodiversity protection operations. Several actions were undertaken in parallel regarding biosecurity measures, notably for the Australes islands.

5.2.4. Performance

It is too early to report on achievements for the 2021-2027 period.

In the 2014-2020 period, biodiversity emerged as one of the priorities in all 3 OCT regional programmes (Caribbean, Indian, Pacific). In particular, the Indian Ocean regional programme covering the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, will continue and broaden the work of the RECI programme presented above, in islands that are home to exceptional biodiversity, highly diverse and complex ecosystems, with a high rate of endemism among flora and fauna.

5.3. Contribution to gender equality

5.3.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 1: 60 Score 0: 3.2	Score 0*: 98.5	Score 0: 2.5 Score 0*: 93.7	Score 1: 71.25 Score 0: 1.5	Score 0: 2.5 Score 0*: 63.3	Score 1: 71.25 Score 0: 1	Score 0: 2.3 Score 0*: 7	Score 1: 202.5 Score 0: 16.3 Score 0*: 262.5

(*)Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

While there was no specific target set in the 2014-2020 OAD concerning gender equality, care will continue to be taken to ensuring that all cooperation programmes include a focus on gender equality. Indeed, the DOAG explicitly states that gender equality should be mainstreamed into all actions as a key contribution to the successful achievement of the SDGs.

For instance in the case of Greenland, educational attainment and participation of girls and women has been consistently high, with 65% and 64% of enrolments and completions in upper secondary education. Women outperform men even more in higher education (72% of completions for all diplomas, all numbers for 2020). Enrolment and completion of vocational education are more equally distributed between genders (49% and 50% respectively in 2020). Factors contributing to women’s overrepresentation

in (academic and pre-academic) education is a cultural bias for men to work in traditionally male professions like fishing and hunting as well as the growing fisheries sector attracting young men without requiring formal education.

Moreover, support measures are demand-driven therefore do not specifically target gender issues and are scored 0 in the above table. The latter does not include administrative expenses. Under scores 0, there are actions which relate to support measures, administrative costs action such as for example the deployment of digital health tools.

5.4. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda is a compass, aiming at achieving integrated policy-making and action to sustainable development. The objective of the association between the Union and the OCTs is, as defined in the DOAG, to support the OCT's sustainable development as well as to promote the values of the UE in the wider world. The priority sectors of ongoing EU cooperation with OCTs focuses on education, environment, climate change and sustainable energy, connectivity, sustainable growth, tourism and social development/youth. This promote long-term sustainable economic development and welfare in the OCTs. In the coming years, the Green Deal could emerge as a pivotal priority given the vulnerabilities of the OCTs as islands. This could include climate action, environment, biodiversity and energy transition, as well as digital technologies, circular economy and investments for sustainable growth and jobs, which are all very relevant areas for OCTs. In addition, support to education (primary, secondary and tertiary as well as vocational training) will continue to contribute to OCT's sustainable development.

EU support to OCTs contribute to many areas of the 2030 Agenda, often interlinked, which can be illustrated by:

SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

OCTs share particular vulnerabilities, resulting in a complex set of food security and nutrition challenges. For 2021-2027, the EU will support sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition in the Pacific region (Regional MIP, EUR 36 million) and in Sint Eustatius (EUR 2.9 million). Complementary work with other SDGs (SDG 3 on health, SDG 4 on education and SDG5 on gender equality and women's empowerment) is essential to strengthen the human development of the OCTs.

SDG 4 Quality education

Access to quality education fosters equality and is an essential pre-condition for achieving sustainable growth and jobs. This is the rationale of one of the two priority areas of EU cooperation with Greenland 2021-2027. EUR 202.5 million are earmarked for education cooperation in Greenland.

Through the Erasmus+ programme, the EU also supports OCTs in facilitating mobility of individuals, and reinforcing intercultural dialogue and understanding. OCT participation has more than doubled since 2018, in the number of both projects and beneficiaries. From 87 projects with 41 beneficiaries (total EUR 3.2 million) in 2018, participation grew to 177 projects and 95 beneficiaries (EUR 5.5 million) in 2020.

SDG 6 Clean water and sanitation

As part of the broader EU support to access to water and sanitation, interventions related to the construction of waste water collection systems and also of treatment facilities contribute to delivery on SDG 6. The Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 for French Polynesia will invest up to EUR 31.1 million in the priority area of water and sanitation.

SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy

Sustainable energy is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement targets and meeting the long-term objectives of the clean energy transition and decarbonisation process. The Multiannual Indicative Programmes 2021-2027 for New Caledonia (EUR 30.9 million), Sint Maarten (EUR 7.7 million) and Saba (EUR 4.1 million) will support the sustainable energy transition through the development of the necessary policy, legal framework and infrastructure in the energy sector, providing further impetus to ensure access to sustainable energy.

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

The EU envisaged support 2021-2027 to sustainable tourism (Saint Pierre et Miquelon, EUR 27 million), green growth (Greenland, EUR 22.5 million), sustainable agriculture (Sint Eustatius, EUR 2.9 million) and e-government (Aruba, EUR 14.2 million) will drive progress in ensuring sustained economic growth, full employment and decent work.

SDG 13 Climate action, SDG 14 Life below water and SDG 15 Life on land

The OCTs are especially vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation due to their geographical locations and characteristics. The ongoing all-OCT Thematic Programme Green Overseas and the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regional programmes (for a total of EUR 97.8 million) from the 11th EDF are all dedicated to ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources, protecting biodiversity and supporting climate actions and resilience, showing the vital importance of these areas to all OCTs.

EU support to protect biodiversity will continue to be the priority area for cooperation with the French Southern and Antarctic Lands in 2021-2027 (EUR 4 million). This will build on the ongoing Indian Ocean Regional Programme (EUR 4 million) which aims at improving the surveillance and observation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, restoring ecosystems and reinforcing impact prevention mechanisms. The Multiannual Indicative Programmes 2021-2027 for Saint-Barthélemy (EUR 2.5 million) will also support disaster risk management and climate adaptation.

In addition, the on-going BEST Initiative has helped OCTs to promote EU's environmental standards and provided an incentive for local actors to engage in environmental actions. The new LIFE programme 2021-2027 will continue to scale up the actions in OCTs on biodiversity and nature conservation. All these programmes focus therefore on translating SDG 13, 14 and 15 into effective results on the ground and will prepare the work for the future.

The European Green Deal will provide further impetus to reinforce EU-OCT cooperation on environment and climate change as well as to incentivize solutions to these global challenges.

SDG 17 Partnerships for the goals

Successful sustainable development requires partnerships. The 2019-2024 Commission took office with the mandate to ensure a stronger Europe in the World. The geopolitical Commission strives to advance through partnerships EU strategic interests and objectives abroad and defends a rules- and values-based international order in an increasingly polarised world. The special relationship between the Union and the OCTs is based on the association of the OCTs with the Union, which constitutes a partnership. This principle of partnership is embedded in the DOAG, which is the framework for political and policy dialogue and cooperation on issues of common interest. The progress achieved so far shall be consolidated and reinforced in the coming period.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World

Macro-Financial Assistance

Lead DG: ECFIN

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

The economic stability and prosperity of its neighbourhood are of key geo-strategic importance for the EU. In particular, all Member States of the EU have a strong interest to support neighbouring countries experiencing a balance-of-payments crisis or an unprecedented economic shock (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), in order to minimize adverse macroeconomic and social spill overs. EU-level action is thereby justified as the benefits of prosperity, stability and security in the EU's neighbourhood flow to all EU Member States.

In its neighbourhood, the EU will make an important contribution to improved economic stability and resilience through the provision of Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA).

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

[MFA](#) is an EU financial instrument extended to partner countries in the enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy regions that are experiencing a balance-of-payments crisis. Its primary objective is to help countries overcome acute economic crises and restore their economy on a sustainable growth path, which is to be achieved through economic adjustments and structural reforms that are included in the policy conditionality of the instrument. MFA is provided in conjunction to International Monetary Fund (IMF) financing.

MFA is part of the EU's toolkit for macroeconomic stabilisation, which includes also the Balance-of-Payments assistance mechanism for Member States outside the euro area, and the rescue mechanisms for the euro area created in response to the global financial crisis.

MFA contributes to both short-term stabilisation and medium- to long-term economic stability of countries around the EU's borders. This dual impact, is derived from the instrument's two-pronged approach. **Its primary and most immediate objective** is to help countries overcome an acute economic crises by contributing to an external financing gap and thereby restoring confidence and an adequate international reserve position. **The second objective** is to spur lasting change through structural reforms; this

contribution to medium- and long-term stabilisation is achieved through policy conditionality. The combination of a set of agreed policy reforms that all need to be fulfilled in a context of an acute need of beneficiary countries for emergency funding tends to increase the traction of MFA conditionality compared with non-emergency, programmable support instruments. Thus, MFA endows the EU with significant policy leverage in beneficiary countries. Importantly, through its stabilisation and reform impetus in favour of a sound macroeconomic environment, MFA also complements and supports the efficiency of other EU external action instruments.

Primarily in the form of loans, extended at concessional terms, MFA operations increase the effectiveness of the EU budget through the leverage effect.

In the current COVID-19 crisis, MFA to neighbourhood and candidate countries supports external stabilisation and thereby provides authorities with policy space to implement measures to counter the economic fallout from the pandemic, while also encouraging the implementation of reforms.

1.3. Specific objectives

- **MFA fulfils a fundamental macroeconomic stabilisation function**, by addressing exceptional external financing needs faced by neighbouring countries and restoring their economy back to a sustainable path.
- **MFA provides a strong incentive for macroeconomic adjustment and policy reform** by means of strict conditionality, and supports the EU's accession, pre-accession and association agendas in the beneficiary countries.
- **MFA complements the other EU external instruments as well as resources made available by International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other donors**, by helping to ensure that appropriate macroeconomic frameworks and sound economic policies are put in place in the beneficiary countries – which are preconditions for the success of other projects aiming at sustainable socio-economic development by the EU and the donors' community.

1.4. Public intervention context

Shared competences (Article 4 of the TFEU): the EU and EU countries are able to legislate and adopt legally binding decisions on MFA. Throughout the MFF 2021-2027, MFA will continue to be granted on the basis of case-by-case Decisions adopted by Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP) under Article 209, 212 or 213 TFEU. In turn, the Union's operations and those of the Member States complement and reinforce each other. The MFA decision-making process will remain separate from the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), proposed by the Commission in June 2018 in the context of the MFF 2021-2027 package.

MFA complements EU assistance under the 'programmed' instruments (e.g. Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance-II (2014-2020), now IPA-III (2021-2027)) and maximises its effectiveness by alleviating the risks of disruption of the regular EU cooperation framework whilst at the same time laying the basis for structural change and sustainable economic and social development of the beneficiary countries. MFA is also complementary to the other EU crisis response mechanisms (e.g. the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and humanitarian aid) and EIB lending. Furthermore, by complementing the resources made available by the International Financial Institutions (particularly the International Monetary Fund) and other donors, EU MFA contributes to the overall impact and effectiveness of the financial support agreed by the international donor community.

1.5. Actions

MFA provides financial support to partner countries facing a balance of payments crisis. The amount of MFA provided is calculated on the basis of the residual financing needs under an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme, as assessed by DG ECFIN. MFA is predominantly provided in loans, or a mix of loans and grants (the precise mix in any specific assistance depends on criteria such as the receiving country's level of development and its debt sustainability/creditworthiness). For the loans, the EU passes on to the beneficiary country its own funding costs (namely, the interest rate it has to pay to raise funds by issuing bonds). This allows the countries receiving assistance to benefit from the low rates available to the EU as a top-rated borrower.

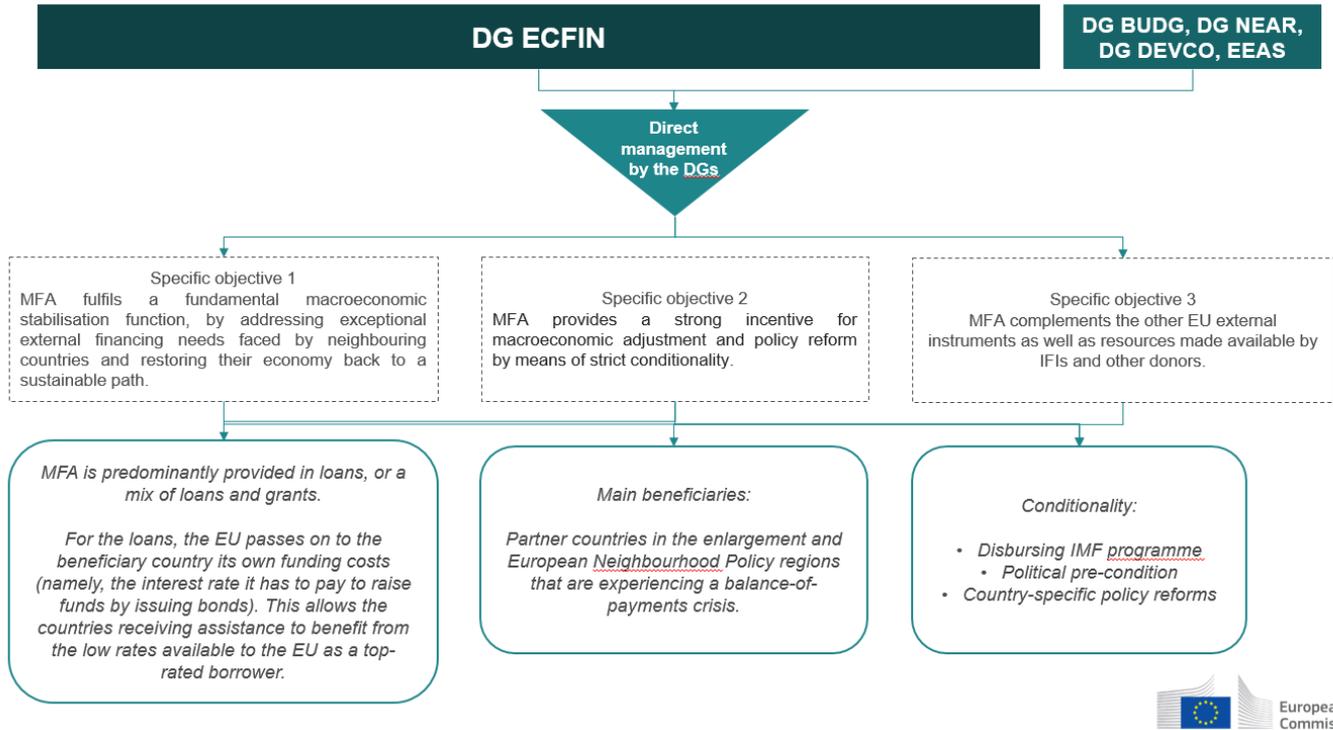
The Commission typically disburses MFA assistance in instalments strictly tied to the beneficiary country's progress with respect to:

- macroeconomic and financial stabilisation and economic recovery;
- implementation of the agreed policy reforms, as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- sound progress with the IMF programme, and adherence to the respect for human rights, rule of law and effective democratic mechanisms (the so called 'political pre-condition').

1.6. Delivery mode

MFA is implemented in direct management, under the lead of DG ECFIN and with the participation of other Commission services and the EEAS.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

MFA is exceptional in nature and is mobilised on the basis of case-by-case Decisions adopted by Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP) under Article 209, 212 or 213 TFEU¹.

In addition to the legal base mentioned above, the MFA loans are provisioned at a rate of 9% by the new External Action Guarantee (EAG) within the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe (Regulation (EU) 2021/947 final). The EAG is backed by the new Common Provisioning Fund.

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	0.2	50.0	56.7	57.4	59.3	61.5	64.5	349.6
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A

¹ Active Decisions as of February 2022:
[Decision \(EU\) 2022/313 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 February 2022 providing macro-financial assistance to Ukraine;](#)
[Decision \(EU\) 2020/701 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 on providing macro-financial assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;](#)
[Decision \(EU\) 2020/33 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2020 providing further macro-financial assistance to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.](#)

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The provisioning for MFA loans (EAG) will have to cover for an indicative pipeline of new MFA operations for both 2022 and 2023 that has increased significantly in size. In addition to new MFA loan operations in 2022 for Ukraine and Moldova², respectively for EUR 1.2 billion and EUR 150 million, other new MFAs for Ukraine, Lebanon and Tunisia would potentially amount to an additional EUR 3.5 billion of MFA loans. In this respect, provisioning for MFA loans is subject to an increase to EUR 162.6 million in 2023, in order to reach EUR 433.8 million in commitments for 2021-2023, which would cover for the possible new MFAs for a total amount of up to EUR 4.82 billion until the end of 2023. The increase is compensated in 2024, keeping the overall MFA provisioning unchanged over the MFF period.

With respect to commitment appropriations for MFA grants, the amount committed for 2023 is EUR 56.8 million. This amount intends to cover possible new requests for MFA that could materialise in 2023, and that could lead to grant disbursements in 2024. More specifically, a new MFA to Lebanon and a new regular MFA to Ukraine could both entail a grant component.

Moreover, the commitments under this Budget line would cover the ex post evaluation for the COVID-19 MFA package, which is also envisaged for 2024.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

In the 2021-2027 MFF, MFA will maintain its current legal status, with assistance being granted on the basis of case-by-case Decisions adopted by Legislative Procedure under Article 209, 212 or 213 TFEU. MFA will remain separate from the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).

Under the 2014-2020 MFF, the provisioning for the guarantee for MFA loans was covered under the Guarantee Fund for External Action, to the extent that disbursement of MFA loans in year n were budgeted in n+2. Under the 2021-2027 MFF, the provisioning rules under the External Action Guarantee established under NDICI-Global Europe, backed by the Common Provisioning Fund were changed.

To cover for ongoing MFA operations that entered into force during the 2014-2020 MFF (disbursements in 2021, 2022 and 2023), specific “legacy operations” budget lines have been created.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

The website on Macro-Financial Assistance is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/international-economic-relations/macro-financial-assistance-mfa-non-eu-partner-countries_en

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments ⁽¹⁾	0.2	349.6	0%
Payments ⁽¹⁾	0.4		0%

As part of the EU's global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 the EU approved³ EUR 3 billion of Macro-Financial Assistance to 10 enlargement and neighbourhood partners to help them cope with the economic fallout. MFA operations under Decision (EU) 2020/701 were further implemented in 2021. Seven of the programmes launched between 2020 and 2021 were successfully completed in full, while the MFA operation to Georgia was only partially disbursed due to not meeting the policy

² The COM proposal for a new MFA operation to Moldova is currently awaiting endorsement by the European Parliament and the Council.

³ Decision (EU) 2020/701 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 on providing macro-financial assistance to enlargement and neighbourhood partners in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

conditions. Two remaining programmes are currently under implementation, with the disbursement of the final tranche foreseen for 2022.

In addition, in 2022 the third regular MFA to Jordan is also expected to be finalised. The provisioning for the guarantee for these operations are covered under budget lines 15.020203.03 MFA – IPA III - provisioning MFA-loans legacy and 14.020170.07 NDICI - provisioning for MFA-loans legacy.

At the end of 2021, the Commission also received two official requests for MFA from Moldova and Ukraine. The Commission's proposal for an additional MFA to Moldova of EUR 150 million is currently awaiting endorsement by the European Parliament and the Council, with a view to have a first disbursement by June 2022. In light of Russia's current invasion of Ukraine, on 24 February 2022 the European Parliament and the Council adopted a Decision to provide an emergency Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine, in the form of EUR 1.2 billion of loans. The release of the first instalment of EUR 600 million took place in March 2022.

The provisioning for MFA loans (EAG - budget line 14.020170.06) will have to cover for an indicative pipeline of new MFA operations in the neighbourhood for both 2022 and 2023 that has increased significantly in size. In this respect, provisioning for MFA loans is subject to an increase to EUR 162.6 million in 2023, in order to reach EUR 433.8 million in commitments for 2021-2023 (see 1.8.4 above).

With respect to Budget line 14.200301, in 2021 the joint ex post evaluation of MFA-II interventions to Tunisia and Jordan was completed, together with a meta-evaluation of MFA operations concerning the period 2010-2020. Payments appropriations for 2022 allow for the disbursement of EUR 20 million in grants, envisaged for the first two tranches of the ongoing MFA to Moldova.

The amount committed for Budget line 14.200301 in 2023 refers to EUR 56.8 million. This amount intends to cover possible new requests for MFA that could materialise in 2023, and that could lead to grant disbursements in 2024. More specifically, a new MFA to Lebanon and a new regular MFA to Ukraine could both entail a grant component. Moreover, the commitments under this Budget line would cover the ex post evaluation for the COVID-19 MFA package, which is also envisaged for 2024. With respect to 2023 payments appropriations concerning MFA grants, the EUR 40 million would allow to pay the remaining tranche of the new MFA to Moldova, together with the combined ex post evaluation of MFA operations to Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia implemented between 2017 and 2020. The amount would also account for the possibility to grant an MFA to Lebanon already in the coming months.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

In 2021, MFA operations under Decision (EU) 2020/701, to provide assistance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, were further implemented. By the end of 2021, eight of the planned operations have been concluded, with a total disbursement of EUR 2.5 billion in loans between 2020 and 2021. The MFA-package came on top of the 'Team Europe' package, the EU's robust and targeted response to support enlargement and neighbourhood partner countries' in tackling the pandemic, reaching almost EUR 40 billion.

Seven of the eight programmes initiated in 2020-2021 were successfully completed in full, with the disbursement of the second and final tranche for the following countries: North Macedonia (for a total disbursement of EUR 160 million), Kosovo (EUR 100 million in total), Montenegro (EUR 60 million in total), Jordan (EUR 200 million in total), Moldova (EUR 100 million in total), Ukraine (EUR 1200 million in total) and Albania (EUR 180 million in total).

The MFA operation to Georgia agreed under the above mentioned Decision, on the other hand, was only partially completed. While the first disbursement of EUR 75 million took place in November 2020, the second instalment was cancelled by the Commission following the decision of Georgia to refrain from requesting it, and in view of the non-fulfilment of an important policy condition related to the judicial system.

The two remaining programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUR 250 million in total, to be disbursed in two tranches) and Tunisia (EUR 600 million, two tranches) were also started in 2021. Implementation is progressing, with both countries having already received the first disbursement. The Commission is ready to release the second tranche in 2022, upon completion of the policy conditions envisaged in the MoU.

Besides the financial assistance foreseen in context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of a third regular MFA programme for Jordan (EUR 500 million, in three tranches) was also taken forward, with the release of the second tranche (EUR 200 million in loans) on 20 July 2021.

As an overview, in 2021 alone a total amount of EUR 1.665 billion in loans was disbursed to support the financial stability of EU partner countries and help them limit the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic⁴.

In 2021, the Commission also received two other official requests for MFA that materialised in 2022:

Moldova

In light of the on-going post-pandemic economic recovery as well as facing a gas crisis that began in October 2021, Moldova made a request for a new MFA operation in November. The request came following Article IV consultations by the IMF and the signing of a new staff level agreement of Extended Credit Facility/Extended Fund Facility USD 558.3 million, adopted by the Executive Board on 20 December. Based on this, and following a careful assessment of Moldova's external financing needs, the Commission made a proposal for a new MFA operation of up to EUR 150 million, including EUR 120 million in loans and EUR 30 million grant component. The Decision to provide additional Macro-Financial Assistance to Moldova was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 6 April 2022. A first disbursement is foreseen by June 2022.

Ukraine

In light of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion on Ukraine, and against the backdrop of the loss of access to international capital markets, on 24 February 2022 the European Council and the Parliament adopted a Decision to provide an emergency Macro-Financial Assistance to Ukraine, in the form of EUR 1.2 billion in loans. The release of the first instalment of EUR 600 million, in two tranches, took place in March 2022.

MFA has gained increasing prominence in the EU's external toolbox, aiming to address exceptional financing needs of countries that are geographically, economically and politically close to the EU. Since 1990, the EU has made available a number of MFA operations in candidate, potential candidate and neighbourhood countries, for a total amount of over EUR 16 billion. Since 2014, around EUR 6.3 billion have been disbursed and an additional EUR 1.665 billion have been disbursed in 2021 (predominantly related to the COVID-19 MFA package adopted in May 2020, with the exception of the first tranche of MFA-III to Jordan).

Throughout 2014-2020, MFA has been instrumental in supporting partners in the eastern and southern neighbourhood faced with conflict and political transitions and, in turn, a deterioration of their economies and financial situation.

In the eastern neighbourhood, MFA was particularly instrumental in helping Ukraine to stabilise the macroeconomic situation and undertake the necessary reforms to bring the economy on a sustainable growth path. Indeed, since 2014, a total of EUR 3.8 billion was disbursed to Ukraine under three regular MFA operations. Under the COVID-19 MFA operation adopted in 2020, another EUR 1.2 billion were disbursed to Ukraine. In effect, MFA has proven to be an important tool to address an acute balance of payments crisis and support reforms in public finance management, anti-corruption, financial sector restructuring, trade and taxation and energy.

More recently, an emergency MFA operation of EUR 1.2 billion has been adopted, to provide financial support to Ukraine, in light of the ongoing conflict with Russia.

In the southern neighbourhood, MFA was also instrumental in helping Tunisia respond to the economic downturn it has faced following the 2011 revolution and the economic and political transition process that ensued. Indeed, since 2014, a total of EUR 2.0 billion have been made available to Tunisia under two regular MFA operations and a COVID-19 MFA. The MFA programmes helped redress Tunisia's fiscal and external balances, whilst having a considerable focus on policies to foster employment and provide financial support to the poorer sections of society. Additionally, in Jordan, a total of EUR 900 million have been made available under two regular MFA programmes since 2014, and the COVID-19 operation. The assistance has helped the country to deal with pressing economic and social issues arising from regional conflicts and the refugee flows from Syria and Iraq. More generally, the assistance helped Jordan to address immediate external and fiscal financing needs, whilst encouraging structural reforms and contributing to macroeconomic stability in a very challenging economic and regional context.

The independent *ex-post* evaluations carried out so far conclude that MFA operations do contribute, albeit sometimes modestly and indirectly, to the improvement of external sustainability, the macroeconomic stability and the achievement of structural reforms in the recipient country. In most cases, MFA operations had a positive effect on the balance of payments of the beneficiary country and contributed to relax their budgetary constraints. They also led to a slightly higher economic growth.

Hard data in the individual *ex-post* evaluations show that, despite a challenging external environment at the inception of the respective MFA operations, market access could be maintained or regained in all the operations implemented between 2010 and 2020⁵. With reference to the same time period, reserve adequacy and current accounts mostly improved during the MFA operations, while inflation subsided. Larger support and the complementarity of expertise and policy conditions between the Commission and the IMF in synchronised operations made the overall assistance more impactful. Also, the cooperation increased the Union's leverage to push for reforms.

⁴ The amount includes the final tranche for the seven COVID-19 MFA operations started in 2020 and not yet concluded (excluding Georgia), the full amount for the COVID-19 MFA to Albania, and the first tranche for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Tunisia. The second tranche of the regular MFA III to Jordan is also counted.

⁵ Analysis carried out in the Meta-evaluation of Macro-Financial Assistance operations (2010 – 2020).

In general terms, the decision-making process of MFA operations implemented between 2010 and 2020 was considered lengthy for a crisis instrument. However, the experience with the COVID-19 MFA package and the new emergency MFA to Ukraine shows that the current setup of MFA can allow for the flexibility necessary for a swift adoption. The Commission worked with the Parliament and the Council to agree on the use of existing urgency procedures which allowed for the assistance to be adopted within one month of the Commission's proposal and by both co-legislators (whereas using Article 213 TFEU, in a situation where the assistance was urgently required, would have implied an adoption by the Council only). The European Parliament invoked a specific clause (Rule 163) in their Rules of Procedure, which permitted to immediately adopt the Decision in Plenary, without having to go through the INTA Committee, as is regular practice.

MFA operations proved to be effective in supporting the implementation of key structural reforms in beneficiary countries.

The case of MFA-III to Ukraine provides a relevant example. The magnitude and favorable terms of the intervention allowed for fiscal savings, necessary for the implementation of structural reforms, and increased confidence in the Ukrainian economy. MFA conditionality created a politically reinforcing effect that contributed to the mobilisation of Ukrainian authorities around crucial reforms in the area of: public-finance management; energy sector; business environment; governance and transparency; social-safety net; and financial sector. Anti-corruption conditions under MFA-III were subsequently taken forward as part of MFA-IV, underlining the shared intention by the EU and the Ukrainian Government to concentrate efforts on pushing for steady progress in this critical reform area.

All evaluations highlight that an important attribute of the EU MFA versus alternative sources of financing is its highly concessional terms, i.e. relatively low interest rates, long maturity and long grace period. This generates fiscal space and contributes to public debt sustainability in the beneficiary countries.

The ex-post evaluations also confirm that previous MFAs were implemented efficiently, and were well coordinated with other EU programmes and with programmes of other donors (notably, the IMF and World Bank). Indeed, the EU's MFA complements and is conditional on the existence of an adjustment and reform IMF programme in the beneficiary country. MFA policy conditionality is separate from the IMF conditionality, but complementary and/or reinforcing. Recent experiences show that the presence of two independent but coordinated programmes reinforces the capacity of delivering results, through complementary conditionality and combined financial resources.

The evaluations also note the shortcomings of each MFA operation, with the most common ones being the lack of visibility of the MFA operation, and in certain cases, the speed of the legislative approval process.

As mentioned, disbursement under the proposed MFA programmes is conditional on the fulfilment of political pre-conditions, good progress by the beneficiary country with the IMF programme and on the implementation of the policy measures agreed in the MoU. In turn, each disbursement of MFA reflects good progress by the beneficiary country in implementing the country-specific measures agreed with the EU.

MFA disbursements are sometimes delayed compared to initial expectations. External factors that might be impacting programme timelines include:

- The beneficiary country does not fulfil the political pre-conditions.
- The IMF Programme in the beneficiary country is off-track or expired.
- The implementation of agreed reforms are affected by capacity constraints and institutional weaknesses.
- Changes of government result in shifting policy priorities.

More details on past MFA operations, including under the current MFF, can be found in the Annual Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Macro-Financial Assistance to third countries, and related Staff Working Document.⁶

3.2. Key achievements

EUR 1.7 billion	10 MFAs	EUR 6.2 billion	EUR 1.04 billion	EUR 1.08 billion
was disbursed in 2021 to support the financial stability of EU partner countries, also in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.	MFA operations received disbursements in 2021.	in loans was disbursed to Ukraine under three regular MFA operations since 2014, and two emergency operations in 2020 and 2022.	in loans have been made available to Tunisia between 2014 and 2021, to support the country in responding to the economic downturn following the 2011 revolution, the economic and political transition process, and the economic recovery post COVID-19.	in loans was made available to Jordan between 2013 and 2021, to support the country after pressing regional conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁶ Available at : https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/international-economic-relations/macro-financial-assistance-mfa-non-eu-partner-countries_en#documents

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

In line with the EU Financial Regulation and the corresponding MFA decisions, the Commission conducts ex post evaluations after completion of MFA programmes to assess their impact. This is normally carried out within two years from the end of the availability period defined in the legislative decision granting assistance. The objective is twofold: (i) to analyse the impact of MFA on the economy of the beneficiary country and in particular on the sustainability of its external position; (ii) to assess the added value of the EU intervention.

In 2021, the following evaluations were undertaken, which are expected to be finalised by mid-2022:

- The joint evaluation on MFA II to Tunisia and Jordan: the external study concludes that the size, form and timing of the operations were relevant and appropriate to the countries' financing needs, providing EU added value. In both countries, the MFA had a positive impact on debt sustainability and played a positive role in promoting macroeconomic stabilisation. Conditionality was relevant, focused on key reform areas. The operations were coherent with the policy framework. They supported positive change in some reform areas, despite mixed progress in some other specific reforms. From a regional perspective, it can be reasonably assumed that the impact and spill-overs on the MENA region of the two MFAs were relatively limited and mostly associated with less measurable channels (confidence effect).
- The meta-evaluation of MFA operations assessed between 2010 and 2020: the overall assessment of the MFA instrument over the meta-evaluation period by external evaluators is very positive. MFA was overall effective in stabilising the beneficiary's (external) macroeconomic environment, especially in the short and medium-term. Notably, hard data in the individual ex-post evaluations show that:
 - o Despite a challenging external environment at the inception of the respective MFA operations, market access could be maintained or regained in all cases⁷.
 - o Reserve adequacy and current accounts mostly improved during MFA operations, while inflation subsided.

Larger support and the complementarity of expertise and policy conditions between the Commission and the IMF in synchronised operations made the overall assistance more impactful. Also, the cooperation increased the Union's leverage to push for reforms.

In April 2021, the European Commission published the Staff Working Document on the ex post evaluation of MFA-III to Ukraine⁸.

The evaluation found that MFA-III was highly relevant in terms of its objectives, financial envelope and policy conditions. MFA conditionality addressed the main reform challenges in Ukraine, namely: public-finance management; energy sector; business environment; governance and transparency; social-safety net; and financial sector. Although the number of conditions in MFA-III reflects the exceptional size of the assistance (more money for more reforms), a smaller number may have helped the authorities focus on key priorities and keep ownership high. In line with this insight, the Commission chose a more focused approach to the conditionality in the subsequent MFA-IV operation.

Nonetheless, MFA-III proved to be effective in supporting fiscal consolidation and helping Ukraine to improve its balance-of-payments position. The magnitude and favourable terms of the intervention allowed for fiscal savings, necessary for the implementation of structural reforms, and increased confidence in the Ukrainian economy. The MFA intervention had both direct and indirect positive social impacts on Ukrainian population, strengthening the social safety net and protecting low-income households against higher prices resulting from energy reforms, through compensation schemes. Overall, the majority of social indicators has improved in the concerned period. Finally, MFA-III had a crucial role in the sustainability of Ukraine's public debt through a variety of channels, including a signalling effect that acted as a catalyst for additional financial support and investor confidence. The programme allowed for fiscal savings, stemming from the highly favourable loan terms, helping Ukraine to smooth its adjustment path and create fiscal space for reforms and sustained social spending.

All final reports of completed ex-post evaluations of MFA operations are published on https://ec.europa.eu/info/evaluation-reports-economic-and-financial-affairs-policies-and-spending-activities_en

General note: Given the specificities of MFA, a precise assessment of its impact is difficult to make, as effects on macroeconomic variables over time cannot be uniquely attributed to MFA operations. In addition, as MFA is by nature a short-term crisis related instrument spanning over 2 to 3 years maximum, it is not possible to quantify its objectives in terms of indicators/milestones beyond the horizon of the MFA operations themselves or, at most, of the beneficiary countries' programmes agreed (or to be agreed) with the IMF.

4. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

4.1. Contribution to gender equality

⁷ The meta-evaluation covered fifteen macro-financial assistance operations, implemented and evaluated between 20120 and 2020.

⁸ [Staff Working Document \(SWD\(2021\) 74 final\)](#)

4.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 0.2							

(*Consolidated and updated comparable information for the annual expenditures adopted, estimated or programmed for the 2021-2027 programming period (totals by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significantly impacted**, score 0*: **impact on gender equality to be determined ex post**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

MFA is exceptional in nature and is mobilised on a case-by-case basis to help countries dealing with serious balance-of-payments difficulties. Its objective is to restore a sustainable external financial situation, while encouraging economic adjustments and structural reforms. There is a wide range of areas that the 2020 structural reforms in different countries targeted, including business environment, labour market, energy and transport. The pre-conditions for a country to benefit from MFA include, inter alia, the requirement to respect human rights and effective democratic mechanisms, and the rule of law.

While gender equality was not directly targeted in the context of macro- financial assistance provided in 2021, given the structural and far-reaching character of the reforms supported it is likely that the programme has an impact on gender equality. For the remainder of the MFF 2021-2027, the programme will explore to which extent the gender dimension can be strengthened

4.2. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

MFA related activities pertain to:

- (a) Supporting macro-financial stability and promoting growth-enhancing reforms outside the EU, including through regular economic dialogues with key partners and by providing macro-financial assistance; and
- (b) Supporting the enlargement process and the implementation of the EU enlargement and neighbourhood policies and other EU priorities in partners by conducting economic analysis and providing policy assessments and advice.

In 2021, a total of EUR 1 665 billion in loans was disbursed to support the financial stability of EU partner countries and help them limit the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HEADING 6: Neighbourhood and the World**Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)****Lead DG: NEAR**

Associated DGs: AGRI, EAC, ECFIN, EMPL, REGIO

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1. Overview

1.1. Challenges

For candidate countries and potential candidates, the path towards accession to the EU is a process of gradual and steady convergence with membership criteria and the values and principles of the European Union. This process has been enhanced by the revised methodology adopted in 2020, which strengthens the role of the fundamentals (rule of law, fundamental rights, the functioning democratic institutions and a market economy) and puts them even more at the centre of the progress to be achieved to move forward on the EU path. Ensuring progress on the fundamentals remains a key challenge that the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) will continue to pursue. The climate of disillusionment over the pace of enlargement is visible in the region and risks to hamper the political will for reforms. The overall worsened political context and the lack of progress on the political dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade represent a challenge for enhanced regional cooperation.

On the same line, it will be of utmost importance to address the socio-economic divide between the IPA beneficiaries and the EU. The Western Balkans economies, in particular, face structural problems linked to weak competitiveness, high unemployment and significant brain drain, all challenges that have been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative long-lasting effects on the social and economic tissue of the countries. These challenges will have to be addressed in a wider context where transition to a sustainable, socially just, resilient and climate neutral economy needs to be achieved as a global imperative and where digital transformation will continue to shape economies and societies, including those of the IPA beneficiaries.

Given the backsliding by Turkey in reforms linked to the fundamental pillars of the enlargement strategy, IPA support has been significantly reduced in recent years. Within the framework of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, the European Union has delivered on its pledge to support Turkey in its refugee hosting efforts. During 2016-2019, the EU mobilised a total of EUR 6 billion in EU budget and Member State contributions for this particular purpose and implemented via existing financing instruments, including IPA II. Following the European Council conclusions of June 2021, the Commission put forward a proposal for additional EUR 3 billion funded exclusively from the EU budget to continue support to refugees and host communities, and with EUR 1 billion commitment per year as of 2021. Funding from IPA III will be made available in this framework. Due to the protracted nature of the refugee crisis, the assistance will continue the shift from humanitarian to development aid, already started in the framework of the second tranche of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, with the double objective of ensuring continuity of support while transitioning to the national structures. In light of the evolution of bilateral relations, IPA III assistance will further strengthen the links between the political framework of our relations with Turkey. Hence, EU financial support will prioritise key areas, notably civil society, people to people contact, climate change and proper functioning of the Customs Union. Overall, strong political steer and well-defined conditionality will be crucial elements of programming IPA III assistance.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The general objective of IPA III is to support the beneficiaries in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to future Union membership, thereby contributing to mutual stability, security, peace and prosperity.

Current beneficiaries, listed in Annex I to the Regulation (EU) No 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) III, are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo¹, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.

In line with the Commission's objectives, IPA III aims to support beneficiaries in spurring the long-term recovery underpinned by the twin green and digital transitions.

Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IPA III contributes to mainstreaming climate action in the Union's policies and to the achievement of an overall target of 30 % of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and the ambition of 7,5 % of the budget reflecting biodiversity expenditures in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and 2027, while taking into account the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals. Actions under IPA III are expected to contribute 18 % of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives, with the objective of increasing this percentage to 20% by 2027.

The implementation of the IPA III Regulation should be guided by the principles of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and should seek to protect and promote women and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions, including the Council conclusions on women, peace and security of 10

¹ This designation here and throughout the Programme Statements is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

December 2018. Strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Union external action and increasing efforts to reach the minimum standards of performance indicated by the EU Gender Action Plans should lead to a gender-sensitive and transformative approach in the cooperation between the Union and the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Gender equality should be reflected and mainstreamed throughout the implementation of this Regulation.

1.3. Specific objectives

The specific objectives of IPA III are:

1. To strengthen the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security and the fight against corruption and organised crime, compliance with international law, freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society, to promote non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities and the promotion of gender equality and to improve migration management, including border management and tackling irregular migration, as well as addressing forced displacement;
2. To reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and to support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public procurement and State aid;
3. To shape the rules, standards, policies and practices of the IPA III beneficiaries in alignment with those of the Union and to reinforce regional cooperation, reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, as well as people-to-people contacts and communication;
4. To strengthen economic and social development and cohesion, with particular attention to youth, including through quality education and employment policies, through supporting investment and private sector development, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as on agriculture and rural development;
5. To reinforce environmental protection, to increase resilience to climate change, to accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy, to develop the digital economy and society and to strengthen sustainable connectivity in all its dimensions;
6. To support territorial cohesion and cross-border cooperation across land and maritime borders, including transnational and interregional cooperation.

1.4. Public intervention context

The IPA III supports implementation of the Enlargement policy based on the Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, which provides that any European state which respects the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and that commits to promoting these values, may apply to become a member of the Union. A European state which has applied to join the Union can become a member only when it has been confirmed that it meets the membership criteria established at the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993 (the ‘Copenhagen criteria’), and provided that the Union has the capacity to integrate the new member. The accession process is based on the principle of unanimity amongst the member states. The role of DG NEAR, on behalf of the Commission, is to support the preparation of the enlargement countries for accession to the European Union. As recalled in the Communication from the Commission ‘Enhancing the accession process – A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans’ COM(2020) 57 final, the core objective of the European Union’s engagement with the Western Balkans is to prepare them to meet all the requirements of membership. The revised enlargement methodology, endorsed by the Council in March 2020, builds on the four key principles of making the enlargement process more credible, subject to stronger political steer, more dynamic and predictable. The changes introduced in the programming process for IPA III are part and parcel of this revised enlargement methodology, which aim to increase the performance-based approach of the instrument and increase its efficiency in terms of delivery.

Turkey is a candidate country and a key partner for the EU in essential areas of joint interest, such as migration, counter-terrorism, economy, trade, energy and transport. In 2018 the Council stated that Turkey had been moving away from the European Union and therefore accession negotiations are at a standstill. This position was reiterated in 2019 and 2021.

The specific instruments of the enlargement process form the basis for identifying and guiding the fundamental reforms. These include the negotiating frameworks, the recommendations of the Enlargement Package, and the subsequent Council Conclusions, the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans, the IPA III Programming Framework, the Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs) and the policy guidance agreed annually in the joint conclusions, the conclusions of the meetings organised in the context of the (Stabilisation and) Association Agreements, and the national plan for the adoption of the *acquis*.

The IPA III is also implemented based on the Article 212 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which stipulates that ‘the Union shall carry out economic, financial and technical cooperation measures, including assistance, in particular financial assistance, with third countries other than developing countries’.

1.5. Actions

Assistance under IPA III is based on the IPA III Programming Framework² (Article 7 of the Regulation (EU) No 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) III; C(2021) 8914 final). It

² C(2021) 8914 final

is an overarching European Commission strategic document for the use of IPA III funds for the duration of the 2021-2027 MFF. The IPA III Programming Framework reflects the specific objectives of the IPA III Regulation and is focused on the priorities of the enlargement process, articulated in five thematic windows which broadly correspond to the specific objectives of the Regulation and are all facets of the EU policy for enlargement and are linked with one another in a complementary manner:

- Window 1: Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy;
- Window 2: Good governance, EU acquis alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication;
- Window 3: Green agenda and sustainable connectivity;
- Window 4: Competitiveness and inclusive growth;
- Window 5: Territorial and cross border cooperation.

Actions are deployed, to the benefit of the IPA III beneficiaries, through annual or multi-annual action plans at national or regional level or through horizontal initiatives targeting specific types of partners (e.g. civil society) or cross-cutting issues. In addition, a number of cross cutting themes, such as climate change, environmental protection, civil society, gender equality, rights based approach, is mainstreamed and therefore can be implemented under the five windows.

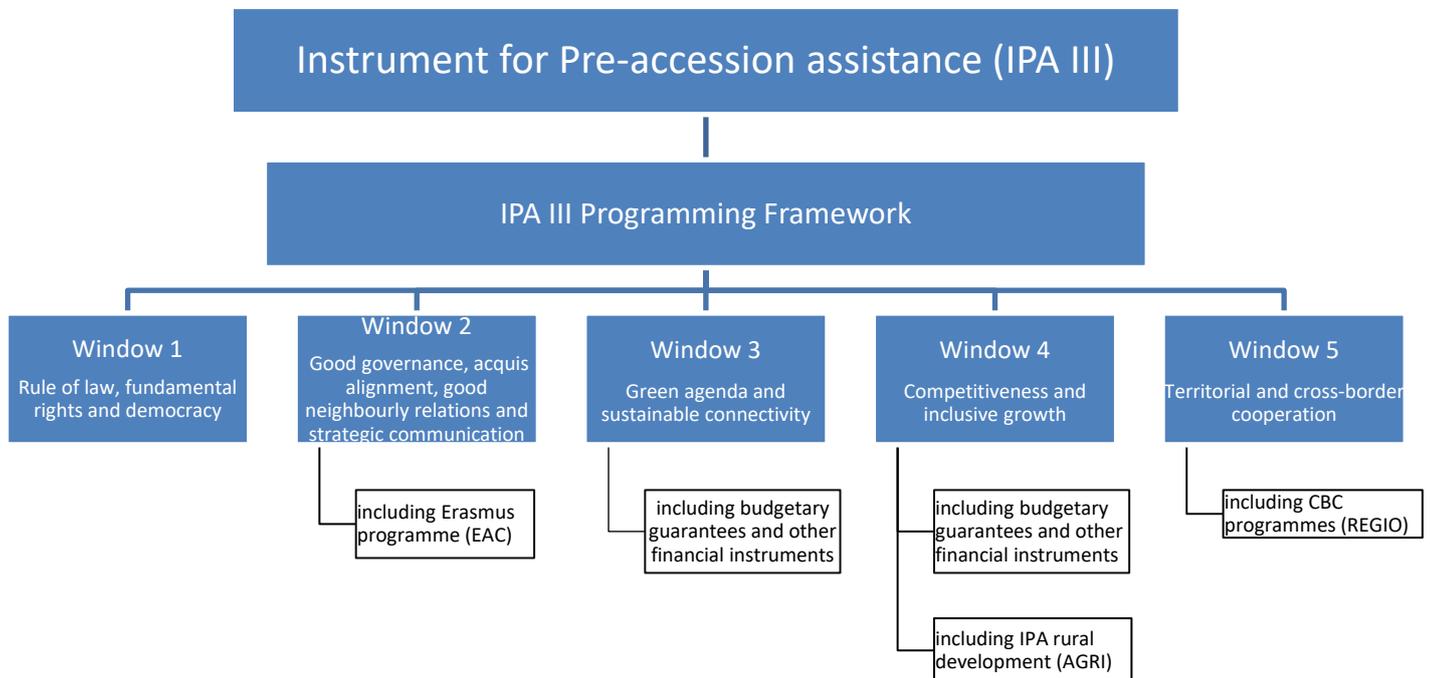
1.6. Delivery mode

In terms of instruments and Delivery modes, all types of financing foreseen in the Regulation are possible: from grants, procurement, budget support, contributions to EU Trust funds if relevant, to financial instruments and budgetary guarantees, as well as Team Europe Initiatives.

Assistance under IPA III is implemented mainly by DG NEAR with the full range of management modes in accordance with the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union. The management mode is defined during the formulation of the action. Cross-Border Cooperation programmes between IPA III beneficiaries and the Member States as well as other Interreg-IPA cooperation are implemented with shared management with DG REGIO lead, while IPA Rural Development programmes are implemented under indirect management by DG AGRI.

The selection of the management modes and of instruments and Delivery modes is not linked to the content of a window and will be decided on a case by case basis.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	14 161.54

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument

Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing 'Erasmus+'

Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund

Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on support for strategic plans to be drawn up by Member States under the Common agricultural policy (CAP Strategic Plans) and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments

In implementing the IPA III Regulation, consistency, synergies and complementarities with other areas of Union external action, with other relevant Union policies and programmes, as well as policy coherence for development will be ensured. In particular, IPA III will support the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal. The new Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025) will guide our external action to pursue the EU's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in all EU external relations. IPA III will also promote, when relevant, beneficiaries' participation in the areas of relevance in appropriate Agencies, Facilities and Union Programmes. Assistance under IPA III will contribute to actions established under the Erasmus Regulation. It may be provided to the type of actions provided for under the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund Plus and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. IPA III may also contribute to transnational and interregional cooperation programmes or measures that are established and implemented under the ETC Regulation and in which the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to this Regulation participate.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 883.8	2 011.5	2 531.1	2 016.4	2 059.7	2 101.7	2 144.6	14 748.7
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities	31.3	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	31.3
Total	1 915.1	2 011.5	2 531.1	2 016.4	2 059.7	2 101.7	2 144.6	14 780.0

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

IPA II has been the catalyst for important reforms. IPA III builds on these achievements and ensures continuation in terms of objectives and priorities. It further improves alignment of assistance with the enlargement strategy.

Programming of IPA III will ensure a stronger performance-based approach while at the same time guaranteeing the principle of fair share. There will also be more focus on relevance and maturity at the Commission selection stage, with the aim of ensuring stronger linkages with the reform agenda as well as accelerating implementation and reducing backlog.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

EU Enlargement policy: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/eu-enlargement_en

Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/instruments/overview_en

EU Aid Explorer: <https://euaidexplorer.ec.europa.eu/> - allows you to find comprehensive aggregate data as well as detailed information on international development projects funded by the EU and its Member States.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	1 571.5	14 780.0	11%
Payments	40.1		0%

2021 was the first year of the IPA III implementation under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. Despite the late adoption of the legal basis³, the Commission implemented 84% of the available 2021 IPA III commitment appropriations by 31 December.

In 2021, the programming of IPA III assistance followed the key criteria of the IPA III programming framework: the policy driven approach, the relevance of proposed IPA interventions, the maturity of the proposals, and the progress of the beneficiaries on their enlargement agenda. The programming took into account the performance of each beneficiary and the fair share principle, by targeting and adjusting assistance to the specific situation of each beneficiary.

For the Western Balkans, the assistance reflects the priorities of the Economic and Investment Plan and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.

For Turkey, the assistance reflects developments in EU's relations with the country and the European Council's offer of a possible positive agenda and Turkey's desire to adopt to the European Green Deal.

However, programming of financial assistance has been a challenging task for a variety of reasons, including the pervasiveness of a volatile political context, the relatively low absorption capacity of the national administrations and the uneven pace of reforms especially in the key fundamental sectors. The COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact as explained later under the section 2.2.

How the 2021 commitment appropriations have been used?

In 2021, EUR 1.5 billion was committed, including EUR 446.9 million through bilateral actions for Western Balkans, EUR 165.3 million for Turkey and EUR 919 million through multi-country actions and other measures:

- annual action plan in favour of Albania;
- annual action plan in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- annual action plan in favour of Kosovo*;
- annual action plan in favour of Montenegro;
- annual action plan in favour of North Macedonia;
- annual action plan in favour of Serbia;
- annual action plan in favour of Turkey;
- individual measure to support migration and border management in Turkey;
- multi-country multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022;
- multi-country multiannual action plan in support of the Western Balkans Investment Framework 2021-2027 and the provisioning of the ELM legacy portfolio for past EIB operations for IPA beneficiaries;
- multi-country multiannual action plan on an EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2023;
- multiannual support measure for audit⁴ in favour of the IPA region for years 2021, 2022 and 2023;

³ IPA III Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 was adopted on 15 September 2021, the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2128 setting out certain specific objectives and thematic priorities for assistance under the IPA III was adopted on 1 October 2021, the Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8914 final adopting the IPA III Programming Framework 2021-2027 was adopted on 10 December 2021, the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2236 on the specific rules for implementing the IPA III was adopted on 15 December 2021.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

- multiannual support measure for communication in favour of the IPA III beneficiaries for 2021-2023.

EUR 315.7 million have been carried-over to 2022 based on the Article 9 (1) of the IPA III Regulation and the Article 30 of the NDICI Regulation, namely:

- the individual measure to strengthen the response capacity to manage migration flows in the Western Balkans for 2021;
- individual measure on annual contribution in favour of the Office of The High Representative (OHR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- individual/special measures dedicated to additional support to refugees and host communities in Turkey;
- IPA rural development III programmes in favour of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey;
- Interreg IPA III Cross-Border Cooperation programmes.

How the 2022 commitment appropriations will be used?

It is estimated that EUR 2 billion would be committed under the 2022 budget, including:

- EUR 1,346.7 million for Western Balkans, including EUR 25 million financed with appropriations made available after recoveries from the beneficiaries ;
- EUR 168.8 million through annual action plan in favour of Turkey, including EUR 18 million financed with appropriations made available after recoveries from the beneficiaries;
- EUR 191 million for the support to refugees and host communities in Turkey;
- EUR 120.7 million for the provisioning of the External Action Guarantee;
- EUR 60.2 million for the Erasmus+ programme;
- EUR 99 million for the IPA rural development III programmes;
- EUR 20.6 million for the Interreg IPA III Cross-Border Cooperation programmes.

Out of the available 2022 budget, EUR 846 million has been programmed through multi-country multiannual action plans and support measures taken in 2021, including:

- in support of the Western Balkans Investment Framework 2021-2027 and the provisioning of the ELM legacy portfolio for past EIB operations for IPA beneficiaries;
- on an EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2023;
- in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022;
- for communication in favour of the IPA III beneficiaries for 2021-2023;
- for audit in favour of the IPA region for years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

For the **Western Balkans** most of commitment appropriations will be allocated to the country annual action plans and will address all thematic Windows of the IPA III Programming Framework, with emphasis on justice and border management (Window 1), public administration reform and public finance management (Window 2) and environment (Window 3).

The annual action plan in favour of **Turkey** is expected to include support to cover the entry tickets to the Union's internal programmes, the Jean Monnet scholarships and actions in line with the European Commission priorities for the Green Deal, connectivity and human resources development. IPA III will contribute to the **Union's support package to refugees and host communities in Turkey** of EUR 3 billion in line with the European Council conclusions of June 2021. It will focus on migration and border management operations, and on support to the most vulnerable refugees in meeting their basic needs.

Due to the late adoption of the IPA III Regulation and delayed adoption of other sectoral legal basis, the Commission has carried over EUR 47 million of 2021 appropriations and reprogrammed the IPA III contribution to the **Cross-Border Cooperation programmes**⁵, which are expected to be adopted in 2022. In order to cover the expected pre-financing needs of these programmes, the IPA III contribution under the 2022 budget has been set at EUR 20.6 million.

The **IPARD III programmes** in favour of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey are expected to focus in 2022 in particular on investments in physical assets of agriculture holdings, investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products and farm diversification and business development. Technical assistance would also be envisaged.

Justification of the level of commitment appropriation requested for 2023.

⁴ For details please see C(2021)9655. The overall objective of the support measure for Audit Programme is to provide reasonable assurance on the correct implementation of EU funds in the beneficiary countries as to the regularity and legality of the underlying transactions and the effectiveness of the control systems. Assurance also relates to sound financial management comprising the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

⁵ Bulgaria-North Macedonia, Bulgaria-Serbia, Bulgaria-Turkey, Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece-Albania, Greece-North Macedonia, Hungary-Serbia, Italy-Albania-Montenegro, Romania-Serbia, Adriatic-Ionian, Danube, Euro Mediterranean, Next Mediterranean Sea Basin, Next Black Sea Basin, Urbact IV

EUR 1.9 billion in commitment appropriations is requested for 2023:

- EUR 1,228.9 million for Western Balkans;
- EUR 116.9 million through annual action plan in favour of Turkey;
- EUR 100 million for the support to refugees and host communities in Turkey;
- EUR 241.1 million for the provisioning of the External Action Guarantee;
- EUR 62.4 million for the Erasmus+ programme;
- EUR 113 million for the IPARD III programmes;
- EUR 69 million for the Interreg IPA III Cross-Border Cooperation programmes.

Out of the available 2023 budget, EUR 880 million has been programmed through multi-country multiannual action plans and support measures taken in 2021, including:

- in support of the Western Balkans Investment Framework 2021-2027 and the provisioning of the ELM legacy portfolio for past EIB operations for IPA beneficiaries;
- on an EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2023;
- for communication in favour of the IPA III beneficiaries for 2021-2023;
- for audit in favour of the IPA region for years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

For **Western Balkans**, the Commission would develop multiannual plans for several countries, which are expected to address the implementation of the Green Agenda (Window 3) and the social sectors, including the Youth Guarantee (Window 4).

For **Turkey**, the Commission intends to maintain the same level of EU support as in 2022, in line with the Council's approach of a phased, proportionate and reversible approach and given continued tensions with some Member States. The IPA III resources with reinforcements from the Heading 6 and the special instrument should be made available to **continue EU support to refugees and host communities in Turkey**, in line with the request of the European Council to mobilise substantial resources from the EU budget to continue EU support. The Commission intends to focus on health care and basic needs, as well as migration and socio-economic support.

In 2023, the Commission expects a steep increase of commitment execution for the **Interreg IPA III Cross-Border Cooperation programmes** than in the period 2014-2020, because of:

- the Interreg IPA technical assistance is paid on a flat rate basis under the 2021-2027 MFF, in a proportion of expenses declared to the Commission. This will be a strong incentive for programmes to frontload their expenses; the programmes have been designed accordingly (e.g. operations of strategic importance, capitalisation, massive use of Simplified Cost Options, etc).
- under the 2014-2020 MFF, the launch of the programmes and their first phases of implementation were long due to a lengthy designation processes. This has been abolished in the new period; the management and control systems are in place and ready to implement.

The **IPARD III programmes** in favour of Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey are expected to focus in 2023 in particular on investments in physical assets of agriculture holdings, investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agriculture and fishery products and farm diversification and business development. Technical assistance would also be envisaged.

2.2. Programme(s) 2014-2020 : Cumulative implementation rate and explanations

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2014-2020 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	12 813.1	12 893.6	99%
Payments	7 527.6		58%

As of 31 December 2021, the Commission implemented 99% of the IPA II commitment appropriations and 59% of the payment appropriations. The payment rate is the result of pre-accession assistance being first and foremost an investment programme budget that finances projects that run over a long period of time. The financing agreements with the beneficiary countries must be signed by the end of the year following the year in which the budgetary commitment was made, while contracts implementing these agreements must be signed within the following three years with varying implementation periods. Also, under IPA II, part of the funds are implemented through multi-annual programmes with split commitments, meaning that a decision taken a given year

includes also commitments in the years following that decision. Moreover, there are actions implemented with International Financial Institutions such as blending and guarantees, which have long implementation period (in average 7-8 and 10 years). Furthermore, the Commission entrusts the management of certain actions to the IPA II beneficiaries or other development partners (indirect management), while still retaining overall final responsibility for the budget execution. Therefore, while the EU provides the funding for a specific programme or project, it is not always directly involved in the day-to-day management. In average 3.6 years⁶ were needed to pay the total costs of legal commitments, less than the internal Commission target of 4 years.

In recent years, the Commission accelerated the implementation of the pre-accession assistance in line with the programmes lifecycle under the MFF 2014-2020. The payment implementation increased from EUR 1.6 billion in 2019 to EUR 1.7 billion in 2021. In 2021 payments related to the legal commitments taken under the MFF 2014-2020 represented all executed payments, as the IPA III Regulation was adopted only on 15 September 2021.

47% of IPA II payments were dedicated in 2021 to actions in social infrastructure and services, 24% in multisector actions, 17% in economic infrastructure and services and 12% in production sectors. 63.7% were implemented through indirect management, while 33.2% through direct management and 3% through shared management.

While the implementation of IPA II payment appropriations will decrease to EUR 1.4 billion in 2022 and slightly increase to EUR 1.5 billion in 2023, the implementation of IPA III payments is expected to accelerate as of 2022 (EUR 268 million) and continue to do so in 2023 (EUR 837 million) in line with the progress in implementation of newly taken commitments. This should bring the implementation of IPA payment appropriations up to 72% at the end of 2022 and 84% at the end of 2023.

Moreover, the implementation of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, a coordination mechanism covering several financing instruments, including IPA II, continued, with more than EUR 275 million disbursed within the year, out of NEAR-managed funds. Specifically, in 2021 a direct grant to the Turkish authorities of EUR 245 million started its full implementation providing cash support to the most vulnerable refugees, including families with disabled persons, single parents and elderly-led households. Activities to support the integration of children in the education system, access to health services and projects to create jobs and support livelihoods opportunities continued.

Concerning the IPA Interreg Cross-Border Cooperation programmes, the budgetary execution at the end of 2021 showed 100% consumption of 2021 voted budget. Furthermore, none of them faced decommitment for not having reached their payments target at end 2021.

How external factors (e.g. COVID crisis) impacted the IPA II implementation in 2021?

With the COVID-19 pandemic entering into its second year in 2021 it has continued to have some impact on implementation. However, the limitations to mobilisation of experts and resources, and the capacities to fully monitor activities on the ground, were still very much felt during the implementation of programmes. Due to this, forecasting and procurement continued to be made in a rather prudent and conservative way. The late adoption of the IPA III Regulation was not too conducive in allowing adoption of related commitments.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The main principles from Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) will not change under IPA III. However, IPA III programming will be also built on a stronger performance-based approach, to be assessed on a yearly basis and closely linked to the revised enlargement methodology.

IPA III programming will also accelerate the projects' implementation by reducing the time gap between their selection and effective contracting. The actions will be selected based on their policy relevance, namely on their alignment with the Programming Framework and with the specific recommendations of the enlargement package for the countries. The second selection will then focus on technical maturity assessed against the actions documents and supporting documents. Only actions that are sufficiently technically mature (meaning, when most preparatory activities have been finalised) will be considered ready for adoption.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

Performance assessment will be provided once the implementation of the programme 2021-2027 will have started

3.1.3. Previous Programme Performance

Candidate countries and potential candidates need to implement difficult and time-intensive structural reforms to make progress in the fundamental areas of the political accession criteria, including sustainable and far-reaching political and societal transformation. Advancing in the fundamental area of the economic criteria, which are interlinked with the political criteria, is also challenging.

⁶ The RAL absorption period is estimated by the key performance indicator K04 as the number of years needed to pay the total costs of legal commitments.

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance is a unique programme that supports IPA beneficiaries to advance with ambitious political and economic reforms and to progressively align to the European Union's rules, standards, policies and practices on their path towards EU membership. It fosters reforms in candidate countries and potential candidates through a combination of financial assistance and policy dialogue, preparing them for the rights and obligations that come with EU membership.

The programme is making progress towards achieving its overall objectives and some IPA indicators included below are on track to be achieved. For other indicators more work is needed. For instance, while there have been some improvements in the fulfilment of fundamental areas of the political criteria in the Western Balkans, these good results are counterbalanced by the backsliding in Turkey (see below).

However, it should be underlined that the implementation of IPA II is reaching its peak (as explained in more detail section 2.2) and more results will be achieved in the coming years.

At the same time, there is a large influence of external factors when it comes to the achievement of the IPA II overall objectives. For enlargement to become a reality, a firm commitment, including political will, to the principle of 'fundamentals first' remains essential.

The main principles of IPA II will not change under IPA III. However, IPA III programming will be also built on a stronger performance-based approach, to be assessed on a yearly basis and closely linked to the revised enlargement methodology.

In line with the commitment to a merit-based enlargement process outlined in the revised enlargement methodology, the final selection of actions will also take into account the assessment of the performance of the IPA III beneficiaries in the enlargement agenda, their commitment to and progress in implementing reforms, with particular attention to key areas of the political accession criteria.

Specific Objective 1: Support for political reforms.

Indicator 1 is particularly relevant since it shows the results of the enlargement policy, including financial assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, as regards two main fundamentals of the enlargement policy (i.e. the rule of law and fundamental rights and public administration reform). The fund supports the candidate countries and potential candidates to address the core issues measured by these indicators. These indicators provide also greater transparency in the enlargement process and should facilitate greater scrutiny of reforms by all stakeholders.

There are some example of good progress. For instance, in Albania, good progress has been made in justice reform with help of the EU assistance. Support to the 'vetting' of judges and prosecutors continued to be conducted under the thorough supervision of the EU-funded International Monitoring Operation (IMO), and support to the specialised structures against corruption and organised crime (SPAK and SPAK courts). Thanks to the additional human resources/legal officers provided for in the 2021 state budget to the Albanian vetting bodies, vetting has picked up pace and to date the Independent Qualification Commission (IQC) has issued more than 490 decisions out of 805. Overall, the EU trained over 4000 judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the enlargement region on European standards and EU *acquis*.⁷ Furthermore, to reinforce the effectiveness of public administration, structural reforms and good governance at all levels almost 100 public policies were developed and or revised with EU support⁸.

In terms of progress recorded in the 2021 enlargement reports, candidate countries and potential candidates made 'some progress' (9 cases) and 'good progress' (2 cases) in areas linked to the political criteria. In Turkey there was backsliding in functioning of the judiciary and freedom of expression, and no progress in public administration reform and the fight against corruption. In terms of readiness, there were five cases of 'early stage of preparation' in these areas of functioning of judiciary (Kosovo*, Turkey), fight against organised crime (Kosovo), fight against corruption (Turkey) and freedom of expression (Turkey), and three cases of 'early stage/some level of preparation'. Turkey's continued backsliding in areas linked to political criteria, combined with low absorption capacity, led to a significant cut in pre-accession support following Council Decision in 2017. The 2021 reports noted improvements in the functioning of the judiciary in Albania, reaching the level 'moderately prepared'.

Specific Objective 2: Support for economic, social and territorial development, with a view to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Candidate countries and potential candidates made limited progress on meeting the economic criteria, according to the 2021 enlargement reports.

Serbia remained at the level of moderately prepared/good level of preparation, Albania and Montenegro remained at a moderately prepared level, and North Macedonia at a good level of preparation. Turkey is considered to be well advanced and the cut of pre-accession support did not have a negative impact.

We can therefore conclude that the role of IPA support for this objective has been limited during the period 2014-2020..

⁷ See EU Results Framework indicators in the 2020 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2019.

⁸ See EU Results Framework indicators in the 2020 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2019.

* This designation here and throughout the Programme Statements is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

On competitiveness, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia remained moderately prepared, while Albania remained at some level of preparation. In terms of cases of early stages of preparation, this indicator remained stable in 2021 compared to the baseline, with four cases, on functioning market economy and competitiveness in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo.

The EU directly supported or sustained over 7 500 jobs across the enlargement region, providing support for economic development. Furthermore there were 27 public policies developed or under implementation with EU support strengthening investment climate, revenue mobilisation, public financial management and/or budget transparency.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthening of the ability of the beneficiary countries at all levels to fulfil the obligations stemming from Union membership by supporting progressive alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union *acquis*.

The Commission assesses in the annual enlargement reports how well the countries are prepared to align to the EU *acquis* in each of its 33 chapters. The lowest assessment level is “early stage of preparation”. The indicator shows in how many chapters the 7 candidate countries and potential candidates were considered to be at this lowest level. The decreasing trend means that the countries have overall progressed to a higher level of preparation.

There have been differences between the countries. While the Western Balkans partners have generally improved their preparation since 2015 (the first year the assessment scale was introduced), Turkey has been backsliding. The number of cases of early preparedness decreased from 32 cases in 2020 to 27 in 2021 and include the following: 14 cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7 cases in Kosovo, 3 cases in Turkey, 2 in North Macedonia, 1 in Albania, and none in Montenegro and Serbia. For a more detailed analysis and the summaries of the findings on readiness and progress of enlargement countries towards the alignment to the 33 *acquis* chapters, please refer to the 2021 country reports.

In Montenegro EU assistance continued to help the country address a range of reforms required in the efforts focused on EU accession. This includes significant on-going projects and programmes in the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, Competiveness, Transport, as well as in Education, Employment and the Social sector – and health. Montenegro also made considerable use of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX) in order to share EU best practice and support alignment of legislation, for instance in the agriculture/food, veterinary/fisheries sectors (chapters 11-13), providing assistance in a range of topics focused on justice and home affairs (chapters 23 and 24), transport (chapter 20), and not least in the sector of environment (chapter 27). Around EUR 63.2 million were committed in the period 2014-2020 for TAIEX in the whole IPA region, of which from 2016 until today, at least, EUR 4.1 million have been devoted to TAIEX activities in Montenegro.

In North Macedonia, in the veterinary and food safety areas, EU funds supported the alignment of the national legislation with the newly adopted EU legal acts in Animal Health and Official Control as well as the development of a new Animal Health Strategy. The staff of the Food and Veterinary Agency benefited from numerous EU-funded capacity-building measures. In the phytosanitary sector, the EU aid supported the update of the plant health status, the analysis of the risks and the development of preventive measures for priority pests. A new Phyto-sanitary Information System was completed in 2021 along with a new Law on Phyto-pharmacy that was adopted in December 2020.

IPA II rural development programmes (IPARD) have exceeded the target for Turkey already last year (2020) and now also for the Western Balkans in relation to ‘Number of economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards in agri-food sector’ (second indicator under this objective). Progressively upgrading economic entities towards EU standards is both a political and an economic priority in the agri-food sector. For example, more modern milk cooling tanks, newer machinery in farming, more environmentally friendly manure storage and handling facilities, new (or newer) primary food processing lines. This results in mobilisation of efforts both in public and in private sectors. Intensive publicity campaigns follow each call for applications. Furthermore, the implementation of the programmes is in some countries accompanied with technical assistance measures. Finally, the demand for investment support to upgrade towards EU standards in the agri-food sector is high. All five countries will also continue implementation of IPARD III programme. The rural development programme is working well mostly because projects are many and relatively small, hence – attractive to rural inhabitants and entrepreneurs. IPARD is implemented under indirect management modality. There is a relatively large investment on the side of beneficiary countries in setting up and maintaining administrations for IPARD implementation. Building up this capacity is time consuming and requires our continuous guidance. However, this is part of the learning exercise to manage EU funds in the future, or at least, to manage now in line with EU public administration principles. Once in place, these structures are quite effective and very helpful in implementing EU funds. It would not be possible to finance so many small projects through direct management modality.

Specific Objective 4: Strengthening regional integration and territorial cooperation involving the beneficiary countries, Member States and, where appropriate, non-EU countries.

Regional cooperation continues to grow in prominence, as evidenced by 52% of the respondents in the Western Balkans ‘tend to agree’ that regional cooperation can contribute to the political, economic or security situation of their society. When coupled with those who ‘totally agree’, there is an overwhelming majority of respondents supportive of the role of regional cooperation. (77% in 2020, up from 74% in 2018)⁹.

⁹ Regional Cooperation Council, Balkan Barometer, Attitudes on Regional Cooperation and EU Integration, Regional Cooperation indicator: <https://www.rcc.int/balkanbarometer/results/2/public>

Following the Team Europe approach, IPA support the cooperation between the EU and its member states and our IPA partners. In particular recently, IPA supported several packages to tackle the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis in the Western Balkans. In 2021, both the Economic Reactivation Package, and the package of support to vulnerable groups and to the health sector, including access to vaccines, which were reoriented and reprogrammed from IPA 2019 and 2020 as the regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic for an amount of EUR 478.5 million, have smoothly started implementation. A new project was signed with the World Health Organisation, focussing on promoting COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, building health hazard preparedness and taking steps towards ensuring financing for universal health care, which enabled WHO to help each of the partners to draft their vaccine plan and to monitor its implementation. By the end of 2021 respectively 89% and 61% of the IPA-related COVID-19 financial assistance package had been achieved. In particular, EUR 70 million in grants for COVID-19 vaccines, paid for almost a million doses for the region, as well as covered delivery costs of other vaccine deliveries, and of vaccine-related equipment and supplies. Additionally, the funding provided access to huge quantities of COVID-19-related medical equipment, which included 13 million PPE items, 560,000 COVID test calibration tests, 10,000 bedsheets and almost 300 beds, almost 350 ventilators, 250 ICU monitors, 160 triage containers, 81 ambulances, 30 echographs, 25 X-ray machines, 70 ultrasounds, 70 ECGs, 80 defibrillators, and almost 230,000 other items.

During 2014-2020, regional cooperation continued to be a cornerstone of our approach to the region and an essential element of the European perspective of the Western Balkans, with substantial support dedicated for connecting infrastructure, economies and people. While implementation was affected by the pandemic in most of the interventions and required actions to be adapted, some progress could be reported.

In the area of rule of law, the regional cooperation element was present particularly in the area of the fight against organised crime, where cross-border cooperation including with the EU is key. At the end of 2021, significant progress was achieved in setting the groundwork for increased regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies. The inter-operability of law enforcement systems was assessed and progress achieved in identifying the operational training needs of law enforcement in line with EU practice. 86 complex cross-border investigations were supported with IPA II funding. The monitoring of organised crime and corruption trials started which will support in the medium-term a stronger judicial response to these crimes.

In the area of reconciliation, IPA assistance supported the domestic prosecution of war crimes and progress in the identification of remaining 10,000 cases of missing persons. With EU funding, the International Residual Mechanism of Criminal Tribunals provided direct case assistance in 12 instances linked to domestic prosecutions. Outreach activities through social media reached over 1.5 million people, raising awareness of past crimes committed during the conflicts in the 1990s on the territory of ex-Yugoslavia. In terms of the cooperation on missing persons, support and facilitation for the reconnaissance of possible clandestine graves in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia and observational and “hands-on” training to DNA scientists was provided.

The Regional Housing Programme, created in 2012, continued to provide homes to refugees and persons displaced by conflicts in the region in the 1990s, via a contribution agreements with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). At the end of 2021 a total of 8 826 homes have been provided for a total amount disbursed by the EU budget of some EUR 235 million.

In consideration of the strategic role played by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in fostering regional cooperation and integration, the IPA strategy is also to focus on engaging with these organisations and supporting their actions at regional and local level. During the period 2014-2021, EUR 345 million in total were channelled through the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for Western Balkans and Turkey (CSF) – the main instrument to support the sector in the area - supporting in the order of 1000 CSOs from the region, and a further 100 from the EU. In 2021 still, three new projects were signed focussing on regional cooperation between civil society organisations (via the Western Balkans Fund); support to diversity, effectiveness, and sustainability of civic actors and media (via the European Endowment for Democracy) and a programme in support of the economic sustainability of media business in the region. Substantial exchanges were held with civil society and other stakeholders on the revision of the guidelines for EU support to civil society in the enlargement region. Since its start in December 2018, the regional Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) programme organised more than 100 trainings, consultations and people-to-people events during 2021 for around 5000 participants of which 60 events for more than 2000 participants only in 2021.

Erasmus+ has helped reinforcing cooperation between education institutions and provided exchange opportunities for students, by fostering international credit recognition, mobility programmes for young people, scholarships, capacity building activities, and by promoting European studies as well as intercultural and policy dialogue. North Macedonia and Serbia are associated to Erasmus+ and have access to all actions on an equal footing as EU Member States. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro are non-associated and while some of the actions for the non-associated partners are funded by the core budget of Erasmus+, IPA has enabled them to participate in certain actions that would typically be closed for their participation. Over 120.000 students, researchers, staff, youth workers, young people and others participated in the Erasmus+ activities involving Western Balkans partners for the period 2014-2020.

During 2021, CBC programmes (between IPA-IPA beneficiaries) under IPA II with their projects, aiming at supporting reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, have triggered real change for local communities. Some projects have contributed to the development of some economically important sectors, such as tourism, creating a sustainable tourist offer in the region based on cultural heritage and local cuisine. Examples of these projects are the rehabilitation of the Medieval Fortresses and Austro-Hungarian Fortresses in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, the Cultural Route “On the Trail of Mother Teresa” and Local cuisine as tourism offer. Other projects that have also had a positive impact on tourism have supported at the same time the

preservation of the wildlife, and the promotion of natural values, while increasing at the same time the safety of tourist in the mountains and make visible tourism services to international and domestic visitors. Other projects in the CBC programmes have contributed to the implementation of the green agenda-improving resource efficiency in the water and waste management sectors. Some of the projects implemented under the CBC programmes contribute to the creation of a stimulant and innovative environment in youth educational institutions to bring the concept of social entrepreneurship closer to young people and enable greater involvement through employment and social start-ups.

European Territorial Cooperation IPA (Interreg IPA) are also considered very effective tools to foster greater cooperation and integration between IPA countries and surrounding Member States as highlighted in the Commission Impact Assessment accompanying the new ETC Regulation Proposal. Moreover, as the ex-post evaluation noted, "Interreg is the only policy instrument in its field. It is therefore crucial for ensuring continuity and linkages of common projects". This is why the concerned Member States have maintained and even increased their ERDF financial envelope to these programmes since its inception in 1990 and the matching principle has automatically increased the IPA allocation.

As a very flexible instrument, allowing to finance various numbers of actions and objectives, Interreg could also be used to facilitate exchanges and tolerance between people, and this via the financing of local social services in key cross-border regions. For instance, the 2014-2020 Interreg IPA CBC Croatia – Serbia programme funded the project ‘Inclusive Community project’ which has helped to enhance the dialogue between two countries previously at war and has reinforced the social cohesion in the concerned territories. Indeed, this project aimed at improving social services in Osijek and Novi Sad for social welfare users and people in risk of poverty and exclusion. Partners created a social integration programme that has ensured learning assistance for children and in-house care for elderly. In addition, the programme encouraged elderlies to volunteer, facilitate education and exchanges between volunteers to contribute to intergenerational solidarity and tolerance in the cross border region. Project outputs included an e-card system that has allowed better management of social assistance and reconstruction of a storehouse to allow distribution of humanitarian aid and medical equipment for social welfare. The project was nominated for Regiostars 2021¹⁰. In the 2021-2027 programme, the selection of the specific objectives ‘Enhancing equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health system’ and ‘Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation’ well proves that the 2014-2020 results have been very good and the national authorities want to capitalized on them.

3.2. Key achievements

3.2.2. Corresponding 2014-2020 programme

100 000	8826	75	413 105
students, researchers, staff and others participated in the Erasmus+ activities involving Western Balkans partners for the period 2014-2020	housing units built under the Regional Housing Programme up to the end of 2021	monitoring stations for water and underground water levels, quantity and quality monitoring were established in line with the EU Water Framework Directive in Montenegro in the period 2019-2020	people reached by the Council of Europe “Block the hatred. Share the love “ campaign against hate speech in the Western Balkans during 2021 supported by IPA

75 000	400	7 800	80
citizens connected to district heating in Pristina and Gjakova in the period 2014-2020, reducing air pollution and increasing energy efficiency in Kosovo*	organisations working on preventing violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey reached with the regional support under the Civil Society Facility from 2014 to 2020	young people benefited from support under the Youth Guarantee in North Macedonia from 2014 to 2021	Turkish municipalities supported under energy projects that promote Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Turkey

¹⁰ The REGIOSTARS Awards are a yearly competition, organised by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy. It aims at identifying good practices in regional development and highlighting innovative, EU-funded projects, which could be attractive and inspiring to other regions and project managers.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

5 500 000	12 000	155	6 030
vaccination doses provided to refugee infants in Turkey by 2021 under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey	educational facilities in Turkey upgraded, as part of the development strand of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey by 2021	km fast-track railway being constructed as part of TEN-T corridor within the Construction of the Halkalı-Kapıkule Railway Line project in Turkey by 2024	economic entities performed modernisation projects in agri-food sector by end of 2021 with support of the IPA rural development II

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

During 2021 four evaluations¹¹ were completed.

The Evaluation of the EU's external action support in the area of migration assessed EU's external action contribution in the policy area of migration in the period 2008-2018, in particular in the areas of labour legal migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, in Enlargement, Neighbourhood, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia (Central and South) regions. DG NEAR was in the lead, in close collaboration with DG INTPA.

Strategic, country-level evaluation of the EU's cooperation with Serbia provides an assessment of Serbia's path to EU accession, over the period 2012-2018. It assessed national-level EU cooperation including both policy dialogue and financial assistance through the IPA, with in-depth analysis of: public administration reform, judicial reform, environment, and education.

The evaluation of EU cooperation with Montenegro provided an independent assessment of EU's assistance to the country over the period 2012-2019. It identified key lessons learned as well as a set of recommendations to improve current, and inform future choices on programming of EU financial assistance and relevant policy dialogue. The focus of the evaluation was on the planning and programming under the IPA III.

The mid-term evaluation of the IPA Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme between IPA II beneficiaries provides an assessment of the performance of the nine 2014-2020 programmes, identification of good practices and lessons learned and recommendations to guide the design of IPA CBC programmes between IPA II beneficiaries for the following financing period.

Three strategic evaluations covering enlargement region were under implementation during the reporting period (namely evaluations on Environment and climate change, TAIEX Instrument and EU cooperation with the United Nations and the country evaluation of North Macedonia). In addition, two new evaluations were launched in 2021 (evaluation of DG NEAR Blending Instruments, and country evaluation of Albania).

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: To strengthen the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights, fundamental rights and international law, civil society and security as well as improve migration management including border management

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on political criteria

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
2.1			2.2							2.8
	Actual Progress									Final
2.1										
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
1.8			1.9							2
	Actual Progress									Final
1.5										
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

¹¹ These are strategic and independent evaluation studies, carried out following Better Regulation and OECD DAC criteria, however they did not lead to a stand-alone staff working document as per Better Regulation Guidelines.

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Extent of readiness
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	The general objective of IPA III shall be to support the beneficiaries in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership, thereby contributing to their stability, security and prosperity. This indicator will allow measuring the state of play of where the enlargement beneficiaries stand in terms of their preparation for meeting one of the three accession criteria, the political one: stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Under MFF 14-20 the same indicator drawn from the enlargement report was used i.e. Composite indicator on the readiness of enlargement countries on fundamental areas of the political accession criteria.
Other methodological comments	This composite indicator is based on a careful analysis performed by the Commission of the situation under the core five areas of the political criteria. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of implementation and track records of concrete results in each area, in addition to legal alignment and institutional framework in . The indicators, including the one on the political criteria, have been introduced in the 2015 enlargement reports . The upcoming enlargement reports will continue to provide an assessment of the areas used for the preparation of this composite indicator. For further details, please see the Communication on the EU Enlargement Strategy.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The Commission expects a gradual improvement as the candidate countries and potential candidates proceed in their EU path. In 2021 The value for this indicator increased slightly thanks to improvements in Albania, North Macedonia and Montenegro.

Specific Objective 2: To reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support structural reforms and good governance

Indicator 1: Readiness of enlargement countries on public administration reform

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
2.5			2.6							2.7
	Actual Progress									Final
	2.5									
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
3			3.1							3.2
	Actual Progress									Final
	2.5									
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Extent of readiness
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	The general objective of IPA III shall be to support the beneficiaries in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by those beneficiaries to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership, thereby contributing to their stability, security and prosperity. This indicator will allow measuring the state of play of where the enlargement beneficiaries stand in terms of their preparation for meeting one of the three accession criteria: administrative and institutional capacity to effectively implement the acquis* and ability to take on the obligations of membership.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This is a sub-indicator of the composite indicator on political criteria which was not used on its own under the previous MFF
Other methodological comments	This is a sub-indicator of the composite indicator on political criteria.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: To shape the rules, standards, policies and practices of the beneficiaries in alignment to those of the EU and to reinforce reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, as well as people to people contacts and communication

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on Union acquis alignment

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
2.5			2.6							2.7
	Actual Progress									Final
2.5										
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
2.9			3							3.1
	Actual Progress									Final
2.9										
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Extent of readiness
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the third objective (i.e. To shape the rules, standards, policies and practices of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I in alignment to those of the Union and to reinforce reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, as well as people to people contacts and communication).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This composite indicator was used in previous MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	This indicator is based on a careful analysis of the developments in the candidate countries and potential candidates by the Commission. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of implementation and track records of concrete results, in addition to legal alignment and institutional framework in the overall assessment. This indicator assesses the level of alignment of the candidate countries and potential candidates with the EU acquis across all negotiating chapters and EU related reform. For further details, please see the Communication on the EU Enlargement Strategy.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The Commission expects a gradual improvement as the candidate countries and potential candidates proceed in their EU path. Progress needs to be sustained over time to be recorded. The value for this indicator increased thanks to improvements regarding one acquis chapter in Serbia (Competition policy), three acquis chapters in Kosovo (Public procurement, Competition policy, Financial control), four in Montenegro (Fisheries, Enterprise and Industrial Policy, Trans-European Networks, Financial and Budgetary provisions) and five acquis chapters in Albania (Public procurement, Fisheries, Science and Research, Judiciary and Fundamental rights, External Relations). It should be noted that alignment with EU acquis is a demanding exercise that requires substantial reforms from the candidate countries and potential candidates over a long period of time, hence the relatively slow increase of this composite indicator for the whole region.

Indicator 2: Attitude towards the EU: Percentage of population with a positive general attitude towards the EU

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2020	Milestones									2027
71.5			66.7							67.5
	Actual Progress									Final
71.1										
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
2020	Milestones									2027
53			50							50
	Actual Progress									Final
64										

Are we on track :	On track
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Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Opinion polls run by EUD/EUO in the Western Balkans an Turkey
Link to the objective	The objective of the action is to raise public awareness of and contribute to public support for the European Union and its actions and the EU accession process. The expected results are a public informed about: - EU values, policies and programmes and their impact on their everyday life; - the EU accession process with the accompanying socio-economic transformation and its long term benefits and opportunities for citizens and economies; - EU funding in the enlargement region and its correlation with EU values and policy objectives, with a focus on the tangible positive impact of EU-funded projects on citizens and economies.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Opinion polls are reliable polls and follow similar methodology. They are run twice a year from EUDs/EUO in the region, through IPA funding.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Continuous increase of positive opinion despite the COVID 19 crisis. Based on the results from Autumn 2021, the average of positive attitude towards the EU in the Western Balkans is 71.1%. On track, above our target for 2023 of 66.7%. The average of positive attitude towards the EU in the Turkey: 64% (+11 percentage points since 2020) above our target of 50% 2023.

Indicator 3: Percentage of intra-regional trade to GDP

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2017	Milestones									2027
4.97			5.29							5.92
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2020
Data source	World Bank Database (for the GDP); UNCTAD and Kosovo statistical office for the trade stats.
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the third objective (i.e. To shape the rules, standards, policies and practices of the beneficiaries in alignment to those of the EU and to reinforce reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, as well as people to people contacts and communication)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Most recent data are for 2020 in 8,41%.

Indicator 4: Number of goods transporting vehicles crossing the border every day

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
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Unit of measurement	The number of freight vehicles entering each Border/Common Crossing Points
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	TODIS/CEFTA- Data collection frequency will most probably be annually; we will also explore the possibility of automatic data collection through SEED system (Systematic Exchange of Electronic Data managed by CEFTA), in which case we could more easily adjust collection frequency. - The source of data will likely differ from one Regional Partner to another (customs administration or border police)
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the third objective (i.e. To shape the rules, standards, policies and practices of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I in alignment to those of the Union and to reinforce reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, as well as people to people contacts and communication)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Baseline will be available from 2023 once Transport Observatory will be fully operational. The milestones and targets will also be set following the arrival of the baseline.

Specific Objective 4: To strengthen economic and social development to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on economic criteria

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
2.3			2.4							2.5
	Actual Progress									Final
	2.4									
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
4.5			4.6							4.7
	Actual Progress									Final
	4.5									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Extent of readiness
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	This composite indicator was used in previous MFF 14-20 as well
Other methodological comments	This indicator is based on a careful analysis of the developments in the candidate countries and potential candidates by the Commission. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of implementation and track records of concrete results, in addition to legal alignment and institutional framework in the overall assessment. This indicator assesses how far the candidate countries and potential candidates have progressed to be considered a functioning market economy and whether they possess the capacity to cope with the competitive pressures and market forces within the EU. For further details, please see the Communication on the EU Enlargement Strategy.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Public Social Security expenditure

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
16.98			17							17.5

		Actual Progress								Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones								2027	
11.8	12								12.5	
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	In percentage of GDP
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Eurostat (Social protection benefits in % of the GDP)
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (To enhance accessibility to community bases services, improved education, health and social protection services)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend of the social protection expenditure as % of GDP was decreasing for the several preceding years in the region. While a higher social expenditure level ensures more coverage of the population (% of population covered by social protection measures could be another good indicator to consider), it is nevertheless important to note that social benefits spending is also often counter-cyclical. In the region, both an increase in the social spending is needed to reach population which is not covered by social protection yet, on the other hand boosting private sector development is crucial to secure employment and reduce the number of people that depend on the social benefits. Most recent trend is unknown due to lack of recent data (most recent is 2018). Social benefits as % of GDP could have increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as many governments introduced new social support measures for persons and families impacted by the pandemic.

Indicator 3: Employment rate of persons aged 20 to 64

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones								2027	
54.25	57								61.5	
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones								2027	
55.6	58								60	
	Actual Progress								Final	
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Eurostat
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (To enhance employment opportunities, improve labour markets and employability)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend in the employment rate was increasing for a number of years, which meant the indicator was on track. However, the COVID-19 pandemic certainly disrupted labour markets, for which the most recent numbers are not yet available. Without new data it is hard to estimate the current situation, but the target should be to achieve pre-pandemic levels at least by 2023, and increase from then onwards. The latest available data is for 2020 with an average of 55,2% for the Western Balkans indicating that the trend in the employment rate was still increasing in the beginning of the pandemic. In Turkey the employment rate in 2020 was 51% indicating a decrease in the employment trend and

that the labour market has been rapidly affected by the crisis.

Indicator 4: Digital skills

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
21.2			22							23
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
12			13							14
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage of individuals
Cut-Off Date	04/02/2022
Data source	Eurostat
Link to the objective	The indicator relates to all parts of the objective as digital skills are an enabler across the board
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New objective
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The latest available data refer to 2019

Indicator 5: Ease of doing business

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
72.75			74.25							76.25
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
76.8			80							82
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage score
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	World Bank - Ease of doing business report
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation of the same indicator from MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The report discontinued for the time being: https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/statement/2021/09/16/world-bank-group-to-discontinue-doing-business-report

Indicator 6: Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
385.8			365							355
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
167.7			155							150
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Kilograms of oil equivalent per thousand euro
Cut-Off Date	31/01/2022
Data source	Eurostat: Energy intensity measured in terms of energy per GDP https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/nrg_ind_ei/default/table?lang=en
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In the Western Balkans baseline, no data is available for Albania, therefore Albania is excluded from the average.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Latest available data is for 2020. Energy intensity measured in terms of GDP increased to 393 KGOE/thousand euros of GDP for WB and for Turkey it decreased to 153.7 KGOE/thousand euros of GDP. Continued dependence on fossil fuels, in particular coal, in most of the Western Balkans. Significant share of carbon-intensive industries remain, which are slow to innovate. New support provided for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and gas as transition fuel expected to facilitate the phasing down/out of coal and polluting fossil fuels in energy.

Indicator 7: Greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided (Ktons CO2eq) with EU support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2020	Milestones									2027
921 042			967 094							1 036 172
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
	Milestones									
										Final
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Ktons CO2eq
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Continuation of the indicator from the previous MFF Programme Statements
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en

Justification of the trend	No information yet for 2021. Unfortunately, the information on Turkey is also missing for 2020, the baseline year. As the milestones and targets data are to be calculated on the basis of the baseline (increase of 5% and 12.5% respectively), this information is also missing.
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Indicator 8: Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2017	Milestones									2027
29.26			31%							33%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2017	Milestones									2027
43.9			45%							47%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Percentage
Cut-Off Date	10/03/2022
Data source	Eurostat: Share of energy from renewable sources (NRG_IND_REN)
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Data for Turkey is not available.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	Latest information available for 2020. The average share of renewable energy was 31.68% in 2020 for the Western Balkans. Increased support for the deployment of renewable energy and advancement on the regions' commitment to climate neutrality (including through the adoption of the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and associated workplan) shows progress in the deployment of renewable energy sources, despite a worsening of energy intensity of the economy.

Indicator 9: Pollution: PM10 concentrations compared to the EU daily limit value (50 µg/m3)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2019	Milestones									2027
39			38.5							38
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2019	Milestones									2027
40.07			39.5							39
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	PM10
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Environmental Agency
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to

	reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	No trend available since indicator monitoring only started and the programme's implementation is also only starting.

Indicator 10: Areas of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection, b) sustainable management with IPA III support

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2020	Milestones									
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									
Turkey										
2020	Milestones									
0	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Hectares
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	For marine protected areas and areas under protection, the main data source is the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) ¹ , the most comprehensive global dataset on marine and terrestrial protected areas available. The WDPA is a joint product of UNEP and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), prepared by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the IUCN World working with Governments, the Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and collaborating Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The Digital Observatory of Protected Areas (DOPA), developed by the JRC, is based on the WDPA, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and JRC's own remote sensing products such as the European Space Agency Landcover 2015.
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fourth objective (i.e. To strengthen economic and social development including through increased connectivity and regional development, agriculture and rural development and social and employment policies, to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy and develop the digital economy and society.)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 11: Changes in the Gini coefficient of a beneficiary over time

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Western Balkans										
2018	Milestones									2027
33.81	33	Actual Progress								31.5
										Final
Are we on track :										
Turkey										
2018	Milestones									2027
41.9	41.5	Actual Progress								40.5
										Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	scale from 0 to 100
Cut-Off Date	09/03/2022
Data source	World Bank and Eurostat for 2020
Link to the objective	Relevant to assess inclusive and sustainable growth
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator
Other methodological comments	Gini coefficient of equivalised disposable income
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 5: To support territorial and cross-border cooperation

Indicator 1: Number of cross-border partnerships established, formalised and implemented

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
2021	Milestones									2027
1 085					1 222					1 508
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of cross-border partnerships
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission
Link to the objective	Important for several aspects of the specific objectives and particularly related to the fifth objective (i.e. to support territorial and cross-border cooperation).
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The baseline is cumulative up to March 2021

5. Programme 2014-2020 - Key monitoring indicators

Previous Program 1: Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

Specific Objective 1: Support for political reforms.

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on the readiness of enlargement countries on fundamental areas of the political accession criteria. These areas are: Judiciary, Fighting organised crime, Freedom of expression, Fight against corruption and Public administration reform

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2015	Milestones									2020
5					Reduced number of cases					A majority of countries are moderately prepared in these areas
	Actual Progress									Final
		5	4	5	6	6	6	6		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	Annual enlargement country reports – European Commission
Narrative	Baseline: Five cases of early stage of preparation in these areas (i.e Albania on the Judiciary, Bosnia and Herzegovina on Public Administration Reform and Kosovo on the Judiciary, Fight against organised crime, and Fight against corruption).

Methodology	This composite indicator aims at showing how candidate countries and potential candidates progress in meeting the political accession criteria in five key areas (namely the functioning of the judiciary, fight against corruption, fight against organised crime, freedom of expression and public administration reform. In each of these areas, the state of play (i.e. the readiness) in the candidate countries and potential candidates is assessed according to the following five-tier standard assessment scale: 1. Early stage, 2. Some level of preparation 3. Moderately prepared 4. Good level of preparation 5. Well advanced. The indicator shows how many countries are assessed at an ‘early stage’ of preparedness in any of the mentioned sub-categories – the number should be decreasing with time.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/package_en
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The Commission expected a gradual improvement as the candidate countries and potential candidates proceed in their EU path. After an initial decline in the number of cumulated number of countries in the category ‘early stage’ of preparedness the indicator unravelled – primarily due to Turkey’s regression. According to the 2021 enlargement reports Bosnia and Herzegovina remained at the early level of preparedness on Public Administration Reform. Kosovo stayed on the same level on the Judiciary and at the level of early stage of preparation / some level of preparedness regarding the Fight against organised crime and the Fight against corruption. Turkey maintained early level of preparedness in the area of Judiciary, the Fight against organised crime and the Freedom of expression (Turkey was at some level of preparedness in all these areas in 2015). The Commission put a particular emphasis on these areas in its Western Balkans Strategy of February 2018 and in its communication of February 2020 on a revised EU accession methodology, which put an even stronger focus on these fundamental reforms.

Specific Objective 2: Support for economic, social and territorial development, with a view to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on the readiness of candidate countries and potential candidates on fundamental areas of the economic criteria These areas are: functioning market economy and competitiveness in the EU

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2015	Milestones									2020
4					Reduced number of cases					A majority of candidate countries
	Actual Progress									Final
		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of candidate countries and potential candidates
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	Annual enlargement reports – European Commission.
Narrative	Baseline: Four cases of early stage of preparation in these areas (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina on functioning market economy and competitive pressures; Kosovo on functioning market economy and competitive pressures).
Methodology	This composite indicator aims at showing where candidate countries and potential candidates stand in terms of their preparations for meeting key areas of the two economic criteria, namely the existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressures and market forces within the Union. In each of these areas, the state of play (i.e. the readiness) is assessed according to the following five-tier standard assessment scale: Early stage – Some level of preparation - Moderately prepared - Good level of preparation – Well Advanced. The indicator shows how many countries are assessed at an ‘early stage’ of preparedness in any of the mentioned sub-categories – the number should be decreasing with time.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The same indicator continues under the next MFF, but the score there will represent the average score across different countries.
Other methodological comments	For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/countries/package_en .
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	Candidate countries and the potential candidates made limited progress towards meeting the economic criteria, according to the 2021 enlargement reports. In the area of functioning market economy, Serbia maintained the level of moderately prepared/good level of preparation. Albania and Montenegro remained at a moderately prepared level, North Macedonia at a good level of preparation and Turkey is considered to be well advanced. On competitiveness, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia remained moderately prepared, while Albania remained at some level of preparation. In terms of cases of early stages of preparation, this indicator remained stable in 2021 compared to the baseline, with

	four cases, on functioning market economy and competitiveness in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Overall, there was limited progress towards meeting the 2021 target for this indicator. The IPA II beneficiaries face challenges in advancing on the fundamental areas of economic criteria, which are interlinked with the political criteria, not least due to the fall out of the COVID pandemic in 2020/2021. The Commission put a particular emphasis on these areas in its Western Balkans Strategy of February 2018 and in its communication of February 2020 on a revised EU accession methodology, which put an even stronger focus on these fundamental reforms.
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Indicator 5: Number of economic entities benefitting from IPA II assistance performing modernisation projects in agri-food sector

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Western Balkans										
	Milestones									2023
				520						5 250
	Actual Progress									Final
					118	1 812	2 726	3 428		
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
	Milestones									2023
				120						1 200
	Actual Progress									Final
					335	1 086	1 460	2 602		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of economic entities
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Narrative	Under IPARD, EU requires both national and private co-financing. EU funds equal to 75% of public financing. Each country adds 25% of own public funds. This is, roughly, matched by private funds. However, the actual rate of public reimbursement of private investments depends on accepted eligible expenditure at the end of investment. The share varies, but in practice probably never reaches 50%. IPA resources for modernisation and upgrading of farms and food companies are very limited compared to the sector size in respective candidate countries and potential candidates and therefore targets are set only for the supported projects financed from the budget and not for the sector.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	The target for budget year 2020 is actually implemented by the end of 2023. The last calls under some programmes may still take place next year, while project implementation may take another year or more, until the final payment may be made. IPA resources for modernisations and upgrading of farms and food companies are very limited compared to the sector size in respective candidate countries and potential candidates and therefore targets are set only for the supported projects financed from the budget and not for the sector.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The specific contracts in IPA II agriculture and rural development assistance are implemented in accordance with the N+3 rule, which means that a given budget allocation in this programme may actually be implemented (contracted and paid within a period of 3 years, following year N). The initial estimate of 5.250 will be implemented during the years 2018 - 2023. Targets are based on the information provided in country programmes, approved by the Commission decision for 7 years. Calculations of targets in the programmes are based on indicative financial allocations for the entire programming period. Should these allocations be revised, targets will have to be revised as well. This will be the case for Turkey, for which allocations have been significantly cut. Targets will be revised after the next programme modification, once reduced budget has been reflected in the programme. For Turkey, the initial estimate of 1.200 will be implemented during the years 2018 - 2023. This explains deviations in other relevant indicators, namely specific objective 2 - indicator 6 and specific objective 3 - indicator 2. In 2014-2017 no effective expenditure was made/projects implemented. Contracting and payments so far made only in North Macedonia and Turkey, forthcoming in Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia. These are cumulative values for the entire programming period. The target for budget year 2020 will be fully implemented as an output by the end of 2023 (N+3).

Indicator 6: Overall investment in physical capital in agri-food and rural development implemented by beneficiaries of IPA II assistance

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
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Western Balkans										
	Milestones									2023
				53						710
	Actual Progress									Final
				2	120	243	437			
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
	Milestones									2023
				200						1 586
	Actual Progress									Final
				167	655	1 046	1 695			
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	In EUR millions
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In 2014 no effective expenditure made/projects implemented. The target for budget year 2020 will be actually implemented as output by the end of 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	

Specific Objective 3: Strengthening of the ability of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II- Regulation to fulfil the obligations stemming from Union membership by supporting progressive alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis, including preparation for management of Union Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Indicator 1: Composite indicator on the readiness of candidate countries and potential candidates on alignment to the acquis

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
2015	Milestones									2020
	Actual Progress									Final
		50	43	26	32	30	30	27		
Are we on track :	Deserves attention**									

Indicator type	Impact
Unit of measurement	Number of cases of early stage of preparation in the 33 chapters in the enlargement region
Cut-Off Date	31/10/2021
Data source	Annual enlargement country reports – European Commission
Narrative	This composite indicator aims at showing where the candidate countries and potential candidates countries stand in terms of their preparations for fulfilling the obligations stemming from EU membership, including the alignment to the 33 acquis chapters. This composite indicator is based on a careful analysis of the situation under each of the 33 acquis chapters. Particular emphasis is given to the importance of implementation and track records of concrete results in each chapter. Annual enlargement reports provide a detailed assessment of these acquis chapters, used for the preparation of this composite indicator. For further details, please see the latest Communication on the EU Enlargement Strategy. These result indicators are particularly relevant for DG NEAR since they show the results of its enlargement policy including financial assistance through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance as regards the third criteria.
Methodology	The composite indicator measures how many countries have the assessment at early stage of preparedness in any given chapter. The number should be decreasing over time, indicating that the candidate countries and potential candidates move to a higher level of preparedness.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	This composite indicator aims at showing where the candidate countries and potential candidates countries stand in terms of their preparations for fulfilling the obligations stemming from EU membership, including the alignment to the 33 acquis chapters.

Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	According to the 2021 annual enlargement country reports, some progress has been recorded for the indicator linked to alignment with, and adoption, implementation and enforcement of, the Union acquis. The decreasing trend means that the countries have overall progressed to a higher level of preparation. However, there have been differences between the countries. The number of cases of early preparedness decreased to 27 in 2021 and include the following: 14 cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 7 cases in Kosovo, 3 cases in Turkey, 2 in North Macedonia, 1 in Albania, and none in Montenegro and Serbia. For a more detailed analysis and the summaries of the findings on readiness and progress of enlargement countries towards the alignment to the 33 acquis chapters, please refer to the 2021 country reports.

Indicator 2: Number of economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards in agri-food sector

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
Western Balkans										
	Milestones									2023
										3 325
	Actual Progress									Final
					49	1 812	2 276	3 428		
Are we on track :	On track									
Turkey										
	Milestones									2023
										1 115
	Actual Progress									Final
					323	900	1 460	2 602		
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards in agri-food sector
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Narrative	Under IPARD, EU requires both national and private co-financing. EU funds equal to 75% of public financing. Each country adds 25% of own public funds. This is, roughly, matched by private funds. However, the actual rate of public reimbursement of private investments depends on accepted eligible expenditure at the end of investment. The share varies, but in practice probably never reaches 50%.
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	
Other methodological comments	In 2014 no effective expenditure made/projects implemented. The target for budget year 2020 will be actually implemented as output by the end of 2023. The target for budget year 2020 will be actually implemented by the end of 2023.
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	IPA II rural development programmes (IPARD) have reached the target for Turkey and are making rapid progress towards the target for Western Balkans in relation to ‘Number of economic entities progressively upgrading towards EU standards in agri-food sector’.

Specific Objective 4: Strengthening regional integration and territorial cooperation involving the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the IPA II-Regulation, Member States and, where appropriate, third countries within the scope of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Indicator 1: Number of cross-border cooperation programmes concluded among IPA beneficiaries and between IPA/EU Member States

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Target
IPA-IPA										
2010	Milestones									2023
8				10			10			10
	Actual Progress									Final
	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9		
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
IPA-EU										
2010	Milestones									2023

12				12			12			10
	Actual Progress									Final
		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Are we on track :	Moderate progress									
Total CBC programmes										
2010	Milestones									2023
20				22			22			20
	Actual Progress									Final
		8	18	19	19	19	19	19	19	
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Number of cross-border cooperation programmes
Cut-Off Date	
Data source	European Commission
Narrative	
Methodology	
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	Subject to the outcome of the IPA III negotiations - this indicator should continue in the next MFF.
Other methodological comments	The Serbia-Kosovo programme has never been prepared due to the political issues. Beside the Interreg-IPA CBC programmes, DG REGIO also manages transnational and sea basin programmes (e.g. Balkan MED, Adrion, Danube, Black Sea and Interreg MED) which involve some IPA funding. Two Interreg-IPA CBC programmes were never submitted and hence discontinued (Greece-Turkey and Cyprus-Turkey).
Full metadata available at this address	
Justification of the trend	The Serbia-Kosovo programme has never been prepared due to the political issues. Beside the Interreg-IPA CBC programmes, DG REGIO also manages transnational and sea basin programmes (e.g. Balkan MED, Adrion, Danube, Black Sea and Interreg MED) which involve some IPA funding. Two Interreg-IPA CBC programmes were never submitted and hence discontinued (Greece-Turkey and Cyprus-Turkey).

6. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

6.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

6.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total	Share compared to total envelope
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Climate contribution	509.30	527.00	549.00	560.00	566.00	568.00	569.00	3848.30	26%

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change and promoting sustainable development in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IPA III contributes to mainstreaming climate action in the Union's policies and to the achievement of an overall target of 30 % of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives. Actions under IPA III are expected to contribute 18 % of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives, with the objective of increasing this percentage to 20% by 2027.

It is estimated that the IPA III would contribute EUR 3.8 billion to climate mainstreaming in 2021-2027.

Figures for 2021 are provided by the Quality Control of the Rio Markers for commitments approved in 2021, done by the NEAR greening facility. Estimates for 2022 until 2027 have been established through a similar methodology used for NDICI: applying historical trends of contribution of various sectors to climate mainstreaming, combined with an analysis of Strategic Responses, key reference programming documents. They should be considered as indicative. These estimates will be updated each year, taking into account that Strategic responses cover the 2021-2024 period only, which will also be regularly updated.

Estimates reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology for the Rio-markers on climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. The budget of interventions contributing to climate change is weighted 100 % if mitigation and/or adaptation are the 'principal objective' of the action and 40 % if mitigation and/or adaptation are a 'significant objective'.

Rio-markers apply to actions funded in all sectors, however past trends indicate that actions that aim to directly tackle climate change tend to concentrate in the sectors of rural development, environment, energy and management of natural resources.

These actions would primarily contribute to main Objectives of IPA III Regulation, especially objective to reinforce environmental protection, increase resilience to climate change, accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon economy, develop the digital economy and society, and strengthen sustainable connectivity in all its dimensions as well as objective to strengthen economic and social development and cohesion (with a particular attention to private sector development, agriculture and rural development). Also, climate-related expenditure might contribute also to achieving objective to shape the rules, standards, policies and practices of the IPA III beneficiaries in alignment to those of the Union and to reinforce reconciliation and good neighbourly relations, as well as people to people contacts and communication and objective to support territorial and cross-border cooperation.

IPA III supports the beneficiaries in their efforts to align to the climate change and energy package and in the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal. In particular, the actions will support the implementation of several priorities of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans (clean energy, environment, transport) as well as the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, especially under the thematic Window 3 (Green Agenda and sustainable connectivity) of the IPA III Programming Framework. Support in the area of clean energy and smart transport is channelled to the beneficiaries in particular via the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF), EFSD+ and the Green for Growth Fund (GGF). Further investment and capacity-building actions under Window 4 (Competitiveness and inclusive growth) and Window 5 (Territorial and cross border cooperation) and Window 2 (Good governance, EU acquis alignment, good neighbourly relations and strategic communication) can also target climate change. This is in line with the “do no harm” principle and the alignment of EU external actions to the Green Deal and the Paris Agreement.

In 2021, actions with a climate adaptation and/or mitigation principal objective were adopted as part of:

- the annual action plan in favour of Kosovo* (EU for environment),
- the annual action plan in favour of Montenegro (EU acquis related activities for Environment and Climate Action policies in Montenegro),
- the annual action plan in favour of North Macedonia (EU for Environmental Standards and Clean Air, EU for Green Economy),
- the annual action plan in favour of Serbia (EU for Connectivity and Green Agenda)
- and the annual action plan in favour of Turkey (Environment and Climate Change, Sustainable Green Energy and Transport).

For example, in Serbia, the EU for Connectivity and Green Agenda action is focused among others on promoting the Green Agenda by:

- a) reinforcing environmental protection (e.g. supporting the construction of the regional sanitary landfill in Novi Sad by 2025),
- b) contributing to energy efficiency (e.g. increasing the financial potential of the National Energy Efficiency Fund up to EUR 10 million in 2025),
- c) accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon and circular economy
- d) and improving the transport sector (e.g. supporting modernisation of 120 km of railway corridor Belgrade-Nis by 2025)¹²

In North Macedonia, the EU for Environmental Standards and Clean Air is focused among others on:

- a) decreasing the pollution-related risks to environment and human health aiming at supporting a decrease in the targeted locations of:
 - the produced particulate PM2.5 from 2 181 kg in 2020 to 27 kg or less in 2027 and
 - the produced particulate PM10 from 2 617 kg in 2010 to 71 kg in 2027
- b) as well as a decrease in the variation of CO2 production in the targeted investment from 6 700 tons in 2020 to 2 700 tons in 2027.¹³

Moreover in Turkey, under the Environment and Climate Change action, IPA support aims at improving the climate change mitigation and increasing the resilience to climate change and disasters by inter alia supporting the reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Turkey by 246 Mt of Co2 eq by 2030,

as well as supporting the alignment of Turkey legislation, policies and systems with the EU. For example 5 pilot cities are expected to adopt and implement local climate change action plans (including mitigation and adaptation) by 2030.

6.1.3. Key achievements

IPA II supported the beneficiaries in their efforts on both climate adaptation and mitigation. Most efforts were focussed on climate mitigation, notably to align to the EU2020 Strategy, which included increasing energy efficiency in the industry, in transport and housing and increasing the share of renewable energy sources. Support in this area was channelled to the beneficiaries in particular through financial instruments; in the first instance the Western Balkan Investment Framework (WBIF) and the Green for Growth Fund (GGF). Since 2010, through WBIF, investments grants were allocated to IPA beneficiaries and contributed to ensure 123 MW

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

¹² C(2021)9653, Annex 2, pages 21-24

¹³ C(2021)9732, Annex 4, pages 16-19

of electricity produced from renewable energy sources, 62 public buildings renovated and over 590,000 CO₂ t/year avoided as well as district heating systems upgraded in 22 cities and towns.

6.1.4. Performance

The European Commission has supported climate change mitigation and adaptation both at the bilateral and regional level through dedicated actions. These include support to policy development and implementation, approximation¹⁴ to the EU energy and climate acquis, as well as technical assistance and investments for the clean energy transition and low carbon technologies in general. In addition to dedicated actions, environment and climate change considerations are mainstreamed in different areas of cooperation.

At the regional level, co-operation in the environment and climate area has been supported by the European Commission for more than a decade.

A very effective tool is notably TRATALOW, a regional multi-annual project that has supported since 2020 IPA II beneficiaries in their transition towards the low emissions and climate-resilient economy. With a total budget of EUR 2 million, the action provides support to implementation of climate activities in line with the Beneficiaries' commitments or "Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDCs) and the provisions under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. This is done through a series of activities covering mitigation and adaptation actions that will enable keeping the momentum created under the previous projects.

At bilateral level, several projects contribute to decarbonisation and enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change, across a variety of sectors. The most important sector supporting mitigation is the energy sector, where energy efficiency and renewable energy projects contribute to enhancing access to energy and reducing energy poverty, while at the same time combating climate change.

Under the IPARD programmes, the production and use of renewable energy sources in rural areas have been supported through investments. In 2021-27 they also contribute to the implementation of actions aimed at mitigation and adaptation through forestry measures.

When it comes to enhancing resilience to climate change, actions in the area of disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, and boosting nature based solutions all play an important role. In this regard, approximating the EU environment acquis is a significant contribution.

6.2. Contribution to biodiversity mainstreaming

6.2.1. Contribution

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Biodiversity contribution	33.00	84.00	94.00	96.00	96.00	97.00	102.00	602.00
Share compared to total envelope	1.75 %	4.18 %	3.71 %	4.76 %	4.66 %	4.62 %	4.76 %	4.08 %

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

6.2.2. Explanation On the financial contribution

Estimates reflect the OECD/DAC reporting methodology for the Rio-marker on bio-diversity. The budget of interventions contributing to climate change is weighted 100 % if biodiversity is the 'principal objective' of the action and 40 % if biodiversity is a 'significant objective'.

It is estimated that the IPA III actions would contribute EUR 602 million to biodiversity mainstreaming in 2021-2027.

Figures for 2021 are provided by the Quality Control of the Rio Markers for commitments approved in 2021, done by the NEAR greening facility. Estimates for 2022 until 2027 have been established through a similar methodology used for NDICI: applying historical trends of contribution of various sectors to biodiversity mainstreaming, combined with an analysis of Strategic Responses, key reference programming documents. They should be considered as indicative. These estimates will be updated each year, taking into account that Strategic responses cover the 2021-2024 period only, which will also be regularly updated.

Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration are key pillars of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. The thematic window "Green Agenda and sustainable connectivity" will be the primary entry point for supporting action in the area of ecosystems and biodiversity. However, actions under other thematic windows of the IPA III programming framework, such as window "competitiveness and inclusive growth", including the agriculture and rural development priority, will also contribute to biodiversity protection and the management of natural resources, in line with the goals of the European Green Deal.

In 2021, actions with a biodiversity as principal objective were adopted as part of:

- the annual action plan in favour of Albania (EU for Nature),

¹⁴ The approximation of law is a unique obligation of membership in the European Union. It means that countries aspiring to join the European Union must align their national laws, rules and procedures in order to give effect to the entire body of EU law contained in the acquis communautaire

- the annual action plan in favour of Montenegro (EU acquis related activities for Environment and Climate Action policies in Montenegro),
- the annual action plan in favour of North Macedonia (EU for Prespa).

For example, the EU for Nature action in Albania is focused in particular on:

- a) strengthening capacities of the National Agency for Protection Areas and its Regional Administrations to effectively manage protected areas according to the EU acquis and best practices,
- b) supporting revision and drafting of new protected areas management plans through assessment of biodiversity values and threats following Natura 2020 requirements;
- c) as well as on implementation of conservation and restoration measures on 10 000 ha. by 2026.

In Montenegro the environment related EU acquis chapter was opened in December 2018, and there is a number of ongoing projects contributing for instance to the implementation of the EU’s Water Framework Directive, and establishment of water management plans and monitoring systems. The outcomes of this project are expected to have a positive impact that will benefit both Montenegro’s environment and its citizens. The action adopted in 2021 is focused in particular on supporting the full alignment of Montenegro with the EU acquis under Chapter 27 of the accession negotiations by 2025.

In North Macedonia, the EU for Prespa action is focused in particular on promoting the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans in the transboundary Prespa lake by improving the ecological and chemical status of water in the Prespa Lakes by 2025 to the good level as well as increasing the number of full-time equivalent green jobs in Rasen municipality by 15%.

6.2.3. Key Achievements

For example, in North Macedonia the programme “Improving the management of protected areas” promoted the sustainable use of natural resources, and allocated EUR 4 million EU funding for improving the management of the protected areas in an inclusive, professional and sustainable way. The programme was implemented in partnership with UNDP, the management authorities of protected areas, municipalities and local civil society organisations. It mobilized the local communities and the local resources in 24 locations in protected areas, some of which will be future NATURA 2000 site. In total, 241,755.42 ha of protected areas benefit today of improved management. The Programme involved the establishment of two wastewater treatment facilities in support of the Monument of Nature - Vevchani Springs and the National Park Pelister, and a competitive grant scheme, which resulted in the award of 25 grants for nature protection.

6.2.4. Performance

The EU’s immediate neighbourhood is of strategic importance for the EU. There can be no effective green transition without similar action in our immediate neighbourhood - with whom we share rivers, forests, seas and air. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 requires that all EU neighbourhood countries are on board, particularly those aspiring to EU membership.

Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and restoration enjoy high-level political support in the Western Balkans and Turkey. For instance, three partners have joined the high ambition coalition on biodiversity: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.

In Western Balkans and Turkey – biodiversity hotspots – specific support is provided to further approximation of legislation with the EU’s acquis, notably the EU Birds and Habitats Directive, as well as to prepare for the designation of Natura 2000 sites. Technical assistance is targeted, among others, to support management of protected areas and forestry management. Considerable progress has been made in terms of acquis alignment, but challenges remain to ensure its effective implementation, for instance with respect to illegal logging and the use of environmental impact assessment.

Moreover, under the IPARD III programmes, the beneficiaries are supported with agri-environment-climate operations aimed at improving the status of biodiversity, extensively managed ecosystems and genetic resources which are at risk of being lost.

6.4. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 2: 42.8 Score 1: 498.4 Score 0: 1025.1							

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: gender equality is principal objective, score 1: gender equality is significantly impacted, score 0*: impact on gender equality to be determined ex post, score 0: no significant impact on gender equality.

The attribution of the above scores is also in line with the OECD DAC Gender equality policy marker and methodology. The score 2 equals G2 and implies that gender equality is principal objective, the score 1 equals G1 and implies that gender equality is a significant objective, score 0 equals G 0 and means that gender equality is not targeted. This is also aligned with the Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025 for external relations adopted in November 2020. The score 0* is not used.

The Commission is committed to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III), as well as the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in international fora and agendas. 2021 was the first year of implementation of the new Gender Action Plan III.

Preventing gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls continued to be one of the EU's main priorities. A regional programme "Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds" continued to be implemented on Phase II (1 February 2020 – 31 July 2023). It addresses the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic to women and girls, with the budget of EUR 6.26 million of EU contribution (initial EUR 2.5 million + additional EUR 3.76 million). Some of the main achievements of the programme are the following:

- a total of 350 CSOs received technical assistance to increase their capacities to independently monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW Concluding Observations, the Istanbul Convention and other human rights legal tools available in the region;
- 20 changes were introduced to the legislative frameworks to prevent violence and protect victims of violence against women;
- two effective regional cooperation mechanisms were established between governments, women's organisations and other concerned stakeholders for policy development and joint monitoring of the implementation of recommendations of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention monitoring body GREVIO.

In 2021, actions with a gender equality as principal objective were adopted as part of:

- the annual action plan in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina (EU4 Mitigating Socio-Economic Consequences of COVID-19 pandemic),
- the annual action plan in favour of Turkey (Civil Society as well as Employment, Education and Social Policies actions).

For example, the activity entitled 'Women Friendly Cities (WFC)-III' implemented under the Civil Society action of the annual action plan in favour of Turkey aims to improve the institutional capacity of municipalities to advance to becoming 'women-friendly'. It also aims to improve CSOs' capacity to ensure inclusiveness and better cooperation with municipalities regarding a rights-based approach, gender equality in local policies, and service delivery, all of which are of primary importance for a democratic society.

6.5. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

6.5.1. Goals

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

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

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

The Enlargement policy under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027 continues supporting the progress of candidate countries and potential candidates towards meeting the political and economic criteria for accession as well as their ability to align with, implement and enforce EU rules and regulations. As in 2014-2020, the new MFF has a strong focus on the fundamentals of the rule of law, human rights, public administration reform and economic governance. In addition, as a consequence of the COVID-19 and its disruptive effect on the socio-economic landscape of the enlargement countries, the new MFF strengthens its focus on economic recovery and social cohesion, namely supporting the implementation of the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans. The Plan aims at spurring the long-term recovery of the region, supporting a green and digital transition, boosting economic growth and supporting reforms to move forward on the EU path, including bringing the Western Balkans closer to the EU Single Market and the latest EU policy developments such as the European Green Deal. And in this context, cooperation shall be seen as well as against global challenges and backdrops – as promoting those projects that contribute to the common European values by joining forces across the borders and focusing on the themes that are important to all candidate countries', potential candidates' and European citizens. Window V (territorial cooperation) of the IPA III Programming Framework will enhance territorial cohesion as well as links, exchanges and collaboration between territories and citizens across land and maritime borders with surrounding member states

SDG 5 Achieve equality and empower all women and girls

Partners in the enlargement region have taken steps to advance women's rights in recent years. A majority have adopted or amended relevant legislation, bringing legal frameworks to be broadly in line with EU acquis and international standards. Special gender equality bodies have been set up, national strategies and action plans adopted, and gender equality has been included in the national

European integration plans. This process has been supported by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), through the implementation of the regional programme “Increased capacity of EU candidate countries and potential candidates to measure and monitor impact of gender equality policies (2018-2022)” with a total cost of EUR 1 million. The programme has produced good quality outputs, including the production of the Gender Equality Index. A regional platform was established that contributes to efficiency and makes full use of existing synergies. The beneficiaries were the national competent authorities in the Western Balkan partners, notably Ministries and gender equality coordination bodies where those exist.

A total of 340 IPA participants have participated in both Action-dedicated events in IPA beneficiaries or in EIGE’s events, both physical or virtual, including a regional coordination meeting and a regional thematic workshop. EIGE supported the development and publication of National Gender Equality Indices in four IPA beneficiaries. In 2020, the Gender equality indices for Albania and Montenegro were published and the development of two new Indices was launched: Kosovo* calculated three domains and Serbia released its third Index in 2021.

Additionally, data on Women and Men in Decision Making was collected into a database, updated and published on EIGE’s website. The Regional Platform for Coordination of Gender Equality Action of the Western Balkans and Turkey has continued its work and a total of three regional coordination meetings were organised, gathering 129 participants. IPA beneficiaries have been able to use this regionally comparable data to improve evidence-based policy-making on gender equality and for the development of their national Gender Equality Indices. Through the programme, EIGE’s Glossary and Thesaurus was translated into the languages of IPA beneficiaries Albanian, Macedonian, Serbian and Bosnian.

Supporting reforms to remove the legal obstacles and gender stereotypes, strengthening institutions is also the objective of other projects that are supporting gender machineries in charge of the gender coordination and implementation of their Gender strategies and which often remain underfunded.

Concerning women’s political participation, women remain underrepresented in the Western Balkan and Turkey in all decision-making bodies. This situation reflects the gender discrimination, gender roles and the limitation to women in political parties and their limited access to funding in the different partners. The exception is Albania, with 35.71% of MPs women. Gender quotas are key for achieving gender equality in terms of women’s participation in politics. A regional programme includes a component on addressing electoral recommendations from a gender perspective. The programme identifies solutions to overcome the barriers to the participation of women in electoral and other decision-making bodies. In addition, the programme addresses the equitable media coverage during campaigns and parity for electoral candidacy.

Regarding gender-based violence (GBV) in the IPA region, some progress have been achieved. Most partners’ legal frameworks are largely aligned with international law, however, there is a need to ensure full implementation and expand its extent in addressing all aspects of GBV beyond the scope of domestic violence. In this regard, several programmes are focusing on preventing and responding to GBV and have produced positive results such as the establishment of comprehensive services to support GBV survivors and the promotion of positive masculinities. The regional programme “Ending violence against women in the Western Balkan and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds, Phase II”, implemented by UN Women started in 2020 and will finish in 2023. The total EU contribution is EUR 6.25 million, after a top up of EUR 3.75 million as part of the EU COVID-19 response in the region. A total of 64 CSOs and five networks have been directly supported by the programme during phase II, and are already engaged in monitoring and reporting on the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW.

SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

In the period 2014-2020, the clean energy transition was supported through actions on energy efficiency, promotion of renewable energy, and support to investment in infrastructure part of Trans-European Networks for Energy. At the policy level, decarbonisation of the energy is a core pillar of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. In addition, support to partners in aligning with the climate and energy *acquis* was provided, and negotiations with Serbia were successfully open including on the energy chapter. Thanks to EU support, 921 042 tonnes of CO_{2eq} were avoided in 2020 only.

Through the Western Balkans Investment Framework, between 2009 and 2021 the EU will channelled a total of EUR 249 millions in grants, mobilising an estimated EUR 5 billion of project value, in investments in clean energy, leading to an additional 123MW electricity installed capacity from renewable energy, the renovation of 62 public buildings, and the upgrading of 22 heating systems in cities and towns (source: <https://www.wbif.eu/sectors/energy>).

Furthermore, the Coal Regions in Transition in Ukraine and the Western Balkans has become operational.

Cooperation with Turkey in the energy sector continued, including at the local level. In 2021, thanks to a EUR 4.5 million project, implemented by a consortium led by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH - International Services along with the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources in Turkey, 80 needs assessment were conducted, as well as 40 renewable energy feasibility studies and 40 energy efficiency audits.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

In the period 2014-2020, the 2018 strategy for the Western Balkans supported SDG 8 through the ‘flagship initiative to enhance support for socioeconomic development’. An example of support in this area is the implementation of the “Western Balkans Youth

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Lab” - a regional programme aiming to provide opportunities for youth to participate in decision making. The youth lab offers a forum for continuous policy dialogue between governments, parliaments, young people and other stakeholders – aiming to co-create and monitor the implementation of youth-relevant policies. The first youth lab was implemented over 2021, focussing on youth employment.

In the area of socio and economic development, in Albania, the EU has supported the programme Social Inclusion (2020-2024) and topped up with EUR 20.65 million to respond to the emergency measures targeting economic aid and support to employees of small and large businesses affected by COVID-19 taking into account gender and disabilities as a cross cutting issue. 75 615 families were supported through measures related to economic aid financial assistance, 173,091 employees benefited from measures related to support to businesses affected by COVID-19. In addition, 65 574 individuals received the minimum salary for a period of 3 months as a targeted measure to small enterprises temporary closed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

IPA II has contributed to supporting sustainable infrastructure, inclusive industrialisation, and innovation. As an example, after the strong earthquake that affected Albania on 26 November 2019, the EU and other international partners supported the Albania to recover from the damages. One year later, the EU translated its EUR 115 million pledge into two programmes to help Albania recover from the shock and increase resilience to natural disasters. The EU4Schools programme has supported reconstructing and repairing education facilities damaged by the earthquake. Two years after the earthquake, 19 schools are already completed and around 6000 children are studying in new and modern facilities. Also, the EU4Culture programme has supported the rehabilitation of the cultural heritage sites gravely damaged by the earthquake, as well as economic activities to support tourism on these sites.

Equally, the EU4Schools programme has supported the rehabilitation of over 58 educational facilities, including primary and secondary schools, kindergartens, dormitories and VET schools in the 11 municipalities affected by the quake. The programme integrates accessibility with environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, and sustainability.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Under IPA II, support to the environment and fighting climate change have been priorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey, with specific focus on climate-neutrality, climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, circular economy and waste management, disaster risk reduction and innovative measures to fight against pollution. Interventions have contributed to improved institutional capacity, local empowerment and strengthened international collaboration, and legislative and regulatory alignment with the EU acquis.

For example, in Montenegro the environment related EU acquis chapter was opened in December 2018, and there is a number of ongoing projects contributing for instance to the implementation of the EU’s Water Framework Directive, and establishment of water management plans and monitoring systems. The outcomes of this project are expected to have a positive impact that will benefit both Montenegro’s environment and its citizens.

In North Macedonia the programme “Improving the management of protected areas” promoted the sustainable use of natural resources, and allocated EUR 4 million EU funding for improving the management of the protected areas in an inclusive, professional and sustainable way. The programme was implemented in partnership with UNDP, the management authorities of protected areas, municipalities and local civil society organisations. It mobilized the local communities and the local resources in 24 locations in protected areas, some of which will be future NATURA 2000 site. In total, 241,755.42 ha of protected areas benefit today of improved management. The Programme involved the establishment of two wastewater treatment facilities in support of the Monument of Nature - Vevchani Springs and the National Park Pelister, and a competitive grant scheme, which resulted in the award of 25 grants for nature protection.

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

Under the MFF 2014-2020, the 2018 strategy for the Western Balkans provided a significant contribution to the achievement of SDG 16 through the ‘flagship initiative to strengthen the rule of law; the ‘flagship initiative to reinforce engagement on security and migration’ and the ‘flagship initiative to support reconciliation and good neighbourly relations’.

To illustrate support in this area during the previous MFF, one example is the EU assistance to Albania, which has contributed to ensuring ability of the country to continue delivering on key reforms necessary to advance on the European path. This includes budget support in the field of justice reform (amounting to 34 mln EUR), technical assistance to the justice institutions and the Ministry of Justice, support to the 'vetting' of judges and prosecutors, which continued to be conducted under the thorough supervision of the EU-funded International Monitoring Operation (IMO), and support to the specialised structures against corruption and organised crime (SPAK and SPAK courts). Thanks to the additional human resources/legal officers provided for in the 2020 and 2021 state budgets to the Albanian vetting bodies, the vetting process has picked up pace, particularly at first instance level. To date, the Independent Qualification Commission (IQC) has issued more than 509 decisions out of a total of 805 magistrates undergoing vetting. Outside the scheme for budget support the judiciary, additional 40 mln EUR have been allocated to the sector under IPA II.

HEADING S: Solidarity mechanisms within and outside the Union (Special instruments)**European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF)**

Lead DG: EMPL

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Globalisation and technological change are likely to increase further the interconnectedness and interdependence of world economies. Labour reallocation is an integral and inevitable part of such economic change.

As the current benefits of globalisation are already unequally distributed among people and regions, causing a significant impact on those adversely affected, there is a danger that the ever faster evolving technological advances will further fuel these effects.

If the benefits of change are to be distributed fairly, offering assistance to displaced workers is of utmost importance. The Union continues to provide specific, one-off support to facilitate the re-integration into employment of displaced workers in areas, sectors, territories or labour markets suffering a shock of serious economic disruption.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) aims at supporting socioeconomic transformations that are the result of globalisation and of technological and environmental changes by helping displaced workers and self-employed adapt to structural change. The EGF is an emergency fund that operates reactively. It contributes to the implementation of the principles defined under the European Pillar of Social Rights ⁽¹⁾ and enhances social and economic cohesion among regions and the Member States.

1.3. Specific objectives

(¹) [European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan](#)

The European Pillar of Social Rights consists of 20 principles structured around 3 categories: equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion. It acts as an overarching guiding framework of the EGF, which can help set the relevant principles into practice in the case of major restructuring events, and contribute to a greener, more digital and resilient Union.

The EGF's objective of improving participants' education/training and labour market situation has two dimensions: solidarity and promotion of decent and sustainable employment. Particular emphasis is to be placed on measures that help the most disadvantaged groups.

1.4. Public intervention context

The employment policies are a shared competence between the Union and the Member States ⁽²⁾. The two parties shall work towards developing a coordinated strategy for employment and particularly for promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce, and labour markets' responsiveness to economic change with a view to achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU. The Union shall contribute to a high level of employment by supporting and, if necessary, complementing Member State's action ⁽³⁾.

In compliance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality ⁽⁴⁾, funding from the Union budget concentrates on activities whose objectives cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States alone and where the Union intervention can bring additional value compared to action of Member States alone.

Therefore, the mobilisation of the EGF to co-finance measures to support redundant workers can be justified in case of major restructuring events that, by their scale and effects, cause a significant impact and can test the limits of what regular national labour market programmes are able to provide to assist displaced workers. Assistance from the EGF is always offered in addition to the efforts of the Member States at a national, regional and local level. The EGF generates European added value by increasing the number, variety and intensity of services offered to even more dismissed workers and for a longer period of time than would be possible without EGF funding ⁽⁵⁾.

The Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 ⁽⁶⁾ and the Interinstitutional Agreements on Better Law-Making ⁽⁷⁾ between the European Parliament, Council and the European Commission determine the budgetary framework of the EGF. The objective, scope and conditions for the mobilisation are set out in the EGF Regulation ⁽⁸⁾. For each eligible case, the EGF is mobilised jointly by the European Parliament and Council through a decision adopted in accordance with the provisions of the EGF Regulation and a transfer from the reserve budget line to the EGF operational budget line.

EGF's design shows a clear complementarity with the more preventive assistance offered by the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) which consists of multiannual programmes that support long-term goals such as the anticipation and management of changes and restructuring. Unlike ESF+, EGF is established to provide support in exceptional circumstances and outside a multiannual programming scheme. EGF and ESF+ measures are sometimes used by Member States to complement each other to provide both short and long-term solutions ⁽⁹⁾.

1.5. Actions

The EGF co-finances coordinated packages of personalised services designed to facilitate the re-integration of the targeted beneficiaries, in particular, the most disadvantaged among them, into employment or self-employment. The main focus is on active labour market measures (e.g. training and retraining, job-search assistance, outplacement assistance, aid for self-employment or business start-ups). Assistance is granted for a limited period (the regular implementation period is always 24 months calculated from the day the financing decision enters into force ⁽¹⁰⁾). The EGF adds to existing mainstream restructuring assistance programmes and services of labour market actors without replacing existing resources.

The main actions provided through EGF include personalised job-search assistance and guidance, vocational training and up-skilling, support to entrepreneurship and business creation, and temporary financial incentives and allowances.

1.6. Delivery mode

Shared management

Lead DG: Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

⁽²⁾ Articles 2 to 5 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽³⁾ Articles 145 and 147 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

⁽⁴⁾ Article 5 of the Treaties (2002) C 325/01.

⁽⁵⁾ [Mid-Term Evaluation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund \(EGF\)](#)

⁽⁶⁾ [Council Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) 2020/2093](#)

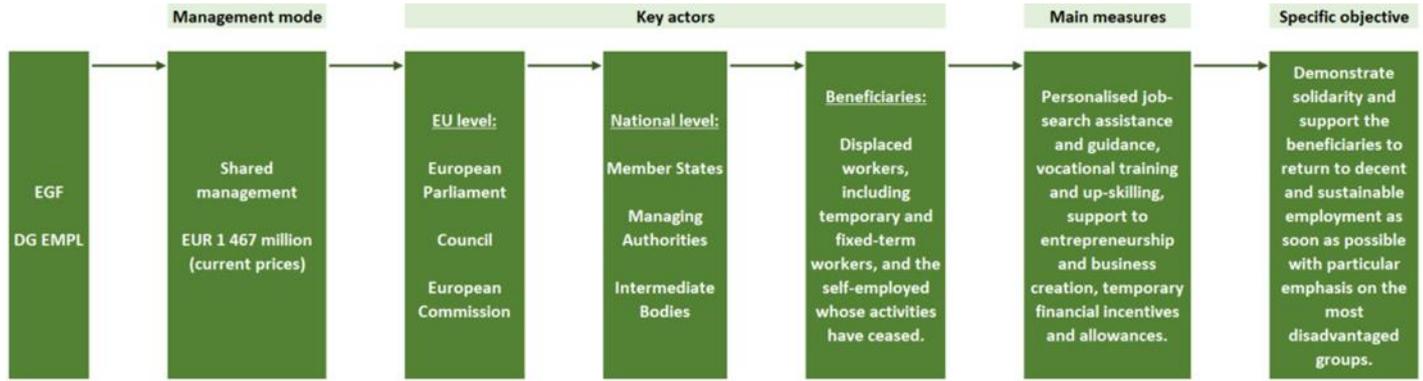
⁽⁷⁾ [Interinstitutional Agreements on Better Law-Making](#)

⁽⁸⁾ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/691](#)

⁽⁹⁾ [SWD\(2018\) 192 final](#), page 34.

⁽¹⁰⁾ At their own risk, Member States may start to offer assistance before the financing decision enters into force. This time period is also retroactively eligible once the decision enters into force and extends the implementation period.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013.	2021 - 2027	

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

If specific actions prove necessary outside the Structural and Investment Funds and without prejudice to the measures decided upon within the framework of the other policies of the Union, Article 175(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union allows the European Parliament and the Council to take action in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions.

In addition to the legal basis mentioned above, the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) for 2021-2027 provides provisions on eligibility criteria, management, financial contribution, reporting, evaluation and auditing rules.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	181.3	201.3	205.4	209.5	213.7	217.9	222.3	1 451.4
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

NB: The EGF uses annual ceilings instead of financial programming. The annual ceiling does not include the transfer of EUR 16.05 million from the reserve to the completion line of the 2014-2020 EGF programme in 2021.

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

The multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027 underlines the EGF's special character as an emergency relief instrument and maintains it as one of the special instruments outside the budgetary ceilings of the MFF. As such, the EGF is not programmed, but only mobilised upon specific request submitted by a Member State, within the annual maximum amount. The MFF Regulation adopted on 17 December 2020 sets an average annual ceiling of EUR 209.6 million (current prices) for the EGF for the 2021-2027 period.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

On 2 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework, amended in June 2020. The proposal reflects the current social and economic context and provides a concrete response to the call from the European public for a more social Europe and for greater investment in people in the European Union.

The agreement reached by the co-legislators in December 2020 on the EGF Regulation 2021-2027 enables DG EMPL to continue providing timely assistance to displaced workers. The new Regulation entered into force on 3 May 2021.

Given that the purpose of the EGF is to rapidly provide financial support in situations of urgency, it remains outside the budgetary ceilings of the MFF. The EGF, if needed, can mobilise a maximum amount of EUR 1 467 million (in current prices) for the 2021-2027 period. To ensure that the EGF intervenes more effectively, is more inclusive and flexible to respond to current and future economic challenges (such as automation and digitalisation, the transition to low carbon economy etc.), the scope of the EGF has been extended to cover any type of major restructuring event (regardless the cause) and the threshold has been lowered from 500 in the 2014-2020 programming period to 200 displaced workers in the 2021-2027 period. Moreover, the EGF co-financing rate has been aligned with the highest ESF+ co-financing rate in the respective Member State.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=326&langId=en>

The website provides information on the objectives, measures and potential beneficiaries of the EGF. Users can also find the EGF Regulation, FAQ, contact persons in the EU countries and detailed information on all EGF applications. Furthermore, the website includes links to publications, news and events related to EGF.

2. Where are we in the implementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Total financial programming	Implementation rate
Commitments	8.0	1 451.4	1%
Payments	6.6		0%

The remaining five applications (submitted by Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Netherlands and Finland) of the 2014-2020 period received at the end of 2020 were adopted in 2021 and were thus paid out partly of assigned revenues from the 2014-2020 period and partly of the budget allocated for the period 2021-2027. Four of these applications related to the economic crisis stemming from the pandemic, whereas the fifth application was linked to a trade-related restructuring event.

The year 2021 was marked by the transition to the new Regulation. This enables more workers to benefit from the EGF due to lower thresholds and a broader scope. It also enables a higher rate of cost co-financing to support services in many Member States. Under the new rules, all reasons for restructuring, including the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis, as well as larger economic trends like decarbonisation and automation, are eligible for support. This comes on top of other reasons like changing trade patterns or consequences of the financial and economic crisis for which workers could receive support from the EGF under the provisions of the previous Regulation 2014-2020.

Even though the new Regulation only entered into force on 3 May 2021, it applies as of 1 January. A derogation clause ensured that funding gaps could be avoided. In 2021, eight applications were submitted by four Member States ⁽¹⁾, requesting a total of EUR 20.5 million in order to assist 3 500 dismissed workers. In five cases, the COVID-19 pandemic was the main factor that led to the dismissals. The remaining three cases had a trade-related background. The EGF was mobilised in 2021 in four cases. As it takes about five months to mobilise the EGF, the remaining four applications, received in the second half of 2021, are expected to be mobilised in the first half of 2022.

Despite the economic recovery, uncertainty remains, in particular in relation to (i) potential further mutations of the Coronavirus that could hamper economic recovery, (ii) rising inflation, (iii) the persistence of supply chain bottlenecks and (iv) a possible economic shock due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine as well as (v) the economic consequences of the EU sanctions against

⁽¹⁾ In 2021, Greece submitted one application (for electrical equipment manufacturing), Spain submitted three application (one for metalworking industry and two manufacture of motor vehicles), France submitted two applications (one for manufacture of transport equipment and one for wholesale trade) and Italy submitted two application (one for air transport and one for warehousing).

Russia over Ukraine. As an emergency response tool, the EGF will be ready to react to these challenges and to offer assistance in possible further major restructuring events in 2022 and 2023, if needed.

As concerns the implementation of ongoing cases, but also possible future applications, the development of the pandemic situation will have an impact on the implementation of measures ⁽¹²⁾. This might also hinder Member States from applying for support, if it is unclear whether measures could be implemented at all ⁽¹³⁾.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The EGF contributes to smart, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and promotes sustainable employment in the Union by enabling it to demonstrate solidarity and support workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased as a result of major restructuring. The fund contributes also to the implementation of the principles defined under the European Pillar of Social Rights and enhanced social and economic cohesion among regions and Member States.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The overall aim of the EGF is to ensure that the largest possible number of beneficiaries find sustainable employment as soon as possible. The main sources of information on the results achieved by the EGF are the final reports submitted by the Member States, seven months after the end of the implementation, as well as beneficiary surveys, which are conducted six months after the implementation of the case.

Considering the delayed start of the programming period and taking into account that a case implementation takes 24 months, the first final reports and beneficiary surveys are due by mid-2024 only. Information relating to performance assessment can thus only be provided once sufficient data on the implementation of the 2021-2027 EGF is available.

The beneficiary survey is a new tool introduced in the 2021-2027 period. Even though sustainable reintegration into quality employment is the main aim of the EGF, it is hard to measure the performance of the EGF by simply comparing re-integration rates. This is due to differences in the characteristics of the targeted beneficiaries and in the socioeconomic situation of the region affected, etc. Beneficiary surveys will thus help to assess the extent to which the assistance offered had an impact on the perceived change in the employability of beneficiaries, or, for those who have already found employment, on the quality of the employment found, such as (i) changes in working hours, (ii) the type of employment contract or relationship (full time or part time; fixed term or open-ended), (iii) the level of responsibility or change of salary level in comparison to previous employment and (iv) the sector in which the person found employment. Such information will be broken down by gender, age group, education level and level of professional experience. The results of the surveys will feed into the evaluations of the EGF.

3.2. Key achievements

55	55 168	4 099	EUR 175 220 016	60%
applications were received, excluding those withdrawn or rejected, between 2014 and 2020. This includes six applications received in 2020.	workers were targeted between 2014 and 2020, including 9 205 in mobilised applications received in 2020.	young people not in employment, education or training were targeted between 2014 and 2020.	of EGF contribution was requested by 12 Member States between 2014 and 2020, including EUR 18 101 389 requested by six Member States that submitted applications in 2020.	is the average rate of beneficiaries who found employment following an EGF intervention between 2014 and 2020.

⁽¹²⁾ The pandemic had a direct influence as many ‘classroom-style’ training courses etc. had to be cancelled due to government restrictions. This concerned, in particular, vocational training courses for which physical presence is needed.

⁽¹³⁾ Not all training courses can be offered online, so it fully depends on the national restrictions, the background of the dismissed workers, their future career aspirations and related training needs.

Furthermore, the general design of the EGF does not in any way hamper its performance. It allows ample flexibility to design a broad suite of measures and also flexibility to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. However, problems could appear in the institutional capacity of the implementing bodies to adapt to the circumstances or the willingness of possible beneficiaries to participate in measures during a severe sanitary crisis.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

On 13 December 2021, the Commission published the ex post evaluation of the EGF 2014-2020 ⁽¹⁴⁾. This evaluation was primarily based on an external study ⁽¹⁵⁾, which the Commission had contracted out in 2020. The aim of the evaluation was to scrutinise the effectiveness, sustainability, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the fund.

The evidence base consisted of desk-based research, targeted surveys and in-depth interviews with EU and national level stakeholders and end beneficiaries of the fund, and a public consultation.

According to the findings, the EGF has been successful in providing support to and showing solidarity with workers, self-employed persons, and (in some cases) young people not in employment, education or training affected by major restructuring events. The EGF allows Member States to provide better quality measures for more targeted beneficiaries and for longer than would be possible without EGF funding. The average re-integration rate across all EGF cases from the 2014-2020 is around 60%, but ranges from a low of 18% to a high of 94% for different cases ⁽¹⁶⁾. The fund remains relevant and useful, although there is room to reconsider its scope in terms of whom it targets and under what circumstances; to simplify or shorten administrative procedures; and to better monitor the results of the interventions.

The redesign of the EGF 2021-2027 was based on the findings of the mid-term evaluation ⁽¹⁷⁾. In general, the ex post evaluation re-confirmed the findings of the EGF mid-term evaluation and concluded that the redesigned EGF 2021-2027 addresses the main shortcomings identified. The main changes are set out above in section 1.9. By broadening the scope of the EGF and by making the application procedure easier and faster, the fund is expected to be more inclusive in the future and reach more displaced workers in need of assistance. In order to improve monitoring of the EGF, a beneficiary survey will be conducted at the end of each intervention. By means of the survey, the broader impacts of the EGF on beneficiaries’ general employability, such as the acquisition of new skills, gain of self-confidence, increased motivation, etc. will be measured.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: EGF common indicators: change in the participants education/training and labour market situation

Indicator 1: Total EGF beneficiaries in a given case

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Milestones										
										Final
Actual Progress										
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not possible for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 2: Beneficiaries by employment status (unemployed/inactive/employed (dependent)/self-employed)

⁽¹⁴⁾ [SWD/2021/381 final](#)

⁽¹⁵⁾ [Study KE-02-20-968-EN-N](#)

⁽¹⁶⁾ Re-integration rates are primarily influenced by absorption capacities of local and regional labour markets. Hence, the reintegration rate may differ considerably depending on the economic sector and the geographic area concerned. Member States’ institutional capacity and experience to provide assistance in restructuring events is also key to furthering the success of the EGF.

⁽¹⁷⁾ [Mid-term evaluation of EGF](#)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 3: Beneficiaries by gender (female/male/non binary)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 4: Beneficiaries by age group (below 30 years/above 54 years)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries (cumulative)

Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 5: Beneficiaries by education level (with lower secondary education or less/with upper secondary or post-secondary education/ with tertiary education)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 6: Percentage of EGF beneficiaries who gained a qualification

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical

	success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 7: Percentage of EGF beneficiaries in education or training

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	New indicator.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

Indicator 8: Percentage of EGF beneficiaries in employment (dependent/self-employed)

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :										

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Percentage (cumulative)
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	Competent authority of the Member State, for a given case.
Link to the objective	Assistance in case of major restructuring events of unexpected nature, such as the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	The indicator was followed also in the 2014-2020 period.
Other methodological comments	The actions covered by the EGF are, by definition, not programmable because restructuring events giving rise to the redundancies are unexpected. Therefore, defining in advance how many mass redundancy events will take place in any given year and what would be the profile of beneficiaries is not relevant for the EGF. The baseline can be set after all final reports from 2014-2020 programming period have been submitted to the Commission by the Member States (i.e. mid-2023). The historical success rate will not be adjusted in case the expected macroeconomic environment turns to be less favourable in the EU labour market and job-placements become more difficult, due to current or future crises. The indicator will not have milestones.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to gender equality

5.1.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*: 8.0							

(*Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme in EUR Million)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

The EGF Regulation provides for the Commission and the Member States to ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are integral parts of and promoted during all stages of the implementation of the financial contribution from the EGF. To that end, the Member States formally confirm the respect of this principle at the time of application where they provide gender-disaggregated information of the workers targeted for assistance. In case of doubt, the Commission requests Member States to provide further information on the gender aspect in the course of its assessment of an application. This is, however, a general principle applied across the implementation and final reporting of the EGF cases and it is not relevant to estimate budget contributions. Evaluations of the EGF always include a gender analysis.

Between 2014 and 2016, the greatest number of redundant workers benefiting from EGF support came from sectors, which traditionally employ more men than women (motor vehicles, computer, electronic, machinery and construction of buildings). As a consequence, most workers made redundant and then targeted by the EGF applications were male (75% men vs. 25% women). However, since 2017, a significant number of redundancies took place in sectors with high numbers of employed women (retail trade, call centre, wearing apparel, financial services and tourism related activities) hence 57% of men and 43% of women were targeted by the EGF between 2017-2020. In 31% of all EGF cases women represent at least 40% of the dismissed/targeted workers and in 20% of cases they are representing more than 50%.

5.2. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

5.2..1. Goals

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

6.5.2. Key achievements and performance

SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

The EGF contributes to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all through tailor-made trainings that aim at upgrading and updating skills and which are among the core measures offered by EGF assistance. Long-term educational programmes are also eligible for EGF funding. For example, in the 2017 ‘Ericsson’ case in Sweden 80 EGF beneficiaries have increased portfolio of education to choose from, ranging from one-off training to full university degrees. EGF funding enabled the provisions that would not have been procured via the Public Employment Services.

In the 2019 ‘Goodyear’ EGF case in Germany, 60% of the targeted workers had no suitable qualification and used to hold elementary occupations (including a high number of people with migrant background). Backed by EGF with EUR 2 165 231, one third of 622 beneficiaries upskilled and improved their employment level. Overall, 58% of the workers had found a new job while the other 5% were participating in upskilling measures for a longer duration (e.g. getting a vocational qualification), by the reporting date.

SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The EGF is helping to achieve gender equality by providing support to all dismissed workers. Since 2017, a significant number of redundancies took place in sectors with high numbers of employed women (retail trade, call centre, wearing apparel, financial services and tourism-related activities). For example, in the 2017 ‘Retail’ case in Finland 1 173 women (representing 80% of total beneficiaries) were helped by EGF. EUR 2.5 million were mobilised from the EGF to support the ICT and language training, job and career coaching and job-seeking training. Overall, 84% of the beneficiaries had found a new job at the end of the implementation period.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

As stipulated by the EGF Regulation, the fund aims to contribute to smart, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and to promote sustainable employment in the EU by enabling the Union to demonstrate solidarity towards, and to support workers made redundant. Thus, sustainability and inclusiveness are among the core values of the EGF and the Member States when drawing their application and should favour measures aiming at reintegration into sustainable employment. They are invited to show how the measures are compatible with the shift towards a resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

Furthermore, EGF measures aim particularly at disadvantaged people, helping them to return to the labour market and obtain decent work. Job creation and fostering entrepreneurship are the focus of many EGF cases. The goal to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation is indirectly supported by improving and updating the skills of workers made redundant due to restructuring events, and by making them ready for future job market needs.

In NUTS 2 level regions where youth unemployment rates are at least 20%, the EGF may provide personalised services to young people not in employment, education or training. For example, in cases implemented between 2017 and 2019 in Belgium ('Caterpillar' case, 1 931 beneficiaries and EUR 1.6 million of EGF funding mobilised), and in Spain (Castilla y León mining of coal case, 396 beneficiaries and EUR 1 million of EGF funding mobilised), the support offered to the young people targeted provided them with the assistance that they would not have received through national mainstream services.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

The EGF is an emergency fund and is only mobilised in redundancy events that have a significant impact on the regional economy. By offering upskilling measures to workers made redundant, the EGF helps regions to offer measures to make their workers ready for future labour market needs, thereby fostering economic growth.

Some EGF cases also include measures that improve labour mobility of displaced workers. For instance, in the 'Microsoft 2' case in Finland (883 beneficiaries and EUR 3.5 million of EGF funding mobilised) implemented between 2017 and 2019 the measures offered to the dismissed workers supported labour mobility in cooperation with the European Job Mobility Portal (EURES) services (i.e. foreign job advertisements and the exchange of experiences in online meetings).

HEADING S: Solidarity mechanisms within and outside the Union (Special instruments)**SEAR – advance payments under European Union Solidary Fund (EUSF)****Lead DG: REGIO**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF), created in 2002, is activated upon request of an eligible State when major or regional natural disasters occur, such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, forest fires, storms, etc.

Eligibility is determined by total direct damage, which must exceed a threshold specific to each Member State or country negotiating their accession to the EU. The threshold serves as a proxy to justify the activation of solidarity of all Member States. It is set at national level (“major disasters”) or at NUTS 2 regional level (“regional disasters”). The number and size of eligible disasters determine the amount of spending in a given year. The total annual budgetary allocation to the Fund laid down in the multiannual financial framework is a ceiling, rather than a spending target. The Fund is therefore **not programmable** as it entirely depends on the unpredictable occurrence, nature and magnitude of these disasters.

In the context of the EU response to the coronavirus outbreak, the scope of the EUSF has been extended as of 1 April 2020 to encompass major public health emergencies. The eligibility for the latter is determined at national level and based on specific thresholds. In the context of the EUSF, it should be mentioned that extreme weather events and natural disasters have become more frequent with significant damage caused over the past years. This, together with a reduced budget and a new structure of the EUSF (i.e. part of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve) under the 2021-2027 MFF puts a strain on this instrument making it difficult to fully satisfy demands (cf. also section 1.8.2).

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

Solidarity is one of the core values of the European Union and a guiding principle of the European integration process. The EUSF is a budgetary instrument designed to provide financial means expressing EU solidarity by contributing to post-disaster relief in Member States and accession countries confronted with devastating natural disasters and major public health emergencies.

1.3. Specific objectives

To grant financial assistance to Member States or countries negotiating their accession to the EU in the event of a major natural disaster or a major public health emergency with serious repercussions on living conditions, the natural environment or the economy for the financing of emergency operations undertaken by the public authorities in support of the affected population.

1.4. Public intervention context

The EUSF is a targeted, **flexible instrument** aimed at assisting Member States affected by major natural disasters and health emergencies. As such Union-wide solidarity cannot be achieved by Member States on an ad-hoc basis, a systemic, regular and equitable method of granting assistance was developed at Union level. **Financial assistance from the EUSF is mobilised from appropriations raised by the Council and the European Parliament over and above the normal EU budget appropriations.**

1.5. Actions

The Fund can be used to (re-)finance public emergency and recovery operations from day one of the disaster or of the health emergency. In case of natural disasters, it can finance restoring basic infrastructure to working order, providing temporary accommodation and funding rescue services to help the population affected, securing of preventive infrastructure (e.g. dams/dykes) and cleaning-up operations. In case of health emergencies, it can finance rapid assistance, including medical, to the affected population; protecting the population from the risk of being affected, including prevention, monitoring or control of the spread of diseases, combating severe risks to public health or mitigating their impact on public health.

The EUSF was set up with the aim of partly contributing to the expenditure linked to natural disasters or health emergencies. The Fund is limited in principle to non-insurable damage and does not compensate for private losses. Long-term action (such as economic redevelopment and prevention), as well as, support to businesses and labour market or compensation of losses are not eligible for EUSF aid.

1.6. Delivery mode

The EUSF assistance is implemented through shared management (indirect management for countries negotiating their accession to the EU). However, in order to minimise the administrative burden on countries struggling with a serious disaster and to maximise the budgetary effect, there are no programming and no national co-financing requirements.

Financial assistance from the EUSF is mobilised from appropriations raised by the Council and the European Parliament over and above the normal EU budget appropriations. This ensures that in each case the aid comes as an expression of solidarity with the full backing of Member States and the Parliament, not just as an administrative act of the Commission. The Commission cannot activate the EUSF upon its own initiative.

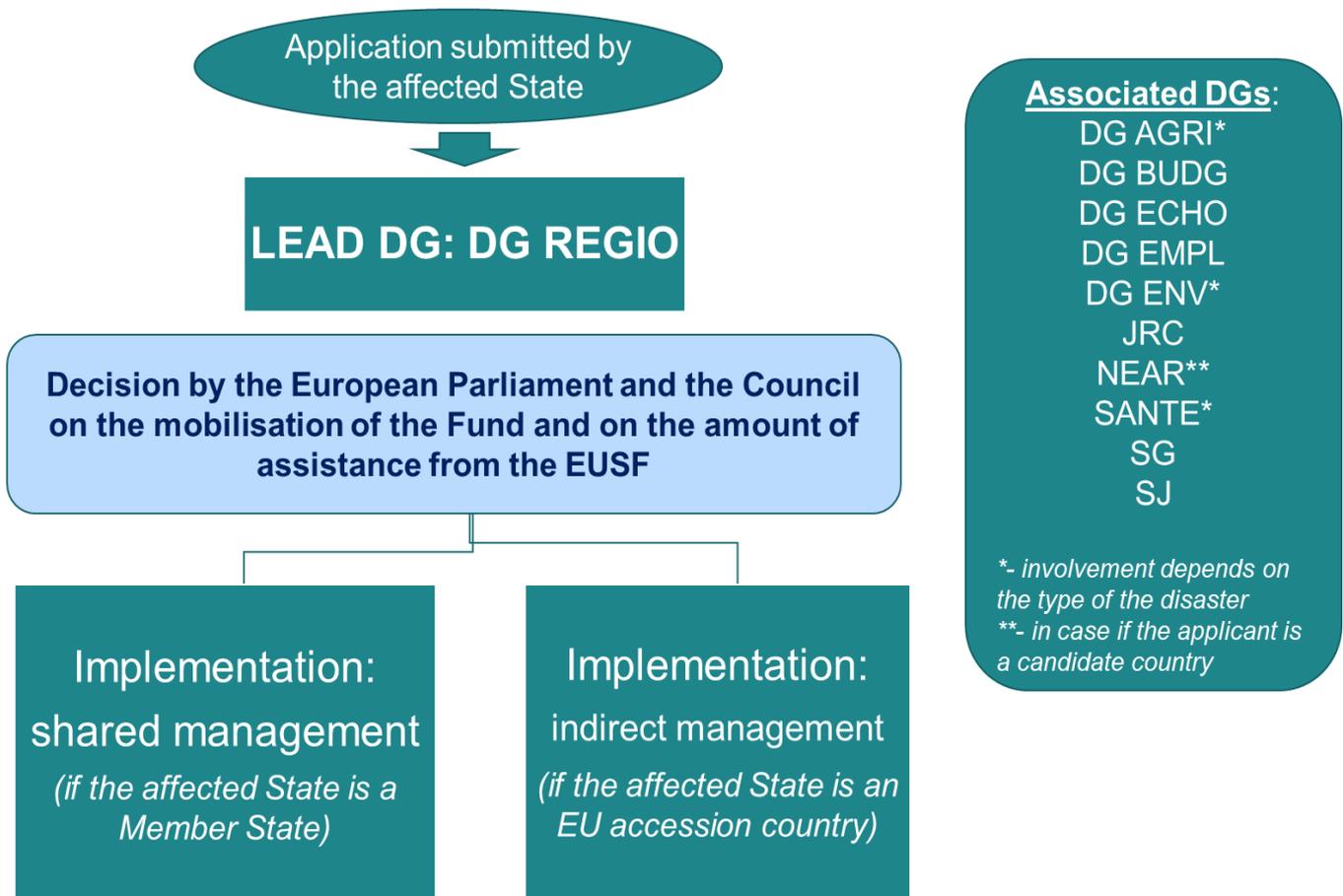
Once the appropriations become available in the EU budget, the Commission adopts a decision awarding the aid to the affected State, which receives it immediately and in a single instalment. Once the aid is paid out, the affected State is responsible for the implementation including the selection of operations and their audit and control. Emergency measures may be financed retroactively from day one of the disaster.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Figure 1. Concise EUSF process



Figure 2. Graphic overview of the EUSF implementation structure and actors



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3).	2021 - 2027	

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

As part of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII), the Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 March 2020 amended the EUSF Regulation by including major public health emergencies within the scope of the EUSF. Since 1 April 2020, EU Member States and accession countries can apply for support from the EUSF also for public health emergency reasons to alleviate the burden from the first response measures.

The Regulation (EU) 2020/461 increased the percentage of the advance payments from 10% to maximum 25% of the anticipated financial contribution from the EUSF, limited to a maximum amount of EUR 100 million (increased from the previous EUR 30 million).

In the period 2021-2027, in accordance with Article 9 of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) Regulation¹, the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) and the Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR) are both put under a joint budgetary heading, the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR). The maximum annual amount for the SEAR is EUR 1.2 billion in 2018 prices (EUR 1.3 billion in 2021 prices).

The MFF Regulation defines **3 periods for the mobilisation of the SEAR** during the year:

- 1) 1 January - 31 August: **75% of the annual SEAR allocation may be mobilised** – of which 50% for the EUSF and 50% for the EAR; the remaining 25% is retained as a reserve until 1 October;
- 2) 1 September - 30 September: **the unspent amounts from the first period can be used by any of the SEAR components;**

¹ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (OJ L 4331, 22.12.2020, p. 11).

- 3) 1 October - 31 December: the unspent amounts from the first and second period plus the **reserved 25% can be used by any of the SEAR components**.

In accordance with Article 9(3) of the MFF Regulation, the appropriations from the SEAR are entered in the general budget of the Union as a provision. Therefore, whenever there is a need to mobilise the EUSF, a transfer from the SEAR reserve line to the EUSF operational line is to be proposed to the budgetary authority (Article 31 of the Financial Regulation).

In addition, Article 4a (4) of the EUSF Regulation requires an amount of EUR 50 million out of the total available amount to inscribe in the General Budget of a given financial year (in commitments and payments) for the payment of advances.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	803.4	487.1	496.8	506.8	516.9	527.2	537.8	3 876.0
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Financial assistance from the EUSF is mobilised from appropriations raised by the Council and the European Parliament over and above the normal EU budget appropriations.

Once the appropriations become available in the EU budget, the Commission adopts a decision awarding the aid to the affected State, which receives it immediately and in a single instalment. Once the aid is paid out, the affected State is responsible for the implementation including the selection of operations and their audit and control. Emergency measures may be financed retroactively from day one of the disaster.

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The EUSF is part of the special instruments in the MFF, outside of the EU budget. The maximum annual amount available under MFF 2014-2020 is EUR 500 million in 2011 prices.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/solidarity-fund/covid-19

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

The maximum annual amount for the SEAR in 2021 was EUR 1.3 billion.

The EUSF implementation status

In 2021, the Commission completed its assessment and mobilised assistance for **three** regional natural disaster applications received at the end of 2020. In addition, in 2021, the Commission received **ten** new natural disaster applications. Out of these, the assessment of **five** floods related applications and the applications from Spain and Greece was commenced in 2021, however the decisions and mobilisation of the EUSF assistance will be taken in 2022.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

Applications for natural disasters - implementation status (2020- 2021)

In March 2021, the Commission adopted the Communication on the applications for a financial contribution from the EUSF in relation to regional natural disasters presented by the applications from Greece and by France. In May 2021, the budget authority approved mobilisation of the EUSF² to provide assistance to Greece and France in relation to natural disasters and to 20 countries in relation to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the Commission completed its assessment and mobilised assistance for the **natural disaster applications** received at the end of **2020**:

- **Greece** regarding the floods in the region of Sterea Ellada of August 2020 and the damages caused by the Mediterranean Cyclone Ianos in September 2020.
- **France** relating to the damages caused by the storm Alex in October 2020.

In **2021**, the Commission received **ten new natural disaster applications**:

- **Greece** regarding the earthquake in islands of Samos, Ikaria and Chios in October. Greece received the advance payment in March 2021 and the balance payment in July 2021.
- **Croatia** regarding the series of earthquakes starting from December 2020. Croatia received the advance payment in August 2021 and the balance payment in December 2021.
- **Cyprus** relating to the damages caused by the drought and wild fires in June 2021. However, the application failed to reach the major disaster threshold for Cyprus, therefore it was **rejected**.
- **Germany, Belgium, Austria, Luxemburg and the Netherlands** regarding the floods in July 2021.
- **Spain** in relation to the volcanic eruption in La Palma, Canary Islands.
- **Greece** in relation to the earthquake in Crete of 27 September 2021.

The Commission has started assessment of the five floods applications and the applications from Spain and Greece (both received in December 2021) but the decisions and mobilisation of the EUSF assistance will be taken in 2022.

The EUSF applications in relation to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic

Since April 2020, Member States and accession countries can apply for support from the EU Solidarity Fund also for public health emergency reasons.

In the case of major public health emergencies, the Commission applies a similar method for determining aid amounts as for natural disasters: a country receives 2.5% of the total amount of eligible public expenditure up to the country specific threshold for major health emergencies, plus 6% of the part of the public expenditure exceeding the threshold. As this calculation led to a total amount for eligible applications from 20 countries exceeding the available budget resources, **the EUSF aid amounts per country were reduced on a pro rata basis**. This was the first time since the establishment of the EUSF that, due to the limitation of the available budgetary allocation for the Fund, the determined aid amounts were not paid in full.

The assistance from the EUSF in relation to health emergencies can be used to alleviate the burden from the first response measures, such as provision of medical assistance and purchase of medical equipment, support to vulnerable groups, measures to contain the spreading of the disease, strengthening preparedness and others.

By June 2020 the Commission received 22 applications for a financial contribution from the EUSF. Overall, 19 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain) and three accession countries (Albania, Montenegro and Serbia) requested assistance in response to the major public health emergency caused by COVID-19. All applications were assessed in a single package to ensure consistent and equitable treatment. In 2020, based on its preliminary assessment, the Commission paid in total EUR 133 million in advance payments to Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Croatia, Hungary, and Portugal. The seven Member States were the only ones making specific request and entitled to receive advance payments³.

In March 2021, the Commission adopted the Communication on the application for a financial contribution from the EUSF presented by twenty applicant countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary,

² Decision (EU) 2021/885 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece and France in relation to natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in relation to a public health emergency.

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 of 11 November 2002 establishing the European Union Solidarity Fund (OJ L 311, 14.11.2002, p. 3) as amended by Regulation (EU) No 661/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 May 2014 (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 143) and by Regulation (EU) No 461/2020 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 March 2020 (OJ L 99, 31.3.2020, p. 9).

Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain) in response to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The Communication was followed by the submission to the European Parliament and the Council the Commission’s proposal for mobilisation of the financial contribution from the EUSF.

After the adoption of the EUSF assistance, by the end of 2021 all relevant Commission Implementing Decisions were adopted in order to ensure disbursement assistance. By the end of 2021, the Commission completed the disbursement to all 17 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Spain) and to two candidate countries (Albania and Montenegro). In total, in the period from September to the end of December 2021, the Commission made **18 payments** for the total amount of **EUR 385 million**.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

The only remaining payment left to execute is the payment to Serbia. The respective payment credit has been carried over to 2022. The signature of the Delegation Agreement with Serbia is ongoing and the assistance is expected to be paid out after the completion of the Agreement.

3.2. Key achievements

In 2021, the Commission awarded and paid out the EUSF contribution amounting to **EUR 406 million** for **affected applicant States** relating to the **natural disasters** that occurred in 2020 and 2021. Namely, the floods in the region of Sterea Ellada in Greece (regional disaster), the Mediterranean Cyclone Ianos in Greece (regional disaster), the storm Alex in France (regional disaster), the earthquake in the islands of Samos, Ikaria and Chios in Greece (regional disaster) and the series of earthquakes starting from December 2020 in Croatia (major disaster).

EUR 791 million	10	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the amount of EUR 406 million of the EUSF assistance awarded and the contribution paid out to affected applicant States related to the five natural disasters occurred in 2020 and 2021 the amount of EUR 385 million of the EUSF assistance awarded and the contribution paid out to 18 applicant States related to major public health emergency in 2020 	New EUSF application received in 2021: - 10 natural disaster applications	Assessment of the EUSF applications completed : - 6 natural disaster applications; - 22 health emergency applications.

NOTE: The established **indicators (including financial data)** are reported the year when the awarded EUSF amount has **been paid**. Therefore, the information on the advance payments for the COVID-19 health emergency has not been included in the table regarding the key achievements.

The overall impact of the EUSF is targeted on the affected population. However as, by its nature, the EUSF cannot follow the programme approach, it is usually not possible to identify the specific part of the population or areas covered by the EUSF intervention alone as most emergency and recovery operations are substantially covered by the beneficiary State’s own budget.

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

An in-depth ex-post evaluation to assess the financial assistance provided by EUSF over the period 2002-2016 was completed in 2019. The purpose was to assess the implementation and performance of the financial assistance provided by the EUSF for that period. The evaluation confirmed the effectiveness of the Fund and the positive effects of synergies between the EUSF and other EU policy instruments for disaster risk management. It further concluded that the EUSF brings clear EU added value as a toolkit for disaster intervention and that consideration should be given to policy actions that increase the potential for the Fund.

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/pdf/eusf_2002_2016/eusf_2002_2016_swd_en.pdf

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Grant financial assistance to Member States or countries negotiating their accession to the EU in the event of a major natural disaster or a major public health emergency

Indicator 1: Population of the EUSF supported countries and regions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
	Milestones									

SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

As part of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII), the Regulation (EU) 2020/461 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 March 2020 amended the EUSF Regulation by including major public health emergencies within the scope of the EUSF. Since 1 April 2020, EU Member States and accession countries can apply for support from the EUSF also for public health emergency reasons to alleviate the burden from the first response measures. In 2021, the Commission mobilised and paid out the EUSF assistance to twenty applicant countries (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain) in response to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries

Solidarity is one of the core values of the European Union and a guiding principle of the European integration process. The EUSF is an instrument designed to provide financial means expressing EU solidarity by contributing to post-disaster relief in Member States and accession countries confronted with devastating natural disasters and major public health emergencies.

SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

While the EU Solidarity Fund is not designed for combating climate change, it does contribute to post-disaster emergency relief in Member States and accession countries confronted with devastating natural disasters, which often can be seen as manifestations of the climate change.

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

To meet the objective of a climate-neutral EU by 2050, and the EU target of a net domestic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990, there is a need to support and incentivize innovative and low-carbon technologies.

The challenge is to enable EU companies to get in pole position for developing, deploying and commercialising low-carbon solutions.

Low-carbon technology demonstration projects are inherently high-risk endeavours and struggle to attract the required capital. Yet they have potentially vast positive beneficial effects, well beyond the individual company or Member State where they are carried out, and thus warrant public support at the EU level. In addition, the *Innovation Fund (IF)* is funded from revenues arising directly from EU policies, i.e. from the auctioning of EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS) allowances.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

IF aims at catalysing funding for highly innovative technologies and flagship projects in all Member States that can yield significant emission reductions by:

- Creating the right financial incentives to invest now in the next generation of technologies needed for the EU's low-carbon transition; and
- Boosting growth and competitiveness by empowering EU companies with a first-mover advantage to become global technology leaders.

The ultimate goal is to help businesses and industry invest in clean technologies, thus boosting economic growth, creating local future-proof jobs and reinforcing Europe's technological leadership on a global scale.

1.3. Specific objectives

IF's objectives are to:

1. support projects with highly innovative technologies, processes or products, that are sufficiently mature and have a significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
2. offer financial support tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects, while attracting additional public and private resources;
3. ensuring that *IF*'s revenues are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU Emission Trading System.

1.4. Public intervention context

Under the Treaty of Lisbon, environmental policy is a shared competence between the Union and the Member States (Article 4 TFEU). Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) makes combating climate change an explicit objective of EU environmental policy. The Innovation Fund is established by the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS) Directive (Directive 2003/87/EC) and the Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/856 (see section 1.8 below).

Member States actively participate in the implementation of the Innovation Fund. They are consulted on key decisions (e.g. decisions to launch call for proposals, maximum amount for the project development assistance, list of pre-selected projects, etc.). If requested by the Commission, Member States will also advise and assist the Commission in setting general orientations for the Innovation Fund, as well as in addressing problems in the implementation of a project.

1.5. Actions

The Innovation Fund supports highly innovative technologies by sharing their risk with project promoters via:

(a) Grants through calls for large and small-scale projects focusing on:

- innovative low-carbon technologies and processes in energy-intensive industries, including products substituting carbon-intensive ones;
- carbon capture and utilisation;
- construction and operation of carbon capture and storage;
- innovative renewable energy generation;
- energy storage.

(b) Contributions to blending operations under the Union investment support instrument; and

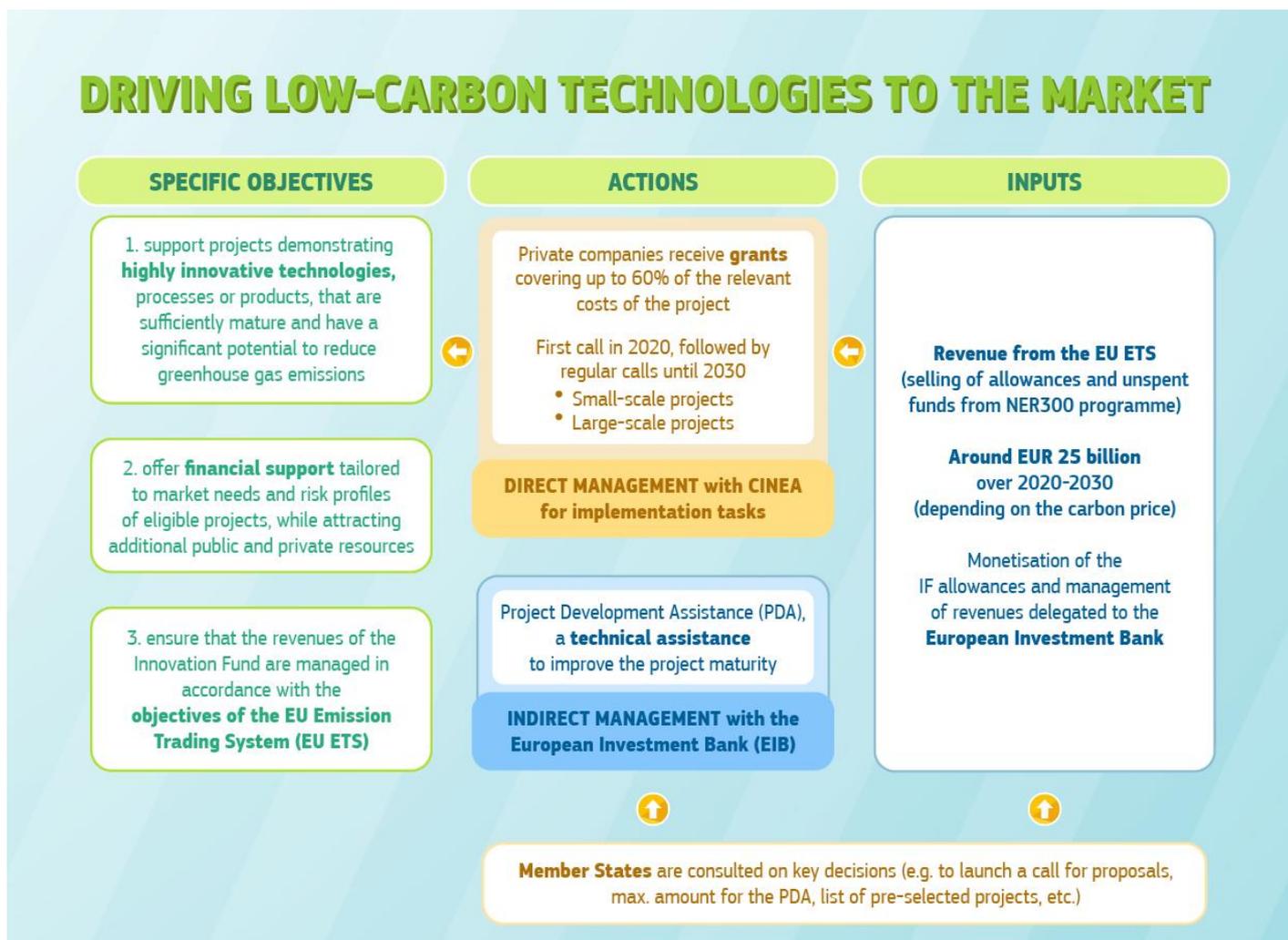
(c) Prizes and procurement.

IF resources may contribute to InvestEU Financial Instruments, to provide debt or equity financing to clean-tech innovative projects.

1.6. Delivery mode

The Innovation Fund is implemented in direct management by the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), with the assistance of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) to whom the implementation of the grant component of the programme is delegated. Some activities are implemented in indirect management, through the European Investment Bank, for the management of the Project Development Assistance support and the channelling of *IF* resources via financial instruments. The monetisation of the Innovation Fund allowances and the management of the Innovation Fund revenues have also been delegated to the European Investment Bank.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a system for greenhouse gas emissions allowance trading within the Union and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC (OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32). Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856 of 26 February 2019 supplementing Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the operation of the Innovation Fund (OJ L 140, 28.5.2019, p. 6). Commission Decision C(2020) 1892 of 25 March 2020 delegating the management of the revenues of the Innovation Fund to the European Investment Bank.	2020 - 2027	

1.8.2. Legal basis explanation

Legal basis	Period of application	Reference amount (EUR million)
Directive (EU) 2018/410 amending Directive 2003/87/EC to enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments	2020-2030	N/A
Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/856 of 26 February 2019 supplementing Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the operation of the Innovation Fund	2020-2030	N/A

The revised EU Emissions Trading System (Directive (EU) 2018/410) is providing the revenues for the Innovation Fund from the auctioning of 450 million allowances from 2020 to 2030, as well as any unspent funds from the NER300 programme.

The revised EU ETS Directive defines the basic elements of the Innovation Fund, such as its size, scope, maximum funding rate (i.e. the maximum support that can be given to a project), and disbursement rules. It stipulates that the Innovation Fund will be endowed with the revenues from the auctioning of at least 450 million allowances from 2020 to 2030, and any unspent revenues from the second call of the predecessor programme, the NER 300, which translates into around EUR 25 billion (at carbon price of €50/tCO₂)

The rules on the operation of the Innovation Fund are set out in Commission delegated regulation 2019/856, with the definition of relevant costs and funding rate, disbursement of grants, project selection procedure, monetisation of allowances, and governance arrangements.

1.8.3. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Revenues from auctions	3 816.2							3 816.2

1.9. Link with the 2014-2020 MFF

The *Innovation Fund* builds on its predecessor, the off-budget fund NER 300 programme, and has been improved considerably by being open to projects from energy-intensive industries, having a larger grant coverage, providing support in more flexible ways, and—following recommendations from the Court of Auditors—having a streamlined governance and simplified decision-making.

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

The Innovation Fund website: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/eu-action/funding-climate-action/innovation-fund_en

CINEA website related to the Innovation Fund: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/innovation-fund_en

Funding and Tender portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/innovfund>

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	146.6	3 816.2	4%
Payments	11.2		0%

- **First call for large scale projects**

A first call for proposals was launched in July 2020, amounting to €1 billion and addressing large-scale projects. It registered very high interest, with a high number of proposals received (i.e. 311 project proposals received). Following the first stage evaluation, on 23 March 2021 CINEA invited 70 proposals to submit a full application in a the second stage of the call for large-scale projects. 66 proposals were received by the deadline of 23 June 2021 and the evaluation was carried out in the second half of 2021. The result of the call was seven projects invited for grant agreement, requesting in total EUR 1,145.59 million in grants. The grant agreement signatures are expected to take place in the first quarter of 2022.

- **First call for small-scale projects**

The call for proposals launched in December 2020, amounting to €100 million and addressing small-scale projects, had the deadline of 10 March 2021. The results were published in mid-July and at the end of the evaluation process, the 32 top-ranked proposals within the available budget were invited for grant preparation. By 10 December 2021, 30 of the pre-selected proposals for funding signed a grant agreement with CINEA, representing an assigned budget of EUR 109.16 million.

- **Project development assistance**

Project Development Assistance (PDA) under the Innovation Fund aims to accelerate the bankability and general maturity of projects so that they are then ready to re-apply to the Fund.

A Contribution Agreement on PDA was signed with the European Investment Bank in April 2021 and already started to be implemented. From those proposals not invited to the second stage of the first large-scale call, 15 proposals were invited¹ to access important PDA, delivered by the EIB², worth EUR 4.4 million. Additionally, 10 small-scale projects were also awarded PDA worth EUR 1.7 million.

- **InvestEU Financial Instruments**

In 2021, EUR 100,000,000.00 from the Innovation Fund were allocated to InvestEU through the [Commission Decision C\(2021\) 7404](#) of 19.10.2021 on the activities related to the Innovation Fund, serving as the financing decision for 2021 and as a decision launching the second calls for proposals and its [Annex](#). The Guarantee Agreement(s) (GA) with the Implementing Partner(s) are not yet finalised so the operations have not started (GA with the European Investment Bank is the first to be signed – planned for 2022).

- **Monetisation and asset management**

On the revenue side, the implementation is progressing well. A Contribution Agreement was signed in January 2021 between the EU and the EIB ensuring that the monetisation of the allowances set aside for the Innovation Fund is carried out in accordance with the Auctioning Regulation and the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU ETS Directive.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Introduction

The Innovation Fund is the successor to the funding programme for innovative low-carbon energy demonstration projects from EU ETS revenues – the so-called NER 300 programme.

The first two Innovation Fund calls launched in 2020 were closed in the reporting period, the proposals were evaluated and the results communicated. The significant oversubscription in the first two calls shows that the Innovation Fund was needed and expected by the market, that it fulfills its main objective of addressing a gap in available funding for clean-tech technologies. The lessons learned from the application process led to amending the Delegated Regulation 2019/856 to allow for a one-step application process also for large-scale projects, which in turn should lead to shortening the time to grant. The evaluation results also showed a very good project pipeline among the projects rejected due to insufficient budget available.

In this context, a second call for large-scale projects was launched in October 2021 with a budgetary increase of 50% (total of EUR 1.5 billion) and one-step application procedure. The call will be concluded and the results communicated in 2022.

Multiple events were successfully organised to support all types of stakeholders to better understand current and potential developments of clean tech solutions in the EU. Those events included knowledge sharing events, clean-tech conferences and webinars related to application support / lessons learned.

Seven events were organised in 2021:

- One specific knowledge-sharing event for innovative clean-tech projects, the webinar “From NER300 to the Innovation Fund” organised in February 2021. The event attracted 670 online attendees;
- Two clean tech financing conferences, one during the EU Sustainable Energy Week in October 2021 and one during COP26 in November 2021. The events attracted 235 online attendees each on average;
- Four webinars concerning the application process for the Fund and the lessons learned, attracting 1090 online attendees each on average.

In addition, DG CLIMA and/or CINEA participated in 17 events organised in 2021 by third parties to increase the knowledge and visibility of the Fund.

3.1.2. Active programme performance

¹ At the time of finalising this report, only 14 Large-Scale proposals signed a PDA support agreement with the EIB, as one project withdrew from the process.

² EIB also offers NER 300 Financial Advisory Support – see 6.7.21 presentation to the 8th Meeting of the IFEG. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/system/files/2021-07/20210706_ifeg_2_en.pdf

The analysis below focuses only on the first call for small-scale projects and the projects awarded under it. The seven projects invited for grant agreement preparation under the large-scale call have not yet been awarded a grant on 31 December 2021 which is the cut-off date for this report, so they will be presented next year.

- **First specific objective:** supporting projects demonstrating highly innovative technologies, processes or products, that are sufficiently mature and have a significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

The 30 small-scale projects awarded grants, altogether, have the potential to avoid 4.5 Mt CO₂e over the first ten years of operation³. This represents ~0.34% of the 2020 GHG emissions from stationary installations (power plants and manufacturing installations) covered by the EU ETS⁴ and is proportionate given that the call focuses on small-scale projects with CAPEX between 2.5 and 7.5 million EUR. The awarded projects will achieve this potential by advancing and demonstrating breakthrough low-carbon innovations either in new sectors that contribute to a low-carbon economy or in existing sectors that need to be decarbonised to meet their emissions reduction targets.

The awarded projects will also bring other environmental benefits to the European economy in line with the framework of the European Green Deal, as well as EU strategies covering e.g. hydrogen, electrification, and circular economy. For example, awarded projects will:

- support the replacement of fossil-fuels and the deployment of additional innovative renewable energy capacity such as wind energy, solar energy, and geothermal power;
- bring solutions to overcome some of the challenges of having high share of renewable resources for the production of electricity, such offering the provision of renewable electricity in peak hours through the use for second-life car batteries; and,
- support the application of solutions in line with circular economy principles at various levels, through for example the valorisation of waste, heat or material waste that would otherwise be lost, and the cooperation of different industries.

Social and economic benefits are also foreseen by the implementation of the awarded projects, which will enhance the growth of new sectors (e.g. production of green hydrogen), support local economies and cooperation between different industries in line with environmental principles. Additionally, they will lead to specific economic benefits, for example by lowering prices of new technologies and products and creating new markets.

Furthermore, awarded projects have the potential for scalability at the level of the project and the regional economy, showing the possibility of transferring the technology or its application to other sites and entailing the cooperation of different actors in the regional economy. Projects also have a high potential of scalability at the level of both the sector and the economy, since they are likely to be replicable in other industrial sites and in other sectors.

- **Second specific objective:** offer financial support tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects, while attracting additional public and private resources

When selecting the list of projects to invite for grant agreement preparation, both for the large-scale and the small-scale calls, DG CLIMA has maximised the available amount by using the 20% flexibility allowed by the Financing Decision.

In addition, the budget for the second call for large-scale projects launched in December 2021 was increased by 50% compared to the first call.

Through the grants awarded to the 30 small-scale projects that signed a grant agreement in 2021, the Innovation Fund managed to mobilise investments of EUR 192 million (including the grants).

Since attracting additional public and private resources is a fundamental objective of the Fund, it is important that there are synergies with InvestEU, which provides loans and other financial support in support of economic growth. For example, a new **Green Transition Investment Facility**⁵(GTIF) under InvestEU, supported with EUR 100 million of initial funding from the Innovation Fund, is also currently being finalised. The Facility will work in concert with the Innovation Fund, aiming to enhance the project pipeline of potential applications into the Fund.

- **Third specific objective:** ensure that the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS)

A Contribution Agreement with the European Investment Bank was signed in January 2021. The EU ETS allowances monetisation is carried out in accordance with the Auctioning Regulation and the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance

³ One project which expects to avoid 36,9 Mt CO₂e over 10 years of operation (as calculated based on the Methodology for calculating GHG emission avoidance for the specific call for proposals) is to be considered an outlier for statistical purposes and is thus excluded from results presented in this report.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news-your-voice/news/emissions-trading-greenhouse-gas-emissions-reduced-133-2020-2021-04-15_en

⁵ EIB, Relevance of Thematic Impact Finance for Innovation Fund eligible projects (6.7.21 presentation to the 8th Meeting of the IFEG). Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/system/files/2021-07/20210706_ifeg_4_en.pdf

with the objectives of the ETS Directive. During 2021, EUR 3.8b were available, of which EUR146.5m were contracted in the year and another EUR 1.145b were awarded, but the grant agreement preparation was still to be finalised.

3.2. Key achievements

These are some key achievements of the Innovation Fund which show the response of the market to the first calls under the Fund, as well as efforts of DG CLIMA and CINEA to increase the visibility of the Fund and assist potential applicants in the preparation of their projects:

543	39	30	25	6	4800
<i>Proposals received in the first two IF calls</i>	<i>Proposals invited for grant agreement preparation, subsequently 2 small-scale projects withdrew</i>	<i>Projects signed the grant agreement. 7 more projects expected to sign in Q1 2022</i>	<i>Proposals awarded project development assistance by the EIB</i>	<i>Events/webinars/info days/clean-tech conferences organised to present the fund, lessons learned, statistics, etc.</i>	<i>Approximate number of participants/viewers of the events organised</i>

3.3. Evaluations, studies and reports

- Evaluations**

In line with Article 24 of the Innovation Fund Delegated Regulation, in 2025 and every five years thereafter, the Commission shall carry out an evaluation on the operation of the Innovation Fund. The evaluation shall focus on, but shall not be limited to, the assessment of synergies between the Innovation Fund and other relevant Union programmes, as well as the procedure of disbursement of the Innovation Fund support.

- Reports**

Article 22 of the Innovation Fund Delegated Regulation refers to Commission’s obligation to report annually to the Council and to the European Parliament on the progress of the implementation of the Innovation Fund. As in 2020 the programme was just launched and there was very limited progress to report upon, the annual reporting was included in the existing reports prepared by DG Climate Action, namely:

-  [Carbon Market Report – see section 3.1.6. on the Innovation Fund](#)
-  [Climate Action Progress Report – see page 19](#)

In 2022, the Commission will prepare a report to the Council and the European Parliament on the first 2 Innovation Fund calls for proposals launched and closed. Similar reporting exercises will be done in the following years.

4. Programme 2021-2027 - Key monitoring indicators

Specific Objective 1: Support projects demonstrating highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature and have a significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Indicator 1: Absolute GHG emissions avoidance planned/achieved

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									Not possible to define
	Actual Progress									Final
	Planned=4.5 MtCO2e/Achieved=0									
Are we on	No Data									

track :	
Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	Reduction of GHG emissions (in tons of CO2 eq.) [cummulative]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	The IF aims at supporting projects with a significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	Planned: Expected GHG emissions avoided by the projects once in operation. Data based on the 30 projects that signed a grant agreement by 31 December 2021: 4.5 Mt CO2e over 10 years of operation. One project which expects to avoid 36,9 Mt CO2e over 10 years of operation (as calculated based on the Methodology for calculating GHG emission avoidance for the specific call for proposals) is to be considered an outlier for statistical purposes and is thus excluded from the main indicator. Achieved: GHG emissions avoided once the projects enter into operation. No project entered into operation in 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Indicator 2: Level of financial maturity of supported projects

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
22%	Milestones									40%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	% of projects reaching financial close within 4 years from the grant agreement [cumulative]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	The IF aims at supporting highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	As grant agreements were signed in November-December 2021, no project has reached financial close. 100% of the projects are expected to reach financial close within 4 years from the grant agreement.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Indicator 3: Level of operational maturity of supported projects

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
22%	Milestones									40%
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Result
Unit of measurement	% of projects entering into operation [cumulative]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	The IF aims at supporting highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	As grant agreements were signed in November-December 2021, no project has entered into operation in 2021.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Indicator 4: Events to increase knowledge on the cleantech solutions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
----------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--------

0	Milestones									1
	Actual Progress									Final
	1									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of knowledge sharing events per year [annual]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	The IF aims at supporting highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature. Apart from knowledge sharing events, the Commission and CINEA have also organised 2 clean tech conferences.
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	The IF aims at supporting highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Indicator 5: Participants to knowledge events on the cleantech solutions

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									150
	Actual Progress									Final
	670									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of participants [annual]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	The IF aims at supporting highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	The IF aims at supporting highly innovative technologies, processes or products that are sufficiently mature
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Specific Objective 2: To offer financial support tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects, while attracting additional public and private resources

Indicator 1: Sufficient support provided for grants

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Number of projects supported										
0	Milestones									Not possible to define
	Actual Progress									Final
	30									
Are we on track :	No Data									
Funding committed to projects										
0	Milestones									Not possible to define
	Actual Progress									Final
	EUR109,163,733.00									
Are we on track :	No Data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of projects supported [cumulative]; funding committed to projects [cumulative]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	Offer financial support tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects, while attracting additional public and private resources
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	By 31 December 2021 the grant agreements were signed only with the projects awarded following the first call for small-scale proposals.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Indicator 2: Investments mobilised

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
Investments mobilised by the IF grants										
0	Milestones									
	Actual Progress									Final
	Planned:EU R191,825,38 3.00									
Are we on track :	No data									
Investments mobilised via Financial Instruments										
0	Milestones									Not possible to define
	Actual Progress									Final
Are we on track :	No data									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Total volume of clean-tech investments mobilised by the IF grants [cumulative]; Total volume of clean-tech investments, induced by support channelled via Financial Instruments [cumulative]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database (IF); InvestEU database (Financial Instruments)
Link to the objective	Offer financial support tailored to market needs and risk profiles of eligible projects, while attracting additional public and private resources
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	The total volume of clean-tech investments mobilised by the IF grants is calculated as the total expected/planned capital expenditures (total CAPEX), as calculated and communicated by applicants in their applications, is used as a proxy measure for total expected investment volumes mobilised by the Fund grants. Once the projects will reach the financial close, more accurate data on actual investments mobilised will be available for reporting purposes. The total volume of clean-tech investments induced by support channelled via Financial Instruments is not yet available, as the Guarantee Agreement with the Implementing Partner is not yet signed so the operations have not started. The indicator will be based on total project costs.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Specific Objective 3: To ensure that the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS) in terms of technology pathways and geographical coverage

Indicator 1: Technology sectors covered

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									18
	Actual Progress									Final
	14									
Are we on track :	On track									

track :	
Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of sectors covered [cumulative]
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	Ensuring that the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	The 1st call for smallscale projects defined 19 possible technology sectors. Out of these, the awarded projects covered 14 technology sectors in energy intensive industries, renewable energy or energy storage: hydrogen (4 projects), intra-day electricity storage (4 projects), other energy storage (4 projects), renewable heating/cooling (3), biofuels and bio refineries (2 projects), solar energy (2 projects), wind energy (2 projects), glass, ceramics and construction materials (2 projects), pulp and paper (2 projects), iron and steel (1 project), non-ferrous metals (1 project), chemicals (1 project), refineries (1 project), CO2 transport and storage (1 project).
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	The trend can be assessed once we have more entries

Indicator 2: Geographically balanced locations

Baseline	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Target
0	Milestones									
										29
	Actual Progress									Final
	13									
Are we on track :	On track									

Indicator type	Output
Unit of measurement	Number of Member States covered [cumulative]. Member States refers to ETS Member States
Cut-Off Date	31/12/2021
Data source	CINEA database
Link to the objective	Ensuring that the revenues of the Innovation Fund are managed in accordance with the objectives of the EU Emission Trading System (EU ETS)
Link MFF 14-20 / MFF 21-27	No link to MFF 14-20
Other methodological comments	Projects are located in: Spain, France, Italy, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Croatia, Austria, Iceland, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Ireland.
Full metadata available at this address	https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2021-2027-indicator-metadata-set_en
Justification of the trend	N/A

5. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

5.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

5.1.1. Key achievements

The Innovation Fund is a key funding instrument for delivering the EU’s economy-wide commitments under the Paris Agreement and its objective to be climate neutral by 2050, as recognised in the European Green Deal Investment Plan. The Innovation Fund focuses on highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects within Europe that can bring on significant emission reductions. As such, the IF’s contribution towards climate objectives is considered substantial and marked as 100% according to the EU methodology.

The fund is not part of the MFF and will not be tracked for the scope of the 30% climate target.

5.3. Contribution to gender equality

6.4.1. Key achievements and performance

2021 estimates	2022-2027 programming						Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	

Score 0*: 146.6							
-----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(*)Consolidated information about the annual commitments implemented (total per score by programme **in EUR Million**)

The financing is split among four categories: score 2: **gender equality is principal objective**, score 1: **gender equality is significant objective**, score 0*: **likely but yet unclear impact on gender equality**, score 0: **no significant impact on gender equality**.

HEADING S: Solidarity mechanisms within and outside the Union (Special instruments)**Brexit Adjustment Reserve****Lead DG: REGIO**

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1. Overview**1.1. Challenges**

Since 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) is no longer a Member State of the EU. To counter unforeseen and adverse consequences of Brexit in Member States and worst affected sectors, the European Council in July 2020 agreed to establish a new special Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) with an allocation of EUR 5.47 billion (in current prices). On 25 December 2020 the Commission presented its proposal for a Regulation establishing a Brexit Adjustment Reserve which was adopted on 6 October 2021. The BAR is a temporary instrument to provide swift support to Member States to react flexibly to their specific situation with least administrative burden.

1.2. Mission (General objectives)

The withdrawal of a Member State from the EU is an unprecedented situation both for the EU as a whole and for its Member States. The overarching logic behind the BAR instrument is to provide support to the economies of Member States to master the transition of the UK being a third country.

In that regard the Reserve should support regions, areas and, where relevant, local communities most adversely affected by the withdrawal (e.g. loss of market share, employment, trade volumes, turn-over,), in particular those that are worst affected by the UK's withdrawal, and thus mitigate the related negative impact on economic, social and territorial cohesion.

1.3. Specific objectives

The design of the BAR acknowledges these particular circumstances: it does not ask for advance programming or planning of measures and provides for flexibility in the implementation and in line with the subsidiarity principle. However, each Member State needs to demonstrate: (i) the adverse consequences of Brexit, (ii) the direct link between the measures carried out and the negative consequences of Brexit; (iii) fulfil the eligibility criteria set out by the Regulation.

1.4. Public intervention context

The BAR instrument is a targeted, temporary instrument; there is no advance programming or planning of measures involved to minimise the administrative burden. Member States will have to react quickly and in a targeted way in view of the specific impact. The support from the Reserve can be used for national measures specifically taken between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2023.

1.5. Actions

Given its shared management mode, it is up to Member States to decide which sectors, regions or communities are worst affected and require support. The Regulation provides for a list of indicative measures to counter the adverse consequences of the UK withdrawal. This list is non-exhaustive to allow a flexible use of funds as needed for the specific situation of their sectors, regions and local communities.

1.6. Delivery mode

The BAR is implemented through shared management. However, in order to minimise the administrative burden, there are neither programming, nor national co-financing requirements.

80% of the total BAR allocation will be paid in three tranches of pre-financing in 2021, 2022 and 2023, subject to having received complete notification¹ by the Commission on the designated body or bodies² to which the pre-financing shall be paid, and confirmation of the Management and Control Systems' descriptions. The remaining amount will be paid in 2025 against the assessment of sufficient eligible expenditure. The Union contribution shall take the form of reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred and paid by public authorities in Member States, including payments to public or private entities, for measures carried out.

Each Member State shall submit to the Commission an application for a financial contribution from the Reserve by 30 September 2024 in which the Member States shall provide justification and details on the measures carried out with BAR support.

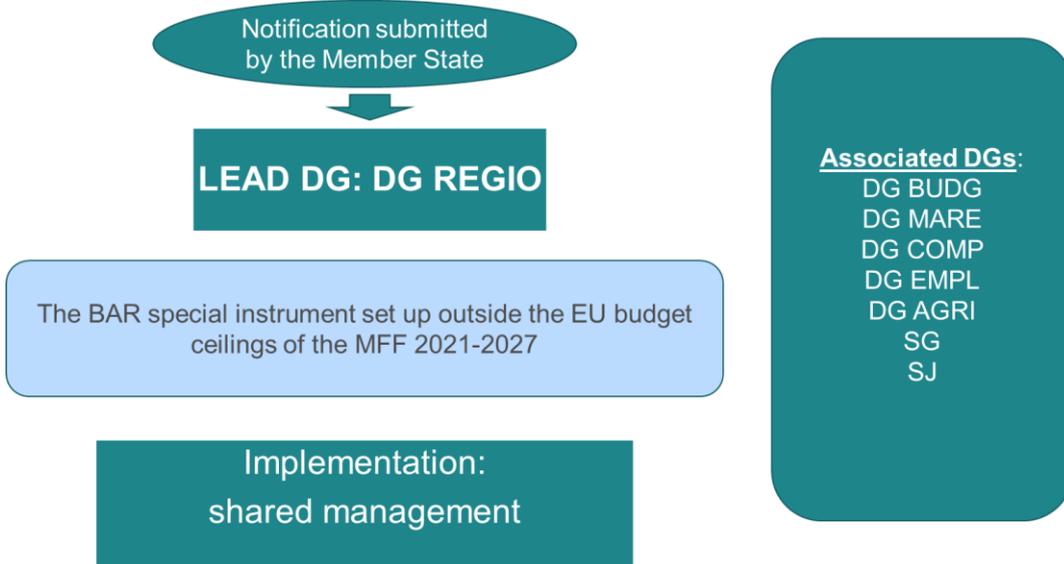
The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO) is the lead DG for the BAR implementation.

1.7. Graphic overview of the programme structure

Figure 1. Concise BAR process



Figure 2. Graphic overview of the BAR implementation structure and actors



1.8. Legal basis and budget programming

1.8.1. Legal basis

¹ pursuant to Article 14(1) of the [BAR Regulation](#)

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 October 2021 establishing the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (OJ L 357, 8.10.2021, p. 1).	2021 - 2027	

1.8.2. Budget programming table

(million EUR)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Financial programming	1 697.9	1 298.9	1 324.9	0.0	1 148.7			5 470.4
NextGenerationEU								
Decommitments made available again (*)	N/A							N/A
Contributions from other countries and entities								

(*) Only Article 15(3) of the financial regulation.

Please refer to section 1.6 for further details.

2stage process:

- Pre-financing phase 2021, 2022, 2023 (80%)
- Final payment (20%) against the assessment of sufficient eligible expenditure.
- 2024 year stands for submission of the application by MS for the financial contribution from the Reserve
- 2026 and 2027 are blank just in case of delays in payments and financial corrections

1.10. Relevant websites providing more information

[Brexit Adjustment Reserve - Regional Policy - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

2. Where are we in the mplementation ?

2.1. Programme 2021-2027

REGIO has received notifications from 16 Member States and is paying the first instalment of the pre-financing for 2021. Two Member States received the corresponding payments in December and the rest will be paid from February onwards (provided notifications are complete).

As regards the **2nd instalment of pre-financing**, REGIO will launch the payment procedure end of March to safely pay before end of April.

Cumulative implementation rate at the end of 2021 (million EUR):

	Implementation	2021-2027 Budget	Implementation rate
Commitments	407.2	5 470.4	7%
Payments	407.2		7%

The two Member States (IE and IT) that have notified **the Commission** in a **timely fashion received the first instalment of the pre-financing in 2021 (EUR 407 million)**. This represents 24% of the total allocation for the 1st instalment. At end-January 2022, 12 more Member States have notified. At that date, the second instalment (2022) represents EUR 938 million, but this will still increase given that Member States can still notify until March/April.

3. How is the programme performing ?

3.1. Performance

3.1.1. Active programme performance

The BAR performance will be assessed on the basis of the data and information collected from the implementation reports of the Member States (to be submitted by September 30, 2024). These reports will include the description of the overall impact of the withdrawal and the identification of the regions, areas and sectors most affected, the description of the measures and the way in which those measures have contributed to alleviating this impact. The Commission will then carry out evaluation of the Reserve in 2027 and will submit a report to the Parliament and the Council in 2028.

3.2. Key achievements

The Commission has been and continues to provide support to Member State authorities through bilateral meetings, written replies, an information website and a seminar (July 2021) on the clarification of practicalities behind the BAR Regulation and preparation of their potential measures. In line with shared management rules, the Commission does not provide written ex-ante confirmation on the eligibility of measures considered by Member State for support under the BAR.

4. The programme contribution to horizontal policies

4.1. Contribution to climate mainstreaming

4.1.1. Tracking and estimates

	Implementation	2022-2027 Estimates (EUR million)						Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Climate contribution								
Share compared to total envelope								

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

4.1.2. Explanation on the financial contribution

The Reserve is expected to contribute to climate objectives according to the specific needs and priorities of each Member State. This means that there is no pre-established requirement for Member States regarding the level of contributions to achieve climate objectives given the very specific and targeted purpose of BAR, i.e. to mitigate the impact of Brexit on Member States. The Commission, will assess the contribution of the measures carried out to climate change, based on the information available in the final report on the implementation of the Reserve.

4.2. Contribution to gender equality

4.2.1. Contribution

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
0.00	0.00	0.00					0.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

4.2.2.1. Key achievements and performance

2021-2022 Estimates		2023-2027 programming (EUR million)					Total
2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Score 0*	407.2	0.00	0.00				0.00

(*)These amounts include NextGenerationEU top-ups if any

The objectives of the Reserve should be pursued in line with the principles set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights, including the inherent contribution of the Reserve to the elimination of inequalities, and to the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming, while ensuring respect for fundamental rights.

4.3. Contribution to the sustainable development goals

SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The objectives of the Reserve will be pursued in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development as set out in Article 11 TFEU, taking into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the ‘do no significant harm’ principle.”

As there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

Therefore, the Commission will assess the contribution of the measures carried out to the sustainable development goals, based on the information available in the final report on the implementation of the Reserve.

SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

The objectives of the Reserve will be pursued in line with the objective of promoting sustainable development as set out in Article 11 TFEU, taking into account the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the ‘do no significant harm’ principle.”

As there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

Therefore, the Commission will assess the contribution of the measures carried out to the sustainable development goals, based on the information available in the final report on the implementation of the Reserve.

The BAR will probably contribute to this SDG. However, as there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

The BAR will probably contribute to this SDG. However, as there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The BAR will probably contribute to this SDG. However, as there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The BAR will probably contribute to this SDG. However, as there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

The BAR will probably contribute to this SDG. However, as there is no programming involved for this particular temporary instrument, it is up to MS to carry out specific measures and report on these by September 30, 2024. There is no intermediate reporting from MS foreseen before this date.

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